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Halifax Regional Council
July 13, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Anguish", written over a horizontal line.

Brad Anguish, Director, Environmental Management Services

DATE: July 9, 2004

SUBJECT: Pro-active Enforcement to deal with Repeat By-Law Offenders

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Motion of Regional Council on April 13, 2004, (Item 12.1) for a staff report regarding HRM becoming more pro-active in dealing with repeat by-law offenders.

BACKGROUND

By-Laws are enforced by numerous business units in HRM. The By-Law Services section of Community Projects enforces approximately 20% of all by-laws and is primarily a complaint driven service. Staff are continuing to develop strategies to enhance this service.

DISCUSSION

The pro-active initiatives to address repeat by-law offenders, are as follows:

Extended Summer Hours of Enforcement

For the second year, By-Law Enforcement Officers are working evening and weekend hours from May 31 - October 17, 2004, excluding statutory holidays. The hours of operation are:

1. Monday to Friday - 8:30AM to 8:00PM
2. Saturday & Sunday - 8:30AM to 4:30PM

Officers primarily conduct patrols in areas where there are recurring violations. The service areas are scheduled on a rotational basis. The majority of violations being observed and actioned are curbside solid waste, solid waste on private property and exterior maintenance.

Summary Offence Tickets (SOTs)

An additional effort to become more pro-active in addressing repeat by-law offenders was acquiring the authority to issue SOTs for by-laws which did not have this ability.

Staff of Community Projects subsequently coordinated a corporate approach for issuing SOTs for violations. Police and Legal Services assisted with the development and facilitation of a comprehensive training package for enforcement officers and administrators in the respective business units. A corporate enforcement strategy is being rolled out to the respective business units who are attending the SOT training. The strategy focuses on education as the primary tool for achieving compliance.

Enforcement officers have the authority to issue SOTs for by-law violations after completing the training. In situations with repeat by-law offenders, officers can issue an SOT during the initial inspection for any violations that they identify.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Augmenting the by-law service to be more proactive than outlined above would require increased resources for By-Law Enforcement Officers and administrative staff.

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

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

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.		
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