



PEEL REGIONAL POLICE
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CHIEF NISHAN DURAIAPPAH

October 29, 2024

City of Mississauga
 300 City Centre Drive
 Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1

Dear Mississauga Council,

I am writing to express Peel Regional Police's (PRP) support of additional traffic calming measures in the City of Mississauga, related to *Item 12.1 - School Zone Speed Limits on Major Roadways (All Wards)* on the Council agenda scheduled for Wednesday, October 30th, 2024. I would first like to thank Council and City of Mississauga for prioritizing road safety in school zones and for actively identifying ways to enhance initiatives across Mississauga.

As one of Canada's fastest growing and most diverse regions, our service is presented with unique traffic safety challenges in Peel Region. With five major highways, extensive railway systems, broad logistical networks, and Canada's largest airport welcoming 45 million travelers annually – Peel Region's forecasted growth in the coming years will be unprecedented. As our population grows, so does the number of vehicles and pedestrians on our roads, increasing the demands and risks associated with road safety.

Since the start of 2024, 11 lives have been tragically lost in motor vehicle collisions in Mississauga and 24 across the Region - each one a preventable death underscoring the need for proactive measures. A single life lost on our roads is one too many.

Additionally, there have been over 12,600 reported collisions in Mississauga, and over 24,900 in Peel Region this year.

In response, PRP's Road Safety Services (RSS) has intensified enforcement efforts. From January to September 2024, over 37,500 charges have been issued, including 1,409 stunt driving charges, resulting in a 6% increase in overall offences from last year. Driving is a privilege, and officers have zero tolerance for any behaviour that puts community members at risk on our roads.

PRP's Road Safety Services, encompassing the Strategic Enforcement and Impaired Driving Units, Road Watch, Major Collision Bureau, and the Safer Roads Team, is dedicated to improving traffic safety across Peel Region.

These teams collaborate on targeted campaigns year-round, including Project ERASE, Project Noisemaker and the R.I.D.E. campaign, to address critical issues of street racing, impaired driving, and other high-risk behaviors. Additionally, we have received over 2,000 requests this year through Roadwatch, our online reporting system which plays a crucial role in monitoring and enforcing traffic safety in high-priority areas.

However, enforcement alone is not a sustainable solution. By implementing strategic traffic calming measures to change driver behaviours, the need for repeated police presence is reduced, which, in turn, alleviates the pressure on frontline officers.

PRP supports the implementation of traffic calming initiatives, including lowering speed limits in school zones and high-pedestrian areas. When speed limits are lowered, the severity of collisions decreases, reducing tragic outcomes on our roads. Beyond this, traffic calming measures such as Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras, speed bumps, enhanced signage, and smart road design, can be highly effective strategies. These measures help address dangerous driver behavior without constant police presence, thus optimizing our resources and allowing officers to focus on other community safety needs.

In collaboration with ongoing efforts to enforce and raise awareness on the dangers of street racing and reckless driving, we welcome and value the involvement of our municipal partners, including the City of Mississauga, in implementing measures that help deter dangerous driving behaviors.

Road safety is a shared responsibility. Through partnerships in road safety campaigns, targeted enforcement, and the implementation of traffic calming measures, we can significantly reduce the risk of preventable deaths on our roads.

Peel Regional Police remains committed to ensuring our roads are safe for all those who live, work or visit in our Region. Together, we can take proactive steps to enhance road safety in our communities.

Sincerely,



Nishan Duraiappah
Chief of Police
Peel Regional Police