

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities: November 10, 2020

MOVED BY T. NOLAN.....

SECONDED BY K. NOLAN.....

Ban of Electric Scooters from Public Property (City Wide)

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities was requested by Council to give our advice regarding whether they should allow rental electric scooters (also known as e-scooters or kick scooters) to operate in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Working Group of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities has researched the impact of permitting the operation of electric scooters in other cities, including Montreal, Calgary and Ottawa;

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities that electric scooters pose a serious danger to persons with disabilities. Allowing unlicensed, untrained people of varying ages and maturity levels to operate silent, high speed vehicles without regulation is an unnecessary safety risk to all pedestrians, but it is of particular concern to seniors and the disabled as they might not see or hear them, nor would they be able to move out of the way quick enough to avoid injury;

WHEREAS, rental electric scooters do not require a docking station and their congestion, abandonment and improper parking in dense urban areas can cause serious issues such as blocked sidewalks, curb cuts, business entrances, wheelchair ramps, etc. and pose a serious obstruction or tripping hazard when they are left on the ground, especially for persons with vision loss;

WHEREAS, other Canadian cities such as Montreal and Toronto have implemented a ban on the use of electric scooters in their communities;

WHEREAS, the province of Ontario has permitted Ontario cities to self-determine whether to permit electric scooters on its roads and sidewalks;

WHEREAS, there are no provincial regulations in place, especially for commercially rented electric scooters, regarding the use of electric scooters on roads and sidewalks apart from an age limit of 16 years to operate;

WHEREAS, electric scooters can run at a speed of close to, or in excess of, 30km/hour posing a significant safety risk to persons with disabilities particularly those with mobility or sensory disabilities;

WHEREAS, there are no provincial regulations requiring operators of electric scooters, particularly rental electric scooters, to possess either a license or insurance to operate;

WHEREAS, the province does not require operators of electric scooters, especially rental electric scooters, to undertake any specific or regulated training in order to own or operate an electric scooter; and,

WHEREAS, other disability advisory committees in the Province of Ontario have recommended a ban on the use of electric scooters, particularly rental electric scooters, on municipal sidewalks and roadways because of their risk to safety of others, particularly persons with physical and sensory disabilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton respectfully recommends that City Council ban the use of electric and rental electric scooters on all City roads, sidewalks, pathways and in all other areas of the City until such time that electric scooters, particularly rental electric scooters, and their operators are trained, licensed, insured and are fully and completely regulated by the province of Ontario in the same manner as any other motor vehicle in the province of Ontario.