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September 5, 2019

Dear Municipal Colleagues:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on August 26, 2019, passed the following resolution regarding single-use disposable wipes:

“WHEREAS in 2018 the City of Kitchener implemented a sustainable funding model Water Infrastructure Project (WIP) for the city’s water, sanitary and stormwater infrastructure to ensure the safe delivery of these valued utilities; and,

WHEREAS in 2018 a multi-year initiative approved through the WIP has already improved several key measures of water quality, and proactive maintenance has reduced the risk of flooding in high-risk areas; and,

WHEREAS in 2018 the City has already seen a number of impacts due to the implementation of the WIP including: 48% decrease in complaints related to discoloured water; Storm main repairs increased by 27 per cent; 300 metric tonnes of sediment removed from catch basins; and, 2,200 properties protected against backflow and cross-connection contamination; and,

WHEREAS Single-use wipes are a \$6-billion industry and growing, and are now being advertised as the clean alternative to toilet paper and are safe to flush; and,

WHEREAS there is no one standard for what the word “flushable” means; and,

WHEREAS Single-use wipes are in fact not safe to flush as they are buoyant; are not biodegradable; and, are unable to break down into small pieces quickly; and,

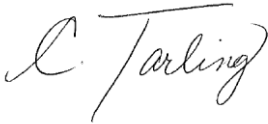
WHEREAS Single-use wipes accumulate in the sewer system and eventually clog the sanitary sewer system costing municipalities hundreds of millions of dollars in additional repairs and maintenance costs each year to municipal sewer systems across the country; and,

WHEREAS there is a lack of public awareness of the impact caused by non-flushable wipes being flushed down toilets and consumer education and outreach could play a large part in reducing the impact;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener lobby the Federal Government, to review regulations related to consumer packaging on single-use wipes to remove the word flushable; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Region of Waterloo; and, all Municipalities within the Province of Ontario.”

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Tarling".

C. Tarling  
Director of Legislated Services  
& City Clerk