

# Playing Sports on City Streets

Presentation to Road Safety  
Committee

January 30, 2024



# Current By-law Provisions

Currently, playing sports and using sports equipment on the public right-of-way is prohibited on City Roadways.

The City's Traffic By-law prohibits sports from being played on the roadway:

- PEDESTRIAN RULES
- 38. (2) *No person shall play or take part in any game or sport upon a roadway*

The City's Highway Obstruction By-law prohibits sporting equipment on the roadway:

- GENERAL PROVISIONS
- (1) *No Person shall Obstruct any Highway by any means whatsoever.*
- (2) *Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Obstruction of a Highway includes any one or more of the following: (g) the placing or depositing of sporting equipment, including but not limited to basketball nets, hockey nets, soccer nets, skateboard ramps and bicycle ramps, on a Highway.*

# Enforcement

- The regulations related to sports and sporting equipment on the roadway are enforced on a complaint basis.
- The City receives relatively few complaints:

| Service Request Type                             | Number of Requests, 2018-2023 |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Noise from persons playing sports on the roadway | 57 calls                      |
| Sporting equipment being left on the roadway.    | 561 calls                     |

# Motion 0156-2023

- Council passed a [motion](#) at the June 14, 2023 Council meeting directing staff to produce a report that reviews the City's current by-laws as they relate to sports and sports equipment on local roads in Mississauga.
- Staff were also directed that the report work to amend the City's current by-laws to permit sports on local roads where appropriate such that it is done in a safe and responsible manner.



# Jurisdictional Scan

- Currently only Kingston, Ottawa and Toronto permit sports on roadways without a permit:

|  | Kingston                          | Ottawa  | Toronto                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Time permitted   | 9 a.m-8 p.m.                      | None  | “Daylight hours” or 9 a.m-8 p.m.          |
| Roadways permitted                                       | “Local roads”, 50 km/hour or less | “Where the free flow of traffic is not impeded” | “Local roads”, 40 km/hour or less         |
| Sports Permitted   | All sports/activities             | Street hockey                                   | Street hockey and basketball              |
| Participants responsible for safety and assume liability | Yes                               | Not specified                                   | Yes                                       |
| Requires equipment to be removed                         | Yes                               | Yes   | Yes (Equipment permitted with conditions) |

# Considerations

## Safety & Liability

- Vision Zero
- Liability considerations
- Property damage

## Enforcement

- Road classification and/or speed
- Signage
- Encroachment and noise issues

## Road Impacts

- Transit routes
- Impact to service delivery (snow clearing and waste removal)
- Traffic impacts

## Education

- Communicating the change
- Keeping all road users safe

# Questions

- Do you support the potential amendments?
- If the amendments were enacted, how can staff help to ensure roads safety for all road users?
- Should other sports besides street hockey be included in any amendments?
- How should any changes be communicated?

**Thank you**