

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

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COMITÉ PERMANENT DE LA
PROTECTION DE
L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'EAU ET
DE LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS
RAPPORT 24
LE 6 JUILLET 2022

REPORT 24
6 JULY 2022

EXTRACT OF DRAFT STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
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MINUTES 25
21 JUNE 2022

EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU
PROCÈS-VERBAL 25 DU COMITÉ
PERMANENT DE LA PROTECTION
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LE 21 JUIN 2022

MOTION – ANTI-IDLING BY-LAW REVIEW AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

ACS2022-OCC-ENV-009

City Wide

Response to Inquiry deferred for discussion from EPWWM meeting of 17 May 2022

- SCEPWWM 02-21 - Effectiveness and Enforceability of Anti-Idling Bylaw

Councillor Menard spoke briefly to provide context, and he introduced the following Motion:

MOTION N^o EPWWM 2022-25/01

Moved by Vice-Chair S. Menard:

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2019, City Council declared a Climate Emergency for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting the economy, ecosystems, and community from climate change; and

WHEREAS the link between greenhouse gas emissions, including those from vehicles, and climate change, and heat island effects is well researched and evident; and

WHEREAS Environment Canada estimates air pollution from vehicle emissions contribute to 15,000 premature deaths each year in Canada through emission exhaust comprised of nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxides, volatile organic compounds and fine particulate matter

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which can irritate the nose and throat, and cause long-term damage like asthma, decreased lung function, cardiac disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS idling in areas such as school zones, bus stops, and community centers places vulnerable populations at risk from an air pollution; and

WHEREAS the intent of Ottawa's current anti-idling by-law (Idling Control By-law No. 2007-266) was to provide education and warnings and enforce for repeat offenders; and

WHEREAS the Idling Control By-law No. 2007-266 is rarely enforced, written with many exemptions and out of date in comparison to other mid-size cities; and

WHEREAS Ottawa experienced a three-week-long occupation in winter 2022 which resulted in residents walking through and breathing in vehicle exhaust fumes at a level significantly higher than the average for Ottawa, with more 'freedom convoy' related protests expected to continue through the summer; and

WHEREAS in February of 2022 emergency measures were enacted that gave By-law and Regulatory Services the authority to enforce no-idling rules at -15 and above in the occupied zone of the City for the duration of the emergency period and/or to sunset at 2 months, and raised the fine for idling from \$100 to \$1000 for this same time period; and

WHEREAS the By-law Review Framework specified that the City's by-law should be reviewed and updated every ten years, and the anti-idling By-law No. 2007-266 was last updated 15 years ago, in 2007; and

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WHEREAS, in accordance with the Council-approved By-law Review Framework, it is anticipated that the 2023-2026 By-law Review Work Plan will be brought forward for Council's consideration and approval early in the new Term of Council, to identify by-law reviews to be undertaken during the Term;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend Council direct Public Policy Development Services in Emergency and Protective Services to include a comprehensive by-law review of By-law No. 2007-266 for Council consideration as part of the 2023-2026 By-law Review Work Plan to be approved by Council in 2023, and that this review shall include consideration of the following components:

- **Temperature thresholds, considering the increasing heat waves due to climate change as per the National Capital Climate Projections and our Climate Resiliency Strategy and a comparison to other major Canadian cities;**
- **Fines and time thresholds in relation to other major Canadian cities;**
- **Exemptions which currently include 12 categories of vehicles that are not subject to the by-law;**
- **Improved definitions of terms such as "idle", "mobile workshop", "normal farm practice", "private transit vehicles", and "vehicle" to ensure accuracy and enforceability;**
- **Enforcement, providing clarity on how citizens can report non-compliant idling to the City for investigation and a review of complaints, associated actions and effectiveness;**

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- **Integration and updating of the Vehicle and Equipment Idling Policy dated June 2002, Number FS01, updated February 2021.**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request the Ottawa Board of Health consider developing a public education and signage campaign to reduce unnecessary idling, in collaboration with the City of Ottawa staff, including Public Information and Media Relations and Emergency and Protective Services.

The Committee then heard from the following delegations:

- Ms Joan Freeman⁺, Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)
- Ms Paulina Pisarek^{**}, Centretown Community Association

[Individuals / groups, as marked above, either provided comments () in writing or by e-mail; all submissions and presentations (+) are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]*

Mr. Kim Ayotte, General Manager, Emergency and Protective Services (EPS) Department, Mr. Roger Chapman, Director, By-Law and Regulatory Services, EPS, Ms Valérie Bietlot, Manager, Public Policy Development, EPS, and Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health, Ottawa Public Health, were present and/or available to respond to questions.

Following questions to the delegations and to staff, and at the conclusion of Committee discussions, Motion N^o EPWWM 2022-25/01 was put to Committee and was 'CARRIED' up to the last bulleted point. Chair Moffatt suggested that the appropriate wording for the recommendation regarding a public education

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campaign could be worked out between Ottawa Public Health, EPS and By-Law Services by the time this matter was to be considered by Council. He moved referral of the last part of the Motion to Ottawa City Council for its consideration on 6 July 2022, as follows:

MOTION N^o EPWWM 2022-25/02

Moved by Chair Moffatt:

That Council consider the following matter:

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request the Ottawa Board of Health consider developing a public education and signage campaign to reduce unnecessary idling, in collaboration with the City of Ottawa staff, including Public Information and Media Relations and Emergency and Protective Services.

REFERRAL CARRIED