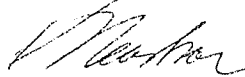


Peninsula Community Council
November 14, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of Peninsula Community Council



SUBMITTED BY: _____

DATE: October 24, 2011

SUBJECT: Street Sweeping

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Peninsula Community Council October 4, 2011, Councillor Watts raised issues on behalf of District 14 residents regarding the 2011 Street Sweeping Program. Councillor Sloane supported this request on the basis that on-street parking in District 12 does not allow for daytime sweeping activities. Councillors felt it would be helpful to hear from staff regarding the issues raised with the Street Sweeping Program this season.

BACKGROUND

There have been long-standing issues raised by Peninsula residents regarding the Street Sweeping Program. These issues can be documented as far back as the mid to late seventies. The issues center around: noise complaints; service levels; and, parking enforcement of streets signed to support street sweeping schedules, while coping with on-street parking.

Overnight sweeping activities have been in place for approximately 30 years. In the late seventies, residents of Peninsula Halifax were engaged in a petition regarding street sweeping. From this petition, specific streets would be signed with alternate side restrictive parking on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, between the hours of midnight and 8:00am. This approach was taken to address the sweeping of streets that would otherwise be inaccessible by day due to vehicular parking, and facilitated the delivery of street sweeping services to residential streets.

Municipal Operations (MOPS) introduced a street sweeping approach this season in order to deliver a more equitable service across HRM. The program was designed around a singular guiding principal that streets should only receive service when they are dirty. This approach allowed MOPS to reallocate resources and consider the need to set a sweeping schedule. Operations redesigned routes for efficiencies, restructured schedules, and worked to replace sweepers (that have outlived their lifecycle usefulness, and operate at a high decibel level).

Delivery of four (4) new quieter sweepers is expected soon, and will be placed into service in 2012. These new sweepers should reduce the impact of overnight sweeping activities on residents.

Staff communicated these operational changes during a recent presentation, and all Councillors were sent an invitation. A copy of the presentation was sent to Councillors who could not attend the scheduled presentations.

DISCUSSION

MOPS is responsible to maintain a nightly street sweeping program on Peninsula Halifax. A trial during the Spring and Summer of 2011 had been undertaken to temporarily eliminate sweeping of residential streets during overnight hours. The success of the trial is difficult to gauge. Complaints of residents awakened in the middle of the night have been reduced, although main arteries that abut residential homes still receive overnight street sweeping which did generate some noise complaints. The overall complaints are broken down by District as follows:

2010:

District 11 (21 local, 12 major)	Total 33
District 12 (13 local, 4 major)	Total 17
District 13 (18 local, 5 major, 6 minor)	Total 29
District 14 (14 local, 6 major, 3 minor)	Total 23

2011:

District 11 (25 local, 3 major, 3 minor)	Total 31
District 12 (11 local, 2 major, 2 minor)	Total 15
District 13 (24 local, 3 major, 1 minor)	Total 28
District 14 (18 local, 3 major)	Total 21

Statistics reviewed from Hansen call logs indicate the call volume is basically level from year to year. The reference to “local” in the above table represents residential streets. The nature of the calls from local streets has changed from: noise complaints; ticketing; and, over servicing, to questions regarding: the change in service levels; lack of service where all day parking restricted sweeper access; and, whether or not ticketing was taking place.

As a component of the pilot project was for no overnight sweeping, the overnight parking signs were not enforced. When the pilot project ended, a public service announcement (PSA) was sent out communicating the intention to return to overnight parking restriction on signed streets.

Night time sweeping operations resumed in order to address the falling vegetation during this time of year.

Staff has taken a cursory review of the pilot project to determine its success. To date, Operations' staff has not determined whether a change in the program should take place. These considerations will be undertaken when all data is evaluated thoroughly. Information reviewed to date indicates that calls and complaints are stable; however, the changes have created a new set of issues which may require additional communication to provide greater clarity of the operations to reduce the total number of calls. Staff will take this into consideration as they move toward a service delivery model for next season that supports efficiencies, reduces waste, and allows for sustainable service delivery.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications with this report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process as this report is only providing Council with information.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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