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Halifax Regional Council
March 9, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Mike Labrecque, Director, Real Property & Asset Management

DATE: February 26, 2004

SUBJECT: Paint Usage in HRM Owned Buildings

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the January 20, 2004, session of Council, Councillor Blumenthal expressed concerns regarding a recent incident at the Needham Centre where toxic paint was used in the presence of children. The Councillor questioned how this could take place and requested a staff report to respond to his concerns.

BACKGROUND

Real Property and Asset Management received a request from the the Needham Daycare Centre to have their ceiling painted. The ceiling at this location is cedar planking that had been painted with urethane and it was determined by Real Property Operations staff that an oil based paint would have to be used to ensure optimum adhesion. Staff at the Needham Daycare Centre were notified that an oil based paint would be used and that the odour from the paint could cause some irritation. No opposition to this strategy was received, therefore, proceeded. Parents arriving to pick up their children voiced concerns about the use of oil based paints and suggested this should not be happening at facilities occupied by children.

DISCUSSION

After reviewing the use of oil based paints, Real Property Operations will initiate the following policies to ensure painting of facilities does not adversely affect the users at HRM facilities.

1. Staff will use environmentally friendly or water based paints in all HRM facilities unless the surface to be painted cannot use this option.
2. When oil based paints or other non water based paints have to be used , the painting will be done while the facility is not occupied by patrons or staff.
3. When using oil based paints, staff must have approval from their supervisor who will notify the facility users and staff that painting will be taking place, the type of product to be used, and the time frame when the building should be vacated.

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

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: Denis Huck, Manager, Real Property Operations, RPAM

490-4673