

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM44.35	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Use of the Public Right of Way for Display of Graphic Images - by Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Janet Davis**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Janet Davis, recommends that:

1. City Council, pending the final report on these matters in the first quarter of 2019, request the General Manager, Transportation Services, to review current by-laws designed to protect members of the public from harm, including provisions under City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks, Use of, and other by-laws intended to prevent the obstruction or interference with the public right-of-way by any group that seeks to use the public right-of-way for the display of graphic images and consider enforcement options available

**Summary**

The organization, Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, is an example of the groups which are occupying public right-of-way space for the display of extremely graphic and/or disturbing images which appear to be intended to shock, alarm, or cause dismay, including outside schools, community centres, and other places which serve young children and other vulnerable members of the public. In addition, these displays occupy the public right-of-way in a manner that obstructs and/or interferes with the use of the public right-of-way by members of the public and impede the safe flow of pedestrian movement in and around the vicinity of the displays.

In October 2017, Council approved MM35.10 and requested staff in Municipal Licensing and Standards, and Transportation Services, in consultation with Legal Services, to report to Council in 2018 on options for regulating the distribution of materials to private residences and regulating temporary signs in public spaces, particularly those with disturbing images. This report was not submitted to Council.

Pending the anticipated report on these issues in the first quarter of 2019, and given the urgent disruption that is occurring on the public right-of-way, urgent action is required to protect members of the public from the harm caused by extremely graphic and/or disturbing images which appear to be intended to shock, alarm, or cause dismay and the interference with the free

movement of members of the public.

Residents are seeking support from the City to prevent the obstruction of our sidewalks, right-of-ways and sight-lines with large posters, forcing very young children and others to view extremely graphic and disturbing images and to obstruct their passage on the City's sidewalks, forcing these vulnerable members of the public to be captive audiences.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM44.35