Amendment to Subsection 179-7 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 179, Parking Authority

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<th>January 4, 2011</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Public Works and Infrastructure Committee</td>
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<td>From:</td>
<td>President, The Toronto Parking Authority</td>
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<td>Wards:</td>
<td>All</td>
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**SUMMARY**

This report recommends a change to Subsection 179-7 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 179, Parking Authority. The requested change delegates authority to the Toronto Parking Authority at on-street paid parking locations within the time periods that parking is permitted at such locations to remove meters/machines and to change the hours of operation of parking meters/machines, subject to agreement from the City Councillor in whose ward the changes are proposed and, where there is a removal of meters/machines or an extension in hours, subject to the review and agreement by the General Manager of Transportation Services. This report also requests delegated authority to the City Solicitor to process amendments to City by-laws regulating on-street parking meters and machines to incorporate the removal of meters/machines or change of hours. This request is consistent with the existing delegated authority to change the rates at the meters as set out in Chapter 179.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The President of the Toronto Parking Authority recommends that:

1. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 179, Parking Authority, to provide the Toronto Parking Authority with standing authority at on-street paid parking locations within the time periods parking is permitted at such locations to remove meter(s)/machine(s) or change the hours of operation of parking meter(s)/machine(s), subject to the agreement of the local Ward Councillor and, where there is a removal of meter(s)/machine(s) or when an extension of hours is proposed, subject to the review and agreement by the General Manager of Transportation Services; and

2. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 179, Parking Authority, to provide the City Solicitor with standing authority to process amendments to City by-laws regulating on-street parking meters and parking machines to incorporate the removal of meter(s)/machine(s) and the change of hours of operation on certification to the City Solicitor by the President of the Parking Authority that the removal or change in hours have been made in accordance with the criteria set out in Recommendation 1.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts arising out of the recommended change.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In July of 1999, Toronto City Council amended Subsection 179-7 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 179, Parking Authority, to delegate authority to adjust rates at on-street metered locations without the requirement to report through standing committees of Council. The delegated authority was subject to two restrictions:

1. the rate could not exceed $2.00 per hour (raised to $3.50 per hour in May of 2007); and,

2. the Authority was required to have the proposed change approved by the Councillor(s) in whose ward(s) the change would occur.

This delegated authority, while used only occasionally, has proved to be a useful device for small scale management of on-street metered parking to best provide for high service levels in the city’s commercial neighbourhoods in a timely and efficient manner.
COMMENTS

The requested further amendment to Subsection 179-7 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 179, Parking Authority, logically extends the already delegated authority to make small changes to rates with the consent of the impacted Ward Councillor to authority to remove meters/machines and make changes to hours of operation with the consent of the impacted Ward Councillor and, in certain circumstances, in consultation with the General Manager of Transportation Services. This will further enable the ability of the Parking Authority to effectively manage the on-street metered parking at the local scale to provide the highest possible customer service levels.

The proposed change has been discussed with Transportation Services’ staff and they are in concurrence with the recommendations. Where hours are proposed to be reduced, there is no possibility of a conflict with traffic regulations. Where hours are proposed to be extended, there is a possible conflict with traffic or permit parking regulations, and therefore, it is proposed that the extension would require review by Transportation Services. It is noted that any changes would be undertaken within the time period(s) that parking is allowed on-street at the given location. Any changes required to No Parking/Standing/Stopping regulations would still require the appropriate report from Transportation Services to the respective Community Council.

Large scale changes to hours of operation at the City’s on-street parking locations will continue to be processed through the Standing Committee of Council.

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