

**City Council, Standing Committee and Commission  
Conseil, comités permanents et commission**

**Motion**

**Notice of Motion / Avis de motion**

Committee / Commission: Transportation Committee

Comité / Commission : Comité des transports

OR / OU

**Council / Conseil**

Report / Agenda: 32

Rapport / Ordre du jour: 32

Item / Article: **ADDITIONAL ITEM**

Re: RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT AND REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE DEMERIT POINTS AS A RESULT OF A CONVICTION FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING

Moved by / Motion de: Councillor Tierney

**That the Transportation Committee waive the Rules of Procedure to consider this proposal, pursuant to subsection 84(3) of the procedure by-law (being by-law no. 2006-462), in order to provide City Council the time required to consider this motion prior to a scheduled November 5th event in Toronto as outlined in the attached correspondence.**

**WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation for the Government of the Province of Ontario has instituted a demerit point system for drivers which “encourages drivers to improve their behaviour and protects people from drivers who abuse the privilege of driving”; and**

**WHEREAS effective October 26, 2009, Ontario’s Highway Traffic Act was amended to include “distracted driving” as an offence, making it illegal for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or email using hand-held cell phones and other hand-held communications and entertainment devices; and**

**WHEREAS, despite these changes, “distracted driving” was not included within the category of offences for which demerit points are recorded against the driver’s record on conviction for the offence; and**

**WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation notes that, when drivers take their eyes off the road for more than two seconds, their crash risk doubles and that a driver using a cell phone is four times more likely to be in a crash than a driver focused on the road and, according to the Ontario Provincial Police, distracted driving is cited as a causal factor in 30 to 50 percent of traffic collisions in Ontario;**

**WHEREAS Ottawa resident Rick Levesque has mounted a public action campaign, [Help Save Lives – Drive Hands Free](#), to encourage the Provincial Government to institute a demerit point penalty for “distracted driving”;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transportation Committee recommends that City Council request, through the Mayor, that the Provincial Government make immediate changes to the Highway Traffic Act and Regulations to include demerit points as one of the consequences flowing from a conviction for distracted driving and that such request be copied to all local MPPs.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this item rise to Council on 9 October 2013.**



Lisa MacLeod, M.P.P.  
Nepean-Carleton

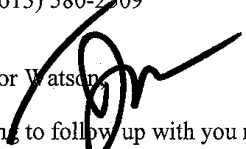
27 September 2013

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Dear Mayor Watson 

I am writing to follow up with you regarding our conversations on distracted driving legislation and my constituent Rick Levesque's campaign to have demerit points included with fines when a driver is found in violation of the current laws.

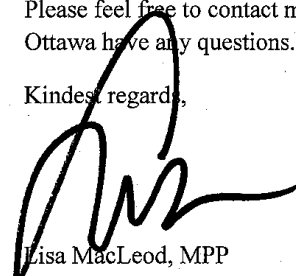
On November 5<sup>th</sup> I will be hosting the Canadian Automotive Association (CAA), the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) and the Trillium Auto Dealers Association (TADA) for a press conference at Queen's Park to support demerit points for distracted driving. I am pleased to have discussed this matter with the Minister of Transportation, Glen Murray, who has assured me of his personal support and interest. In addition, I am pleased that the President of the Ottawa Police Association, Matt Skoff, has indicated his organization's support for such a measure. With that in mind, I am hopeful that Ottawa City Council would consider adopting a resolution expressing its support for Mr. Levesque's campaign prior to the press conference on November 5 at Queen's Park. Support from our local Council would be most welcome and appreciated.

Rick Levesque has done a remarkable job promoting his campaign and working to have real penalties attached to distracted driving. With your help, this problem could have a made-in-Ottawa solution.

I would appreciate any feedback you may have and would greatly appreciate your support of this initiative.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience should you or others at the City of Ottawa have any questions.

Kindest regards,

  
Lisa MacLeod, MPP  
Nepean-Carleton

