

Proposed By-law Requiring Display of Addresses at the Rear of Properties Abutting Lanes

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, struck out and referred this Clause back to the Works Committee for further consideration, and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services was requested to submit a report to the Works Committee on direct or indirect programs that would minimize the cost to those affected.)

The Works Committee recommends the adoption of the report dated October 21, 1999, from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services.

The Works Committee reports, for the information of Council, having requested the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services to submit a report directly to Council for consideration at its meeting commencing on November 23, 1999, on:

- (1) a communication plan for the proposed by-law, including Community Police Liaison Committees as part of the strategy; and
- (2) a longer time-period for the implementation of the by-law.

The Works Committee submits the following report (October 21, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services:

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval in principle for a proposed by-law that would require the display of municipal house numbers on lanes.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

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

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the City Solicitor in consultation with the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services prepare a by-law to require the affixing of municipal numbers at the rear of properties abutting lanes; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction of any Bills that may be required.

Background:

The Emergency and Protective Services Committee on June 16, 1998, had before it a communication (June 2, 1998) from Councillor Dennis Fotinos, Davenport, requesting the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the City Solicitor for a report on the development of a by-law making it mandatory for home and business owners to display their respective addresses on the rear of their garages or properties should they abut a laneway. We have therefore consulted with the City Solicitor, whose comments are contained in this report.

Comments:

Comments on the proposal for a by-law that would require the display of municipal house numbers on lanes have been obtained from staff of Toronto Police, Ambulance and Fire Services.

Ambulance Services' mandate includes responding to all designated life-threatening emergency calls as quickly as possible since, in the worse case medical or trauma situation, seconds can make the critical difference between a positive and a negative patient outcome.

Direct access to possible patients requires accurate address determination. The confirmation of the address requires that the structure being responded to be clearly identifiable. In cases where rear access must be achieved by way of a laneway or other thoroughfare, it is often difficult to confirm the entry point, as such buildings or structures do not always have their exact address location visible at the rear of their premises. This situation has led to undue delays in getting help to patients, while time was spent confirming addresses or in establishing the best route into the property.

Ambulance Services staff endorse any effort to minimize the chance that necessary medical intervention might be compromised as a direct result of the unavailability of clear visual address identification, whether at the back or front of residential or business structures.

The Director of Corporate Planning, Toronto Police Services, is of the opinion that the display of property addresses in laneways will assist police emergency vehicles to locate addresses quickly, with valuable response time not being wasted looking for addresses. Property owners will benefit directly, with potential decreases to response times.

The Police Services response is based upon the results of two different pilot projects on rear lane numbering. The pilot projects consisted of partnerships between the police, local community groups and business and residential property owners. Both projects were deemed successful community policing initiatives because the local community identified a problem, and developed and implemented solutions. These projects took place in the Upper Beaches area of Police Division 55, and in Parkdale, Police Division 14.

Fire Services staff have suggested that the posting of municipal numbers at the rear of properties abutting lanes would assist fire inspectors on occasion but not enough to warrant this proposal. Fire suppression crews generally respond to the front of the building, and if a secondary response was needed to the rear of a building, it would normally be visibly evident to them.

Conclusions:

The introduction of a numbering by-law with provision for improved display of house numbers on lanes is desirable because of the benefits to community security, and the potential to reduce delays in dispatching a police or ambulance service vehicle to a location.

The City Solicitor has advised that there are no provisions in the Municipal Act that would allow the City to require the display of addresses at the rear of properties abutting properties on an area specific basis. Therefore, the requirement for the display of an address would apply to all properties abutting a lane.

A consolidated municipal numbering by-law for the City, requiring the display of addresses on streets and lanes, will be the subject of a separate report.

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Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, High Park, appeared before the Works Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, the following report (November 18, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services:

Purpose:

The report is an addendum to the report dated October 21, 1999 from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services respecting the posting of addresses at the rear of properties abutting lanes.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

The cost of the advertising campaign advising Toronto residents of the requirements to post municipal numbers is estimated to be \$75,000.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) *the provisions in the by-law requiring the display of municipal numbers at the rear of properties abutting lanes be enacted 12 months following the enactment of the main municipal numbering by-law; and*
- (2) *the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to include \$75,000 in the 2000 budget to cover the cost of the advertisements and related communications.*

Background:

The Works Committee, on November 3, 1999, when considering our report dated October 21, 1999, respecting a proposed by-law requiring the display of addresses at the rear of properties abutting lanes:

- (1) *recommended to Council the adoption of the report; and*
- (2) *requested the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services to submit a report directly to Council for consideration at its meeting commencing on November 23, 1999, on:*
 - (i) *a communication plan for the proposed by-law;*
 - (ii) *a longer time period for implementation of the by-law; and*
 - (iii) *including the Community Police Liaison Committee as part of the strategy.*

Comments:

The provisions of a by-law requiring the display of municipal numbers at the rear of properties abutting lanes would be a new regulation and, as such, a communication plan would be required to ensure widespread support by the public. The communication plan would include the following components:

- (i) *prepare draft by-law for posting of numbers at front of buildings (main building numbering by-law);*
- (ii) *provide notice of impending main building numbering by-law and how, at a later date, it will apply for posting numbers at the rear of properties abutting a lane;*
- (iii) *main building numbering by-law enacted/comes into force;*
- (iv) *provide notice of new provisions for main building numbering by-law and proposed provisions for posting numbers at rear of properties abutting lane; and*
- (v) *enact provisions for posting numbers at rear of properties abutting lanes 12 months following the enactment of the main building numbering by-law.*

The public education activities for the proposed by-law could include:

- (i) *newspaper advertisements and articles;*
- (ii) *distribution or direct mailing of a flyer;*
- (iii) *information in councillors' newsletters, water and tax bills;*

- (iv) translation and distribution of information in ethno-racial business areas;
- (v) communications to various trade and business improvement associations; and
- (vi) information on the City's web site and at displays.

Community Police Liaison Committees would also be contacted to encourage their participation in this City-wide initiative.

Conclusions:

As the posting of addresses at the rear of properties abutting lanes is a new regulation which has not been implemented in the former municipalities, a systematic communication plan should be undertaken before the regulation comes into force.

It is estimated that \$75,000 will be needed for the education campaign to notify the public about the new requirements for displaying municipal addresses on streets and lanes. These funds should be included in the 2000 Works and Emergency Services operating budget.

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