

August 13, 2018

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
Attorney General
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2S9

Subject: Regulating the Display and Distribution of Objectionable Images

At its meeting on August 7, 2018, Oakville Town Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS Oakville wishes to be a safe and welcoming community for all those who are residents or visitors to our town; and

WHEREAS messaging and graphic depictions felt by many to be upsetting and objectionable appear in public places, on our streets and at our doorsteps yearly; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards includes in its provisions, outlined under Unacceptable Depictions and Portrayals - Advertisements shall not: undermine human dignity; or display obvious indifference to, or encourage, gratuitously and without merit, conduct or attitudes that offend the standards of public decency prevailing among a significant segment of the population.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct the Director of Municipal Enforcement, in consultation with the Town Solicitor, to assess options to:

- a. regulate the display of banners/signs in public places as well as the distribution of print materials to private residences that contain extremely graphic images intended to shock, alarm, or cause dismay, including the potential for the prohibiting of the public display and distribution of such print materials for the purposes of addressing the potential of such displays to cause harm to members of the public, especially children; and*
- b. report back to Council in 2019.*

Be it further resolved that by way of a letter to the Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Attorney General, Mayor Burton, on behalf of Council, urge the Province of Ontario to limit and regulate the display and distribution of posters, signs and leaflets that contain disturbing images; and

THAT Mayor Burton, on behalf of Council, write the Minister of Justice of Canada urging the consideration of amendments to Section 163(8) of the Canadian Criminal Code - Obscene Publication; and

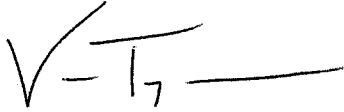
THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

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Should you have any questions regarding this matter or should you require any additional information, please contact me at 905-845-6601, extension 2003, or email vicki.tytaneck@oakville.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V-Tytaneck', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vicki Tytaneck
Town Clerk

c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario – All Members