

Deputization of City of Toronto By-law Enforcement Staff and Toronto Transit Commission Route Inspectors as Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs)

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Works Committee recommends the adoption of the following report (November 2, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services:

Purpose:

To report on a number of City staff as well as Transit Commission staff to be deputized as Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs) for the purpose of issuing parking tags and/or authorizing tows.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) City staff listed in Appendix 'A' as may be amended from time to time, attached to this report, be deputized as MLEOs;
- (2) Route Supervisors of Toronto Transit Commission be deputized as MLEOs; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be requested to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction of all necessary bills.

Background:

City Council, at its meeting of May 11 and 12, 1999, adopted Clause No. 1 of the former Urban Environment and Development Committee Report No. 6 which, among other things, endorsed in principle the deputizing of Toronto Transit Commission inspectors to act as temporary parking enforcement officers during snow emergencies. It was noted in the staff reports that in addition to TTC personnel, it would also be advantageous to have City By-law Enforcement staff deputized. Legal Services have advised that explicit Council authority is necessary to implement this initiative.

Comments:

Members of the Toronto Transit Commission had indicated that during the 1999 snowstorm, vehicles parked on street car tracks impeded streetcar flow and riders were experiencing

excessive delays of up to three hours, especially along routes where there were a number of illegally stopped vehicles. Although police and tow trucks were deployed to react to such situations, in many cases the vehicles were usually moved, however, not before creating havoc and impeding the movement of TTC transit vehicles.

They had indicated that the frequency of transit delays experienced either during the winter or under normal weather conditions due to vehicles parked on streetcar tracks could be minimized and to some extent avoided if route supervisors have the ability to tag and tow vehicles impeding the movement of streetcars. Given that route supervisors are readily available to respond to problems associated along streetcar routes, granting them authority to tag and tow where necessary could certainly enhance any delays associated in dealing with illegally parked vehicles.

The second problem associated with this past winter snowstorm was impeded snow removal operations caused by vehicles parked along specific routes either in contravention of the snow emergency parking prohibitions, or after 72 hours had elapsed. Although these parking situations were somewhat easier to deal with than those associated with streetcar tracks, delays to snow removal operations were experienced regardless.

The City's By-law Enforcement Officers called upon during this past winter snowstorm played an integral part in snow removal operations. By-law Enforcement Officers, with the assistance of the Police Service, coordinated most of the relocation 'friendly' tows of vehicles impeding snow removal operations. However, as noted in previous reports regarding snow management, any minor delay in responding to such calls negatively impacted on snow removal operations.

In view of the above, deputizing the City's By-law Enforcement Officers to tag and/or tow vehicles when impeding snow removal operations would certainly enhance response time and maintain efficient snow removal operations. Furthermore, By-law Enforcement Officers are quite knowledgeable with local issues and therefore their involvement in co-ordinating any relocation 'friendly tows' of vehicles under these circumstances is advantageous, given that they could minimize any conflicts that may arise.

In addition to snow removal operations, tagging and towing of vehicles illegally parked on the boulevard would provide staff the ability to respond to complaints associated with illegal off-street parking (front yard parking, driveway widening, commercial boulevard parking, etc.).

Improvements to prompt enforcement and removal of offenders as it relates to vehicles parked on streetcar tracks or impeding snow removal operations is necessary.

In view of the above, deputizing both staff of the Toronto Transit Commission and Toronto By-law Enforcement Officers as MLEOs could assist their respective operations.

Conclusions:

Granting MLEO status to staff of the TTC and By-law Enforcement is not intended to compete with existing parking enforcement operations but simply, provide our respective staff the ability to take prompt and effective measures in dealing with the extenuating circumstances.

Our staff, along with the Toronto Transit Commission, have been consulting with the Police Service (Parking Enforcement) for the past six months and advise that they have agreed to have staff deputized as MLEOs to deal with illegal parking as outlined in this report.

It is our understanding that the Police Service is presently reviewing and conducting background checks for those staff members that we have forwarded as candidates for the MLEO program. Once the candidates have been cleared, they are required to attend a mandatory training session conducted by the Police Service.

Contact:

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Appendix 'A'

Works and Emergency Services Staff to be Deputized as MLEOs:

Allen, Wanda	Lauzon, Fani
Andersson, Tom	McCrae, Al
Antoniou, Angie	McDonald, Debbie
Berardi, Peter	McGuire, Ken
Bertrand, Richard	Michaels, Gus
Bonner, Robert	O, Rebecca
Bovdis, Robert	Overchuk, Andy
Capizzano, Elio	Patterson, Mike
Carmichael, Teresa	Pellegrini, Nino
Chavel, Barrie	Perikleous, Kyp
Cripps, Craig	Reid, Jim
Drennan, Elizabeth	Richmond, John
Fleming, Frank	Runnings, Robert
Forte, Lisa	Russell, Curtis
Gardner, Duncan	Shoot, Dave
Giezen, David	Silvaggio, Gregorio
Koyata, Ray	Singer, Grant
Hillis, Randall	Sousa, Joe
Hurley, Kevin	Stevens, Ken
Jensen, Eric	Tzotzes, Socrates
Laurin, Scott	Zielony, Caz