

City Council

(Deferred from March 29, 2023 - 2023.MM5.7)

DM6.3	ACTION			Ward: All
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Micro-mobility Couriers - by Councillor Dianne Saxe, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll

Recommendations

Councillor Dianne Saxe, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Solicitor, in consultation with the General Manager, Municipal Licensing and Standards, the General Manager, Transportation Services and the General Managers of other City divisions as appropriate, to report back to the June 5, 2023 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on options for requiring motor-assisted micro-mobility vehicles (except motorized wheelchairs) to bear a unique identifier when being used for commercial purposes on a public thoroughfare.

2. City Council request the General Manager, Municipal Licensing and Standards, the General Manager, Transportation Services and the General Managers of other City divisions as appropriate to ask courier companies to educate their delivery staff on the rules of the road and the importance of compliance.

3. City Council request the Toronto Police Services Board to request the Toronto Police Service to increase enforcement of illegal behaviour by micro-mobility couriers, particularly those who ride vehicles on sidewalks.

Summary

Couriers using motor-assisted micro-mobility vehicles, (including electric-assist bicycles, but not including motorized wheelchairs), provide valuable delivery services, without causing air pollution or congestion. Unfortunately, a minority of such couriers create safety hazards for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users by flagrantly ignoring traffic rules, travelling at high speeds and riding on sidewalks. Attempts to enforce traffic rules against such couriers has not been effective in discouraging this behaviour, partly because neither the couriers nor their vehicles bear clear identification. Accordingly, it is difficult to identify and locate offenders. This creates a culture of impunity, which further encourages illegal and hazardous behaviour.

An essential step to overcoming this culture of impunity, and to facilitate enforcement, is to be able to reliably identify offending couriers. It is also the responsibility of the courier companies to better educate their couriers, and to set terms of employment that encourage legal compliance.