



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Process for Removal of Illegal Signs in North York

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| Date: | March 10, 2008 |
| To: | North York Community Council |
| From: | District Manager, Municipal Licensing and Standards, North York District |
| Wards: | Wards 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33 and 34 |
| Reference Number: | - |

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Report is to provide an overview of the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division involvement in the enforcement of various sign regulations in the North York District.

RECOMMENDATION

The Municipal Licensing and Standards Division recommends that:

1. This Report be received for information purposes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation of this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting on February 12, 2008, North York Community Council requested a report on the process for removal of illegal signs in the North York Community Council area.

COMMENTS

Authority

The applicable legislation for the regulation of signs in the North York Community Council area comprises a number of pre and post amalgamation documents. Chief amongst these is Chapter 693, which regulates Third Party, Election and Temporary Signs. Section 693-10 provides for the removal of unlawful election signs without

notice. Costs for the removal are offset at \$25 per sign deducted from the candidate's deposit. Storage fees also apply.

Temporary signs, which include A-Frame, Ground Mounted and Mobile Signs, may be removed from private property in accordance with Section 26 which allows for the immediate removal without notice.

Where there is a conflict between the provisions of Chapter 693 and pre-amalgamation legislation, Chapter 693 takes precedence.

The former City of North York Sign By-law 30788, as amended, provides for the removal of signs erected in contravention (Section 2.7) from public property without notice.

The former Borough of East York Sign By-law 64-87, as amended, authorized the Commissioner of Development Services to remove signs on public property immediately upon discovery.

The former Metropolitan Toronto By-law 211-74 prohibits signs on a Metro road without approval.

The former City of York By-law 3369-79, as amended, provides for the removal of signs without notice where they are erected without approval on City or Metropolitan Toronto property.

Chapter 297 of the former City of Toronto Municipal Code provides for the removal of dangerous or defective signs from private property, while Chapter 313 regulates the placing of signs on the road allowance.

Enforcement

Two options, legal action or removal can be used by the City for the enforcement of the legislation. Removal is the preferred method as such action addresses the matter immediately. Removal however, requires equipment and a secure storage compound for which the Municipal Licensing and Standards must rely upon other divisions for assistance. As a result, there has been a co-operative effort between the Division and the Solid Waste Management Division who have undertaken sign removal and storage at a Work's yard. This approach is reliant upon the availability of workers and equipment and is impacted by Solid Waste Management's Division's work commitments and the time of year.

In order to address staff and equipment availability, Municipal Licensing and Standards is exploring the use of a private contractor to remove A-Frame, Mobile and Ground Mount Signs. Such an arrangement may result in a prompter resolution to the problem.

Another aspect to the sign issue relates to posterage which includes the attachment of signs to street poles and the application of stickers to the back of street signs. A draft by-law is currently under development to address this issue. One of the current challenges to the enforcement and regulation of this type of sign has to do with identifying the company or individual responsible. Often the available information provided on the sign precludes the identification of an individual or company sufficient for the initiation of legal action.

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SIGNATURE

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