

3.

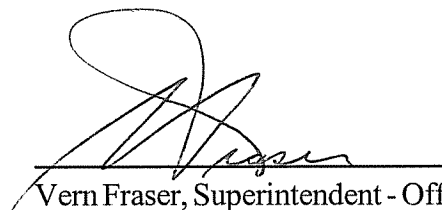


PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

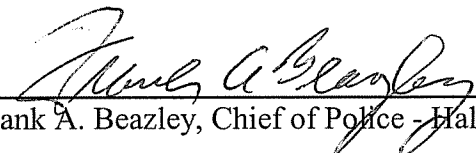
Halifax Regional Council
March 9, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Vern Fraser, Superintendent - Officer In Charge Halifax Detachment, RCMP



Frank A. Beazley, Chief of Police - Halifax Regional Police

DATE: March 04, 2004

SUBJECT: **Interim Report of the Voluntary Planning Off-Highway Vehicle Task Force**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 12.2 of the Regional Council meeting of February 17, 2004.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Hendsbee requested that the Interim Report of the Voluntary Planning Off Highway Task Force be referred to Parks and Open Spaces, Police Services and Public Works and Transportation Services for a report to Council before the March 15, 2004 deadline.

DISCUSSION

A leadership team comprised of several RCMP and HRP senior managers, and a working group of police officers from both agencies conducted a review of the Interim Report of the Voluntary Planning Off-Highway Vehicle Task Force.

Through their review, it was noted that the following key items have not been addressed that would assist police to enforce the various recommendations already included:

1. There should be a penalty section for crossing a controlled access highway (ie: Highway 101,102,103).
2. There should be penalty section for not displaying a registration plate on an off-road vehicle.
3. The interim report recommends that an off-road vehicle be seized for a lack of registration. Currently, the Off-Road Vehicle Act permits a peace officer to seize an off-road vehicle for a maximum of 24 hours. It is proposed that a seizure of an off-road vehicle be permitted for any offense under the Off-Road Vehicle Act and that such seizure be in the form of a graduated time period. For example, first offence - 30 day seizure; second offence - 90 day seizure and third offence remained seized until such time as the issue is dealt with by the courts. The seizure durations for first and second offences remain 30 - 90 days regardless of time before court.
4. All fines related to this Act should be increased to \$250.
5. In the interim report, a recommendation is made that all off-road vehicles have mandatory third party liability insurance. It is recommended that this should be amended to reflect that the penalty for failure to have proper insurance should mirror those penalties contained in the Motor Vehicle Act.
6. Licence all operators and make demerit points consistent across the board (ie: 3 points per offence). The points should be applied against an operator's drivers licence.
7. All off- road vehicles should be registered regardless of use at point of sale.
8. All off-road operators should be required to successfully complete an approved safety course.
9. Amend the Off Road Highway Act to make it an offence to cause damage to private property and the penalty for such an offence be \$250 plus demerit points.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

REGIONAL PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

None

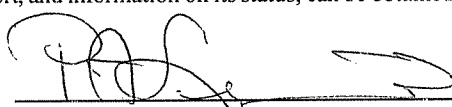
ALTERNATIVES

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: 
Inspector Peter Lepine, Operations Officer, Halifax Detachment, RCMP 490-6874