

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SUPPORT ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY OF BLIND  
CANADIANS – SAFETY ISSUES RELATED TO HYBRID CARS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council authorize the Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee to forward a letter to Transport Canada requesting that consideration be given to requiring changes to hybrid (gas/electric) vehicles to address traffic safety issues raised by the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Richard Marion for information.

**REPORT**

City Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2007 December 17, received a presentation from Mr. Richard Marion, President, the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC), Lower Mainland Chapter and Peg Mercer, Treasurer, seeking support for lobbying senior levels of government to require changes to hybrid (gas/electric) vehicles due to traffic safety issues related to persons with sight and/or hearing disabilities. The AEBC noted that hybrid vehicles make no noise at low speeds and, thereby, pose a hazard to blind pedestrians. The AEBC further noted that non-intrusive noise generators should be installed on all hybrid vehicles.

Arising from discussion, the Committee requested that Council authorize the Chair of the Traffic Safety Committee to forward a letter to Transport Canada requesting that consideration be given to requiring changes to hybrid (gas/electric) vehicles to address traffic safety issues raised by the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor N. Volkow  
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Vice Chair

Councillor G. Evans  
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Engineering Director Planning & Building
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