

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: June 11, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR E. PAULS.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR T. JACKSON.....

Feasibility of Regulating the Sale of Deterrent Sprays

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended provides that a municipality may pass by-laws respecting the health, safety and well-being of persons; and the protection of persons and property;

WHEREAS, Bear Spray or similar Animal Deterrent Sprays that contain capsaicin or its compounds as the active ingredient (collectively “Deterrent Sprays”) are intended for personal protection from wildlife or aggressive animals;

WHEREAS, Deterrent Sprays are legal products in Canada and are regulated by the Federal Pest Control Products Act and Ontario’s Pesticides Act but do not require a license to sell or otherwise limit the sale of Deterrent Sprays;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Police Services have reported an increase in incidents within the city of Hamilton involving the use of Deterrent Sprays for other than its intended purpose;

WHEREAS, this increase in the use of Deterrent Sprays is particularly among children and youth between the ages of 10 and 19 years of age, raising significant public safety concerns for the community; and,

WHEREAS, other municipalities in Canada have enacted local By-laws to further regulate the sale of Deterrent Sprays within their jurisdictions to address similar public safety concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Staff be directed to investigate the feasibility of developing a Municipal By-law to regulate the sale of Deterrent Sprays within the City of Hamilton, with the aim of enhancing public safety and reducing their misuse and report back to the General Issues Committee.