

Good afternoon Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee.

My name is Alicia McGaw and 16 years ago I was injured in a car accident leaving me paralyzed from the waist down and now this chair is what I use to get around. After my accident I had a new view of the world at just over a foot shorter. Things I could reach before are now out of reach such as soap dispensers in bathrooms. I find that in most office buildings there is only one washroom that has automatic door openers. Usually this is on the first floor and is no good if someone that needs it is on the 5th floor.

I am still able to operate my own vehicle with the use of hand controls. When driving my van it is tough at times to find parking in the city due to the lack of spots. When I can't find an accessible spot I sometimes need to park on an angle and take up 2 spots as a result in the past my van has been vandalized. When I do find a spot sometimes the spots are too small for me to get out using the ramp that deploys from the passenger side as it is just a normal size spot with a handicap marker. This issue is not just a problem for people in chairs but it is also a hazard for people who use a walker or a cane.

Before my accident I was an able bodied person that never put thought into where a soap dispenser in a bathroom was or worried about a step or two to get into a shop. What I am purposing to you today is not to jump and make any changes. What I am asking is just for you to see the world from my view and spend a day in a chair to get a realistic understanding of how difficult it can be to live in the city of London with a disability. I would like for you to just have a "Normal" day but do it from a chair. Go and do what you would normally do, go to meetings, lunch with colleagues or friends, travel the city but only using para transit, an accessible taxi or the LTC. Hopefully with this experience we can make the City of London a lot more friendly to those who struggle with mobility issues.

Thank you for letting me have this time to speak with you all today are there any questions for me.

Parking

Spots should be stander size
maybe if in large lots if the spots at the end of row closes to building

For every 150 spot in a lot only 5 need to be accessible. And only 1 of every 6 accessible spots need to be big enough for van accessible.

Bathroom

Dispenser is at good height but still can not reach as it is behind counter and should be on side walls.