

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

**Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities:
June 14, 2022**

MOVED BY J. CARDNO.....

SECONDED BY.....

Operation of Vehicles in Public Parks and Green Spaces

WHEREAS, parks and green spaces have been recognized as valuable, contributing to the good health of City residents and as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, use of these spaces has increased;

WHEREAS, any vehicular traffic moving through a park not only reduces such benefits but presents a threat that is unexpected in a park, particularly for those with disabilities and using mobility devices;

WHEREAS, invisible disabilities are not easily identified and operators of vehicles may not be sensitive to related fear and anxiety that results when an unexpected vehicle suddenly comes near;

WHEREAS, the public in vehicles may mistake hard surface paths as roadways because of other vehicles or evidence of vehicle use and will enter and travel at speed presenting a very real danger to park users and especially those unable to move quickly out of the way due to mobility or disability limitations; and

WHEREAS, City staff should receive sensitivity and awareness training regarding those with disabilities as part of customer service when dealing with the public, particularly for new and seasonal staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That staff be directed to review policies and procedures regarding vehicle traffic and presence of vehicles throughout parks and green spaces and recommend actions to keep the presence and operation of vehicles in parks and green spaces to a minimum, as follows;
 - (i) Ensure the use of public roads rather than park pathways unless it is an emergency; and
 - (ii) Ensure that pathways are not easily accessible to vehicles and that the use of barriers to limit vehicles does not restrict or inhibit the use of mobility devices.

2. That staff be directed to provide regular sensitivity and awareness training for staff as part of customer service when dealing with the public, including new and seasonal staff, to include awareness of the benefits parks and green spaces offer and ways to decrease any activity that interferes with those benefits.