

November 8, 2024

**Re: Lithium-Ion Importation and Safe Use**

At its Council Meeting of November 5, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

**WHEREAS** lithium-ion batteries are commonplace as they are in use in a wide variety of devices that are part of our daily lives, including e-scooters and e-bikes, and the growing use of such technology is encouraged and supported as part of Canada's environmental protection strategies;

**AND WHEREAS** the increasing importation and use of non-Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) aftermarket batteries is coupled with the risk of devastating fires;

**AND WHEREAS** when lithium-ion batteries are damaged or overheat they are susceptible to "thermal runaway" high intensity, long lasting fires that are difficult to extinguish by conventional firefighting techniques, and which emit a cocktail of dangerous and potentially toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen fluoride, and hydrogen chloride, putting citizens and first responders in danger;

**AND WHEREAS** there are at present no government regulations to monitor, control or prohibit importation, storage, sale, or use in our communities of non-OEM lithium-ion aftermarket batteries not Underwriter Laboratories of Canada (ULC) certified;

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Cambridge has already seen several occurrences of lithium-ion battery fires in single, multi-unit residential dwellings, commercial and industrial properties that have caused displacement, inconvenience and economic loss to dozens of citizens and businesses such that Council recognizes the significant and growing risk of fire and explosion that these aftermarket lithium-ion batteries present.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council does hereby support the Cambridge Fire Department in its efforts to administer and disseminate the Ontario Fire Marshall's fire safety campaign to educate citizens on the potential hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries and empower residents and

businesses in the City of Cambridge and beyond with the knowledge to safeguard themselves, their property, and others.

**AND FURTHER THAT** Council does hereby call upon all levels of government to enact regulations for the importation, storage, sale, disposal and use of non-OEM, non-ULC certified lithium-ion batteries.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be sent to the Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honorable Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development, The Honorable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honorable Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement for Ontario, local area MPP's and MP's, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario Municipalities.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Danielle Manton  
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)

Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development

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Local Area MPP's and MP's

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