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2013 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Parks Litter/Recycling Collection

Issue/Background:

- At its meeting on November 7, 2012, the Budget Committee requested the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services (SWMS) to provide a Briefing Note to the Budget Committee for its meeting on November 12, 2012 on an update on the Parks Litter/Recycling Collection and identify any issues with the program.
- SWMS began the Parks Litter/Recycling Collection in April 2010 in the former Scarborough and North York areas and in April 2011 provided collection services to the entire City.
- New recycling/litter bins (approximately 7,000) have been rolled out to all areas across the City. The new bins have double the capacity of the wire baskets/litter receptacles and are more efficient to collect. Prior to SWMS takeover, there were estimated to be about 14,000 wire baskets/litter receptacles.

Key Points:

- Staff in Solid Waste and Parks have reviewed their respective complaints with respect to overflowing litter/recycling bins and vehicle damage in parks and have found that there are very few issues. However, illegal dumping of materials in Parks close to litter bins continues to be an ongoing concern. Staff continue to work in conjunction with Municipal Licensing and Standards to address this issue.
- Recycling tonnage from parks has increased from approximately 4% (in 2011) to 20% in 2012 with the introduction of the new bins.
- Frequency of service for the bins ranges from daily (large destination parks; e.g., Beaches) to weekly at lower usage parks.
- SWMS staff meet regularly with counterparts in Parks to review collection issues/concerns, including bin placements, locations, collection frequency.
- Some minor pathway damage from collection vehicles and Parks vehicles does occur occasionally but this can be attributed to poor initial construction of the pathways, age of pathways and narrow widths. Vehicles collecting material are former Parks collection vehicles.

- Parks staff along with SWMS staff have addressed collection procedures to eliminate damage to any surfaces in the parks system. Bins are being installed abutting paths/roadways to assist with collections and to minimize any damage.

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