

To the Members of Council,

My name is Anujintha Naghanathan and I am a resident of Ward 4, represented by Councillor John Kovac. I want to share what this proposed e-scooter ban would actually mean for someone like me.

I use a private e-scooter because it solves a problem that nothing else really does. Getting around this city without a car is not easy. Public transit helps, but it doesn't get me all the way to where I need to go. There's always a gap—whether it's getting to work, running errands, or making connections on time. My e-scooter fills that gap.

Without it, everything becomes harder. Trips take longer. Some places become unrealistic to reach. I would either have to spend significantly more money on alternatives or simply lose access to certain opportunities altogether.

Owning a car isn't a realistic option for everyone. The cost of insurance, gas, maintenance, and parking adds up quickly. For many people, including me, that's not something we can just absorb. An e-scooter is one of the few affordable ways to stay mobile in this city.

Some may suggest alternatives like e-bikes, but that is not a realistic substitute for me. I simply do not have the space in my apartment to store an e-bike, and they are significantly more expensive. In Canada, e-bikes are often 2–3 times the cost of an e-scooter—typically around \$1,000 more—making them far less accessible as an option.

There's also a practical side that often gets overlooked. With a private e-scooter, I don't need to worry about storage beyond a small footprint, I don't need to rely on availability, and I don't have to think about ongoing service or upkeep the same way I would with a car. It's simple, efficient, and works for how I live.

Taking that away doesn't remove the need to get around—it just removes one of the only tools that actually works.

I would ask Council to think about this from the perspective of someone who doesn't have many transportation options. What replaces this for us? Because right now, there isn't a clear answer. I hope you will reconsider the impact this decision will have on residents like me.

Thank you for your time,