



August 31, 2023

Inspector Scott Purches,
Toronto Police Service, 14 Division
350 Dovercourt Rd.
Toronto, ON M6J 3E3

Dear Inspector Purches,

RE: Improving Access and Privacy in Reporting Bike Lane Parking Offenses

This letter comes to you by way of [Community Bikeways](#), a grassroots coalition of advocacy groups campaigning for safe cycling infrastructure in Toronto. Since its founding, our group has devoted many hours to the problem of illegal bike lane parking, including several meetings with senior police staff.

As you are aware, bike lanes are a crucial part of our city's transportation infrastructure. They contribute to a greener environment, reduce traffic congestion, and offer a healthy means of commuting. When vehicles illegally park in bike lanes, they endanger the safety of cyclists, force them into fast-moving traffic, and undermine the very purpose of having designated bike lanes.

We are pleased that the Toronto Police Service (TPS) has introduced a means of reporting illegally parked vehicles. Its system, however, poses significant barriers to effective citizen involvement. Most notably, the extensive amount of personal information required—including home address, gender, and date of birth—is not only cumbersome, but raises legitimate concerns over privacy and data protection. These requirements will discourage people from reporting offenses, rendering community policing efforts less effective.

Accordingly, we request that TPS improve the system by means of the following:

1. **Simplify the Reporting Process:** The reporting interface should be intuitive, as well as easy to find (under its own *clearly marked* button) and navigate. The fewer clicks it takes to report an issue, the more likely people are to engage with the system.
2. **Remove Unnecessary Personal Information Requirements:** It's understandable that some information may be necessary to authenticate a report, but the inclusion of one's home address, gender, and date of birth seems excessive for the nature of these complaints. An email address, name, and phone number should suffice for contact and follow-up.

We trust you will consider these suggestions in the spirit of constructive citizen engagement and in pursuit of our shared goal of a safer, more accessible Toronto for all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Albert Koehl

Marc Z. Goldgrub

Community Bikeways

cc: Mayor Olivia Chow
Councillor Dianne Saxe