

**From:** Marcia Provenzano <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 12:57 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



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Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, February 13, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

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Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Bylaw 3655 Amendment Proposal

Meeting (if known)

Comments

Sunday morning the 19th of January, I went for a walk on a route I have established in College Park for healthful benefit. At about 6am, I tripped over an extension cord which had been laid across the sidewalk by a resident to operate a block heater on a vehicle which was parked on the street. I landed hard on my arm and face on an open portion of the walk and suffered bruising and a deep abrasion above my left eye. After arriving home, I arranged a ride to the Royal University Hospital where I was treated and received four stitches. Both eyes were blackened.

City Bylaw 3655 (Electrical Equipment Bylaw) says that it permits the use of extension cords across a sidewalk provided that they are plugged in and not left in a "haphazard manner". I suggest that the use of the word "haphazard" leaves too much leeway in the interpretation of the bylaw especially when dealing with the ephemeral nature of an extension cord being placed across a City sidewalk, to plug in an automobile block heater. In the winter, a night snowfall might conceal the cord from view and snare a passerby. Street lighting is sometimes uneven and shadows from a parked vehicle can make a cord much less conspicuous at night, especially if the cord is of a light color.

Extension cords placed across a city sidewalk should be marked or otherwise made visible to pedestrians. I think that even something as simple as a couple of lengths of orange surveyor's tape on the cord would make it more conspicuous and draw a passing pedestrian's attention. Canadian Tire has all sorts of driveway markers, priced to fit every budget that could be thrust into the snowbank by the sidewalk as a marker for a cord. My point being that things can be done to mitigate the hazard. As it is at present the Bylaw is weak in this regard and the hazard is merely tolerated with the onus on the pedestrians to preserve themselves from injury by what is potentially a snare.

Falls are one of the most common causes of injuries in Canada and steps should be taken to make a safer walking environment for Saskatoon pedestrians. I am now retired but in my working days I was in the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. If I ever encountered a company workspace cluttered by so many

cords on the floor I would have I would have shut the operation down until they were dealt with. Tripping hazards are a very serious safety concern anywhere and anytime.

Therefore having said the above, I am asking that the City of Saskatoon amend the Bylaw to say that extension cords crossing a City sidewalk should be marked in such a way that pedestrian traffic is made aware of the presence.

Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/370369>