

# Playing Sports on City Streets

November 6, 2024



# Background

- Following Council's passed motion on June 14, 2023, Council directed 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.
- Currently, playing sports and placing sports equipment on the public right-of-way is not permitted under the Traffic and Highway Obstruction By-laws.

# Enforcement

- The regulations related to sports and sporting equipment on the roadway are enforced on a complaint basis.
- The vast majority of incidents, especially those related to playing sports on the roadway, are resolved by compliance through education.
- Enforcement receives relatively few complaints when compared to the total complaint volume.
  - In 2022 and 2023, Compliance and Licensing Enforcement received 14,594 and 18,586 complaints, respectively.

Service Request Type	2022	2023
Noise from persons playing sports on the roadway	11	7
Sporting equipment being left on the roadway	88	88
Total	99	95

## Jurisdictional Scan

- Staff reviewed by-laws from 12 comparable jurisdictions:

Regulatory Approach to Sports on Streets	Number of Jurisdictions
Permits sports on roadways	3
Does not permit	5
Neither permits or prohibits - sports are not identified in city bylaws	4

- Between 2008 and 2022, Kingston allowed the playing of street hockey on local streets in residential neighbourhoods, where the speed limit was 50 km/h or less.
- In 2022, Kingston City Council amended their by-law to remove the provisions regulating the playing of sports and games on a roadway.
  - This approach effectively deregulated the playing of street sports by neither expressly permitting or prohibiting the playing of sports and games on a roadway.

# Community Engagement

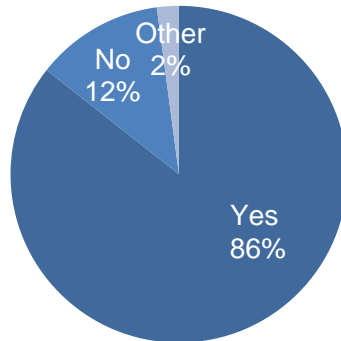
- An online survey was available from July 8 - August 7, 2024.
  - The survey received 1,178 responses.
- Respondents shared their thoughts on playing sports and using sports equipment on local roads in Mississauga.
- The survey supported the City in understanding what sports are currently being played on streets, how often sports are being played on streets, and residents' feedback or concerns on sports being played on city streets.



# Survey Results - General Feedback

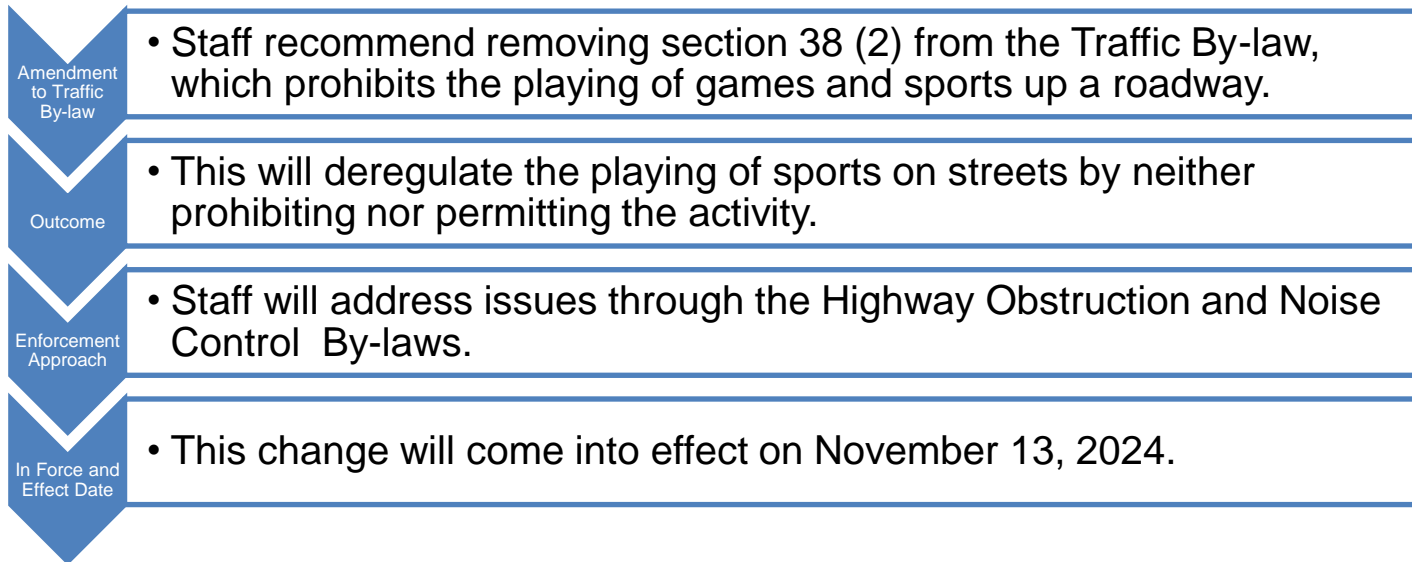
Of 615 responses, 86% see people playing on their street:

Recreational Sports being Played  
in Neighbourhood



- Most concerns were focused on the overall safety of participants playing sports on streets.
- Many respondents also expressed concern about the impact playing sports on streets would have on other road users and neighboring properties.
- They indicated that it is not necessarily about what sport is being played, but about the equipment being used for the sport and how it is being played on the street.
- Respondents recommended that parents supervise their children who are playing on the street and that players be encouraged to be aware of their surroundings.

# Proposed Amendments



## Enforcement Approach

- Municipal Licensing Enforcement Officers (MLEOs) will continue to respond to complaints regarding highway obstructions or noise.
- MLEOs will focus on compliance with Highway Obstruction By-law and Noise Control By-law provisions.
  - The Highway Obstruction By-law prohibits the obstruction of any street or road, including through the placing of sporting equipment on the roadway.
  - The Noise Control By-law permits the City to address noise emanating from sporting activities that violate the By-Law.



**Thank you**