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## Item No. 3

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**February 3, 2009**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Reashor".

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

**DATE:** January 21, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Petition to Rescind the Winter Parking Ban

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Item 9.2.1 raised at the December 16, 2008, meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

#### BACKGROUND

Councillor Sloane submitted a petition signed by 267 residents requesting the winter parking ban be rescinded. Later in the meeting Councillor Sloane submitted an additional 25 signatures. At the Halifax Regional Council meeting of January 6, 2009, Councillor Sloane submitted an additional 111 signatures.

## **DISCUSSION**

The overnight winter parking ban is intended to reduce significant problems experienced by plow & salt truck operators in providing effective and efficient snow and ice operations on HRM-owned streets. The parking ban provides a short window of opportunity for an operational shift to be completed in the early hours of the morning unimpeded by parked vehicles. It permits snow to be pushed back to the curb, resulting in a wider travel way, better street drainage, and snow plowing costs reduced by 20-30% per storm. A temporary parking ban also facilitates the movement of emergency vehicles during storms; reduces property damage; and permits faster plowing speed, thereby reducing the length of time it takes to clear all streets.

While it is acknowledged that residents without driveways, or with more vehicles than they have off-street parking spaces for are significantly inconvenienced by the requirement to make suitable arrangements for off-street parking during the winter, the fact remains that streets are primarily intended to provide safe, orderly flow for traffic and not to provide permanent residential parking. Without the overnight winter parking ban in place such residents had no incentive to arrange for off-street parking with the result that too many vehicles were left on-street during storms or returned to parking on-street too soon after the storm thus eliminating the ability for work crews to complete a proper “push-back” of snow. Emergency services were hampered by narrowing of streets due to encroaching snow banks and parked vehicles.

Although input from Council on the needs and wishes of the residents is an important part of developing policy on winter parking, it is important to understand why provincial legislation gives the final decision to the Traffic Authority. While any regulation of on-street parking must balance convenience and public safety, the safety aspects are often not clearly evident and are sometimes undervalued. Maintaining adequate public safety must be the primary consideration.

## **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.

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

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