

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM34.8	ACTION			Ward:All
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Reaffirming Support for Bill 158 Protecting Vulnerable Road Users Act, 2017 - by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, seconded by Councillor Frank Di Giorgio

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, seconded by Councillor Frank Di Giorgio, recommends that:

1. City Council express its appreciation for the Provincial Government's leadership in seeking passage at the second reading of Bill 158 Protecting Vulnerable Road Users.
2. City Council express its support in principle for the changes in Bill 158 which would:
 - a. require the court to impose greater penalties against negligent drivers for injuring or killing vulnerable road users;
 - b. make it mandatory for negligent drivers who injure or kill vulnerable road users to be present in court for the reading of Victim Impact Statements and at the time of sentencing; and
 - c. require the court to consider increased penalties for negligent drivers that seriously injure or kill vulnerable road users, including increased monetary fines, suspension of licences, driver safety education or community-service and possible jail time.
3. City Council direct that a copy of its decision be forwarded to the leaders of each of the Provincial political parties for their information and to urge their support in the Legislature.

Summary

There is increasing concern about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on Toronto streets. The City of Toronto is actively implementing a wide range of infrastructure improvements to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities, and enhance the safety all road users.

However, when collisions do happen, pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable road users - bearing the greatest burden of injury - and current legislation does not do enough to protect them. Research has shown that negligent drivers are frequently not charged for their actions, even when deemed at fault. When they are charged, they may face little more than a fine, while the pedestrian's or cyclist's life can be over, or forever changed.

Vulnerable Road User legislation is needed in the Province of Ontario. · Several American jurisdictions have passed Vulnerable Road User laws, including Illinois, New York, Oregon and Washington, among others.

Such legislation would hold negligent drivers accountable and raise the standard of care for all drivers - making our roads safer for all road users, especially the most vulnerable.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM34.8