

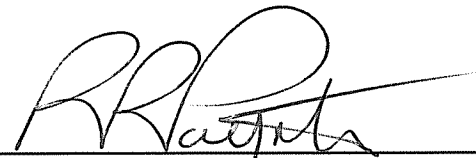
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PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Halifax Regional Council
May 27, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director, Public Works & Transportation

DATE: May 15, 2003

SUBJECT: Petition: Sidewalk Cafés versus Parking - Argyle Street

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 9.2.1 respecting a petition from Argyle Street Merchants requesting that parking meters be returned to this area was presented at the April 22, 2003 meeting of Regional Council.

BACKGROUND

Council's policy with respect to the approval of sidewalk cafés has been in effect since 1997. One aspect of café approvals is the resultant loss of on-street parking spaces and loading zones, to which a number of businesses are opposed.

Coincidental to the commencement of this year's café season, is the beginning of construction of the new Marriott Hotel on the vacant lot across from Neptune Theatre, which is bounded by Grafton, Argyle and Sackville Streets. The scope and timing of this major construction project, requires encroachments on all three travelways, thereby further exacerbating the loss of curb space available to concerned merchants.

DISCUSSION

A requirement of the Sidewalk Café Policy is that no café application within a business district may be approved by staff without an accompanying letter of endorsement from the respective business commission. Staff has confirmed receipt of letters of endorsement from the Downtown Halifax Business Commission for all Argyle Street café applications.

In an immediate response to this petition, staff has already had on-site meetings with the concerned merchants and hotel developer in an attempt to reach the best possible compromise in creating additional parking. As a result of these and other meetings, an additional eleven metered parking spaces have been approved, eight of which are on Argyle Street and the other three are on Sackville Street. Four of these spaces were made possible through the cooperation of Neptune Theatre and the Herald and Mail, both of whom relinquished signed commercial loading spaces. It is also noted that three additional metered spaces were added to Blowers Street at the end of Argyle Street in 2001.

In addition to the creation of new parking spaces, the hotel developer will be minimizing truck traffic on Argyle Street by creating a driveway at the corner of Sackville Street which is a truck route; and, staff will also be installing additional signs throughout the downtown to guide motorists to the new Parkade on Granville Street.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

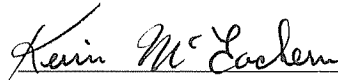
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives.

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:



Kevin McEachern, Traffic Analyst, West Region, 490-6133

KMC/bmh