

Improving Access to Fire Halls - Converting Existing Parking Prohibitions in the Vicinity of Fire Halls to Stopping Prohibitions

Date: May 8, 2019

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval from City Council to amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, to convert the existing parking prohibition in effect within the vicinity of fire halls to "No Stopping Anytime" and to amend Code Chapter 610, Penalties, Administration of, to increase the existing no stopping penalty from \$40.00 to \$60.00.

In addition, this report seeks approval to amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 903, Parking for Persons with Disabilities, by removing the current prohibition (captured in Section (5) of § 903-6C) for persons with Accessible Parking Permits from parking within 7.5 metres of a fire hall on the same side of the road and within 30.5 metres on the opposite side of the road, as this provision would become redundant.

Currently, where authorized signs to that effect are displayed, motorists, including Accessible Parking Permit holders, are not permitted to park in the vicinity of fire halls. However, "No Parking Anytime" allows motorists to stop while actively engaged in loading and unloading passengers and/or merchandise, which is not appropriate as it may impede fire vehicles' access to and from fire halls. Clear access to/from fire halls by emergency vehicles is an integral component of ensuring timely emergency response and is in the interest of public safety.

Converting the "No Parking Anytime" to a "No Stopping Anytime" regulation will improve sight lines, prevent parked vehicles from blocking fire vehicle access to fire halls and eliminate the confusion that some motorists with Accessible Parking Permits have, mistakenly believing that they are exempt from the signed parking prohibition near fire halls.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, by deleting § 950-400E (6) which provides that, where authorized signs to that effect are displayed, no person shall park any vehicle on any highway within a distance of up to 7.5 metres of any fire hall on the side of the highway on which the fire hall is located or within a distance of up to 30.5 metres of such fire hall on the opposite side of the highway.
2. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, by inserting a new section B.2 in § 950-400 to provide that, where authorized signs to that effect are displayed, no person shall stop any vehicle on any highway within a distance of up to 7.5 metres of any fire hall on the side of the highway on which the fire hall is located or within a distance of up to 30.5 metres of such fire hall on the opposite side of the highway.
3. City Council establish a penalty amount of \$60.00 for the new stopping offences created by Recommendation 2 above and amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 610, Penalties, Administration of, generally as set out in Attachment 1 to the report dated May 8, 2019 from the General Manager, Transportation Services.
4. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 903, Parking for Persons with Disabilities, by deleting Section (5) from § 903-6C.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Adoption of the recommendations in this report will result in amendments to the City of Toronto Municipal Code and related parking regulations and will require adjustments to existing signage at certain locations.

The approximate cost to implement signage changes where necessary is \$37,100 (estimate of \$450 per location - applicable at approximately 78 out of the 83 locations). Funding is available in the 2019 Operating Budget for Transportation Services.

Transportation Services worked with the Toronto Police Service and determined that changes in revenue as a result of the proposed fine increase from \$40.00 to \$60.00 are difficult to estimate as the vast majority of current parking violations related to fire halls are captured generally under no parking offenses or no standing offenses, which include violations from across the city, and not just those related to a fire hall. Generally, previous increases in fines have resulted in an overall neutral impact on revenue, since higher fines as well as the threat of being towed (this is the case in a no stopping zone) decreases the number of people that disobey the signs. The fine revenue will be monitored and any budget adjustments, if necessary, will be considered as part of the 2020 budget process.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

This report addresses a new initiative.

COMMENTS

At the request of Toronto Fire Services, concerned with motorists blocking the driveway of the fire halls and parking in close proximity to the driveway, Transportation Services examined enhancing the parking regulations in the vicinity of fire halls. Clear access to/from fire halls by emergency vehicles is an integral component of ensuring timely emergency response and is in the interest of public safety.

Currently, parking is prohibited within a distance of up to 7.5 metres of any fire hall on the side of the road on which the fire hall is located or up to 30.5 metres on the opposite side of the road from the fire hall. Where parking is prohibited, vehicles may stop temporarily while engaged in loading and unloading passengers and/or merchandise from the vehicle. This can be problematic at fire halls when a fire vehicle needs to leave or gain access to the fire hall.

Also, motorists with Accessible Parking Permits are exempted from certain parking prohibitions but not from the "No Parking Anytime" in the vicinity of fire halls, which has been the cause of some confusion. As Accessible Parking Permit holders are not exempted from stopping prohibitions, designating and signing these areas as "No Stopping Anytime" will eliminate this confusion and provide clear access to vehicles entering and exiting the fire hall.

Changing the existing "No Parking Anytime" to "No Stopping Anytime" will also require the deletion of the current prohibition (captured in Section (5) of § 903-6C) for persons with Accessible Parking Permits from parking within 7.5 metres of a fire hall on the same side of the road and within 30.5 metres on the opposite side of the road, as this provision would become redundant.

An increase from the existing \$40.00 penalty amount to \$60.00 is recommended as this amount is in line with the penalty amounts for certain other stopping offences.

Currently, there are 83 fire halls located on City of Toronto streets, 5 of which are already signed "No Stopping Anytime". Based on the existing signage, the adoption of the recommendations in this report will not result in the loss of any on-street parking spaces, however, loading and unloading activities will no longer be allowed in these areas.

Toronto Fire Services has been consulted and is in agreement with these proposed amendments.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Amendment to Municipal Code Chapter 610, Penalties, Administration of

Attachment 1

AMENDMENTS TO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 610, PENALTIES, ADMINISTRATION OF

Deletion from Schedule A, Table 10: Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking:

Column 1 Designated Part of Chapter	Column 2 Short Form Wording	Column 3 Penalty Amount
§ 950-400E(6)	Park - Signed Highway - Within 7.5 metres of Fire Hall - Same side	\$40.00
§ 950-400E(6)	Park - Signed Highway - Within 30.5 metres of Fire Hall - Opposite Side	\$40.00

Addition to Schedule A, Table 10: Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking:

Column 1 Designated Part of Chapter	Column 2 Short Form Wording	Column 3 Penalty Amount
§ 950-400B.2	Stop - Signed Highway - Within 7.5 metres of Fire Hall - Same side	\$60.00
§ 950-400B.2	Stop - Signed Highway - Within 30.5 metres of Fire Hall - Opposite Side	\$60.00