

## **Use of Decommissioned Street Signs for Artists**

<b>Date:</b>	December 6, 2013
<b>To:</b>	City Council
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Transportation Services
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	p:\2013\ClusterB\tra\pr\cc13006pr

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends the one-time use of up to 75 decommissioned street name signs for purposes of a public art installation to be delivered by Economic Development & Culture in 2015.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Transportation Services recommends that:**

1. City Council approve the use of up to 75 decommissioned street name signs for purposes of a public art installation in 2015.

### **Financial Impact**

Transportation Services estimates that the sale of decommissioned street name signs could generate up to \$20,000 in proceeds per year arising from the sale of an average of 200 decommissioned street name signs per year. Using the City's asset disposal process will allow the public to bid on individual decommissioned street name signs with a minimum bid price of \$100 to purchase a sign.

Transportation Services has received approximately 3,500 requests to purchase decommissioned street name signs from the public. At this time, there are approximately 1,200 decommissioned street name signs in stock. A one-time public art project using up

to 75 street name signs in 2015 would reduce the stock available signs for sale, with a potential maximum financial impact of a loss of one-time revenue between \$5,000 to \$7,500.

The cost of a plan to commission a sign-based public art project will need to be determined and considered by Economic Development and Culture as part of the 2015 Budget process.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At meetings of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on November 20, 2013, within the context of a discussion of a report entitled, "Sale of Decommissioned Street Name Signs" and at the Economic Development Committee on November 22, 2013, the General Manager, Transportation Services was requested to meet with the General Manager, Economic Development & Culture, and report to City Council on options for artists to create public art installations with the retired street signs.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.PW27.5>  
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.ED27.16>

## **COMMENTS**

In a report entitled "Sale of Decommissioned Street Name Signs" (October 25, 2013), Transportation Services requested City Council's approval to sell decommissioned street name signs (not including oversized street name signs) utilizing the City's asset disposal process. Since the consolidation of street name sign design in 2007, Transportation Services has received approximately 3,500 requests to purchase decommissioned street name signs from the public. At this time, there are approximately 1,200 decommissioned street name signs in stock.

To facilitate the sale of decommissioned street names signs, Transportation Services had recommended using the City's asset disposal process which will allow the public to bid on individual decommissioned street name signs. The report recommended a minimum bid price of \$30 to purchase a sign, which was amended by Public Works and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting of November 20, 2013 to \$100.

These signs are of interest to the general public and form a part of the City's cultural history. Therefore, in response to the request of Public Works and Infrastructure and Economic Development Committees to make decommissioned street name signs available to artists, staff in Economic Development & Culture advise that they will

develop a plan to commission a sign-based public art project as part of the 2015 Capital Budget. This report proposes that up to 75 street name signs be set aside for this purpose, and not be made available for sale to the public.

## **CONTACT**

Myles Currie, Director  
Traffic Management Centre  
Transportation Services  
Tel: 416 392-5372  
E-mail: [mcurrie@toronto.ca](mailto:mcurrie@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Stephen M. Buckley  
General Manager, Transportation Services