

July 23, 2008

**PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

City Council on July 15, 16 and 17, 2008, referred the following Motion to the Parks and Environment Committee:

**MM23.10 Minimum Park Size for the Creation of New Off-leash Areas in City Parks**

*Moved by Councillor Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Perruzza*

**SUMMARY:**

City Council adopted the People, Dogs and Parks Off-leash Policy ("the Policy") in July 2007 which recognizes the social benefits that dogs experience in parks and the need to accommodate the well-being of the urban canine population.

The Policy sets out guidelines for the provision of off-leash areas for dogs in City-owned or operated parks, green spaces, waterfront areas and alternative sites ("City Parks") and allows that City Parks be considered on an individual basis for off-leash areas based on specific site amenities and opportunities available.

Recognizing the tremendous pressure to balance the needs of multiple and diverse user groups on small-sized urban green spaces and parks, the creation of new off-leash areas should be limited to parks and green spaces with a minimum size of 2 acres.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the City Solicitor and the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation amend the People, Dogs and Parks Off-leash Policy to prohibit the creation of new off-leash areas for dogs in parks and green spaces with a smaller area than 2 acres and any necessary Bills be introduced to give effect to this amendment.

Council also considered an e-mail (July 14, 2008) from Andrew Long, Chief Pathfinder (MM23.10.1).

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd

Attachment

c. Andrew Long