



Date: February 06, 2023

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

It has come to the attention of the Mississauga Towing Industry that there is a report on the General Committee agenda February 8, 2023 recommending the Towing Industry Advisory Committee (TIAC) be retired based on the enactment of the Provincial Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act. We would respectfully ask Council to oppose that recommendation.

TIAC has been productive since approximately 2009. Representatives of the towing industry have played a valuable role for Mississauga residents in their times of stressful car accidents and have contributed significant property and business taxes to the City.

We have appreciated the opportunity to meet every two months to discuss mutual concerns and a variety of issues affecting the professional operation of our industry. We have recommended permission forms, procedures and services that have been adopted by Council and greatly improved client experiences.

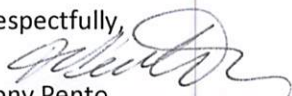
The severe problems affecting our clients and our industry leading up to the committee being formed were similar to the violence and corrupt practices that precipitated the provincial task force and created the new Act. The formation of the Towing Committee, including members of Council, enabled us to slowly reduce corrupt practices to the point where our City became a model in the industry. In fact, Mississauga City staff were invited to participate in the discussions that took place at the Province, resulting in the current Act.

The Act is in its initial stages and includes a pilot project that designates only certain towing companies to service the major highways around the GTA. There may be changes as the implementation of the Act continues. TIAC has presented written responses to various stages of the Act, adopted by Council, and shared with the Province. We would like this ability to consult and respond as a group to continue.

The Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act does not set fees for the wide variety of services provided by our industry. Meeting regularly allows TIAC to establish recommendations, enabling Council to set bylaws governing standard fees for various services City-wide. Meeting regularly with Councillors who sit on the committee also reinforces the belief we are a valued part of our City's economy.

We urge Council to continue with the Towing Industry Advisory Committee - reinforcing good practices and the current high level of cooperation. It will also reassure the Towing Industry that our opinions and services are valued by Council.

Respectfully,

  
Tony Pento

Director, Atlantic Towing