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Item No. 2
Halifax Regional Council
March 27, 2012

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

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SUBMITTED BY: _____
Peter Stickings, Acting Director, Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: January 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Consideration of Changes to By-Law P-1000

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the November 8, 2011, meeting of Halifax Regional Council, a request was made for a staff report on the implications of amending the On-Street Parking By-Law to allow residents with a no parking prohibition on both sides of their street to apply for a residential parking exemption for an adjacent street, pending availability and confirmation by staff.

BACKGROUND

A residential parking exemption allows a resident to park on the street on the block that they live on, without being subject to parking controls such as two-hour parking and parking by permit only. Application of By-Law P-1000, Respecting On-street Parking Exemptions and Permits, has meant that residents on streets where parking is prohibited on consecutive blocks, have no ability to obtain a residential parking exemption.

DISCUSSION

Two clauses in section 5 of the by-law read as follows (underline added here for emphasis):

(1) A Residential Parking Exemption or Visitor Exemption shall be applicable only to the street block on which the applicant resides and the address of the applicant shall be based on the information provided by the applicant in the application under Section 4.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), if parking is prohibited on the street block on which the applicant resides or is of a nature for which a Residential Parking Exemption or Visitor Exemption cannot be issued, the Permit Administrator may issue an Exemption or Visitor Exemption applicable to a street block immediately adjacent to the street block on which the applicant resides as determined by the Traffic Authority.

In the definitions section of the by-law, “street block” is defined as “that portion of a street lying between two separate intersecting streets”. There is no definition for “immediately adjacent to”.

To date, “immediately adjacent to” has been interpreted by the Permit Administrator to mean the next block along the same street. This has resulted in a number of blocks remaining ineligible for a Residential Parking Exemption since consecutive blocks on one street often have the same parking controls. A review of several dictionary definitions of the word “adjacent” indicates that a block connected to the subject block, but perpendicular to it, could also be interpreted as being adjacent.

It is the intention of staff to do the following:

(1) When By-Law P-1000 next comes forward for amendment for another reason, a “bookkeeping” change will be proposed to the definitions section to add the following:

2 (a) “street block immediately adjacent to” means a street block that shares a common intersection with the subject street block.

(2) On an on-going basis, the Permit Administrator will interpret “adjacent” to mean what is suggested above. This will allow residents who have applied in the past for an Exemption to have their application reconsidered.

The number of circumstances that this change would affect is very limited and the impact of increased parking demand on particular streets is expected to be minimal.

The annual cost of a Residential Parking Exemption is \$30 and increasing the availability of parking for residents seeking an Exemption, may result in a small increase in revenue to HRM.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated 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

No specific community engagement has been undertaken on this issue.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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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