

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

**TITLE: ENDORSING NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK AND
REQUESTING THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION TO
REVIEW MEASURES IMPACTING NEWLY LICENSED DRIVERS**

FROM:

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco
Regional Councillor Gino Rosati

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council is concerned about the continued occurrence of serious motor vehicle collisions involving newly licensed drivers and drivers under the age of 18; and

Whereas, a shocking and tragic collision involving a 16-year old driver occurred on May 16, 2021 on Athabasca Avenue in the City of Vaughan, resulting in the fatality of two young children; and

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council deferred the Resolution titled "Raising the Legal Age for a Licensed Driver from 16 to 18" on June 1, 2021 to a September Committee of the Whole meeting for further review and research; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario has legislative authority over driver licensing, highways, automobile insurance, and the enforcement and prosecution of the federal criminal law; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation administers the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8; and

Whereas, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation published the "Ontario Road Safety Annual Report 2018", being the most recent report issued, containing statistics that

demonstrate that the percentage of young, licensed drivers, aged 17 to 20, that were involved in vehicle collisions is higher than any other age group; and

Whereas, York Region published “2020 Traveller Safety Report” which provided that, based on collision data from the York Regional Police motor vehicle accident reports, drivers below the age of 25 have a higher at-fault collision rate and higher fatality rate in collisions than any other age group; and

Whereas, the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators published “Canada’s Road Safety Strategy 2025” and identifies drivers that are either under the age of 25 or have less than two years of driving experience as a ‘risk group’ based on several contributing factors, some including distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, passive safety, and road infrastructure; and

Whereas, City of Vaughan Council wishes to see change effected to Ontario’s driving laws under the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, with respect to newly licensed drivers; and

Whereas, Parachute, a Canadian charity, has launched a national awareness campaign to help educate Canadians on road safety and increase awareness on preventing serious and fatal injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents; and

Whereas, National Teen Driver Safety Week, hosted by Parachute and supported by many other Canadian jurisdictions, is a week dedicated to educating the youth about road safety and raising awareness of risks associated with driving to help prevent youth fatalities on the road across Canada.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That City of Vaughan Council request the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario to undertake a review of the *Highway Traffic Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8 with respect to measures impacting newly licensed drivers, such as implementing additional training and penalty provisions, to achieve greater education, and awareness of road safety and increased accountability and responsibility of new and young drivers through the legislative framework; and
2. That City of Vaughan Council unanimously endorse National Teen Driver Safety Week, to be held October 17 to 23, 2021; and
3. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the Premier, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all municipalities in Ontario, York Regional Police, Ontario Safety League, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and Parachute.

Attachments

1. Ontario Road Safety Annual Report 2018, page 34
2. York Region's 2020 Traveller Safety Report, page 21
3. Canada's Road Safety Strategy 2025 by Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators, page 7-8
4. National Teen Driver Safety Week by Parachute