



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	April 20, 2021
SUBJECT:	Escarpment Stairs (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Paul Johnson Director Emergency Operations Centre
SIGNATURE:	

On April 19, 2021 at the Board of Health meeting questions were asked related to enforcement on the escarpment stairs. The first focused on what authority the City had to lay charges and the second was a question about how enforcement would be approached. The following information was provided by Legal Services and Municipal Law Enforcement staff in response to those questions.

Authority to Enforce:

The use of the Escarpment Stairs is restricted by the EOC for Essential Travel Only. If a person is using the Stairs for exercise, this would be an Offence under the Trespass to Property Act (Prohibited Activity). In addition, if individuals are gathering at the stairs with members outside their own household, or not following requirements under other City bylaws or provincial Acts, there could be additional charges.

As discussed at the Board of Health meeting on April 19, 2021, the “stairs” are not included under the *Reopening Ontario Act* as a park or recreational amenity.

Approach to Enforcement:

As in all cases, Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) would properly investigate any incident of someone using the stairs contrary to the direction of the City. Proper investigation would be watching someone repeatedly using the stairs for exercise. Single use up or down would not be a consideration of a violation regardless of the attire worn by the individual. Any perceived violation would allow for an officer to question the individual and ensure compliance. As always, MLE seeks to gain compliance.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None