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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL" <CMCG@vancouver.ca>  
"Dobrovlny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovlny@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 10/24/2017 7:44:09 PM  
**Subject:** Report Back - Snow Season and Readiness Improvements for Future Snow Events - RTS 011878  
**Attachments:** MEMO to Mayor and Council - Report Back - Snow Season and Readiness Improvements for Future Snow Events - October 24 2017.pdf

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovlny regarding the review of improved enforcement and fining drivers in snow conditions without winter tires. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The City is putting forth a tire recommendation to drivers instead of a snow tire by-law.
- The City recommendation follows the Province requirements for tires displaying the 3-peaked mountain and snowflake symbol OR the M+S (mud and snow) symbol, with at least 3.5 mm tread.
- VPD to consider the type and condition of vehicle tires when conducting accident investigations and may assess a fine.
- Public notification will be done through media campaigns as well as mail outs with tax receipts.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Taryn Scollard, Director of Streets at [taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca](mailto:taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca) or 604.873.7789.

Best,  
Sadhu

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## MEMORANDUM

October 24, 2017

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Adam Palmer, Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department  
Francie Connell, Director of Legal Services, Legal Department  
Taryn Scollard, Director of Streets

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Report Back Snow Season and Readiness Improvements for Future Snow Events (RTS 011878)

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In July of this year, Vancouver City Council approved the staff recommendations included in the Snow Season and Readiness Improvements for Future Snow Events Report (RTS 011878). The report highlighted the impact that ill-equipped private vehicles had on the ability of City forces to effectively clear snow due to blocked traffic. Included in those recommendations were:

THAT Council direct staff to bring back for review and approval amendments to the Street and Traffic By-law No.2849 to improve enforcement and to add a provision to fine drivers that are on the road in snow conditions without winter tires.

Staff from Engineering, Legal and Vancouver Police departments gave careful consideration to any by-law changes and concluded the best course of action was to instead make a snow tire recommendation. The main options to enforce a by-law come from either a time based approach, similar to what the province has in place currently, or a storm event based approach. It was felt that requiring citizens to have winter tires in Vancouver for up to six months was not appropriate given the typical weather in the city. A storm event based approach is also challenging as the City would need to specify storm strength, duration and

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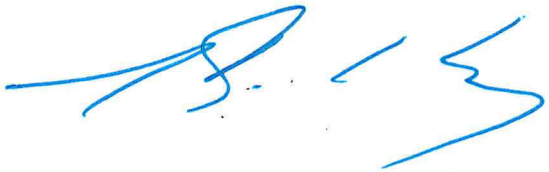
location in which those three factors were measured. As we have seen during previous storm events, conditions across the city are not uniform and communication of the rules for motorists to interpret and understand what constitutes a storm event would be overly complicated and onerous to comply with.

Therefore, it was concluded that the City put forth a recommendation to drivers to use appropriate winter tires instead of a change to the existing Street and Traffic by-law. This recommendation follows the BC Provincial Government's requirement that tires display the three-peaked mountain and snowflake symbol **OR** the mud and snow (M+S) symbol, with at least a 3.5mm tread. Based on this, all City fleet vehicle tires *without* the M+S designation will be replaced in the coming months.

In addition, this recommendation does not interfere with VPD's established accident investigation procedures. The VPD will often take into consideration the type and condition of a vehicle's tires whenever they conduct a motor vehicle accident investigation. Based on the investigation results a charge of "Driving without reasonable consideration for the road and weather conditions" may apply if the tires are found to be non-compliant with the recommendation and a contributing factor in the cause of the accident.

Notification of the City's recommendations will be incorporated into upcoming media campaigns to highlight the importance of driver responsibilities for ensuring that their vehicles can adequately perform in all weather conditions. The City will place signs at various entry points into the City, as well as other high volume traffic areas, to alert drivers of this recommendation. Based on the events of the upcoming snow season, staff will re-evaluate if greater measures need to be taken in subsequent years.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Taryn Scollard, Director of Streets at [taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca](mailto:taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca) or 604.873.7789.



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