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To: Admin@QuantumRoboticSystems.com
Subject: Toronto Robot Ban IE26.12 -- Council, Please Ask These Important Questions
Date: December 16, 2021 11:48:06 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

City Council, Please Ask These Important Questions about IE26.12



We're a robotics startup based in East York.

Robots are a beneficial, innovative technology. They can remove barriers to accessibility by lifting and carrying things for those who can't. They have the smallest physical and environmental footprint of any other delivery option – including bike couriers. They take delivery vehicles off the road, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving road safety. Data shows they have an exemplary safety record. And, they are the only true contract-free delivery option available as we enter the fifth wave of the pandemic.

Other major **Vision Zero cities** with comparable or higher densities than Toronto (including London, Seattle, Berlin, Stockholm and San Francisco) **already allow and regulate robots on sidewalks.**

So why is Toronto about to ban them?

Here are a few important questions Council needs to ask:

1. Why has this recommendation been made without any **public dialogue**? There has been virtually no stakeholder consultation or consideration of available objective data. No third-party experts or anyone from the robotics community has been asked for input.
2. Has the **economic impact** of this ban been considered? It will have a profoundly negative impact on Toronto-based robotics startups. It will also remove the most economical delivery means for small Toronto businesses and restaurants.

3. What does this ban say about the City's **commitment to accessibility** to the disabled community when it makes assistive robotic devices illegal.
4. What does it say about Toronto's attitude towards **innovation and technology**? Is this yet another missed opportunity for Toronto to lead? It **brands Toronto as anti-innovation** and sends the clear message to tech startups and investors that Toronto is not the place for them.

Innovation and safety are not mutually exclusive. Allow companies like ours to work with the City to develop informed policies and a framework for regulation.

The IE26.12 ban serves no useful purpose, other than to guarantee that the robots the City will inevitably, unavoidably embrace will be made by UPS, Amazon and FedEx, not local Toronto companies struggling for support in their own home town.

Vote NO on the needless IE26.12 robot ban.

Thank you for your consideration.



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