

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon
Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon
Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: January 12, 2016

Subject: Leaf Collection

Motion for Council to Consider: Request a staff report to analyze the effectiveness of our leaf collection program. The report should include why the leaf collection program was not completed in 2015 and determine what resources are required to complete the leaf collection program before the winter freezing conditions worsen. In order to ensure appropriate resources are allocated for next year, this report should be completed prior to Regional Council deliberating on the final budget.

Reason: A number of residents have contacted our office and are concerned that despite numerous calls to 311 advising them of specific drains plugged with leaves, they did not have the leaf collection machines clean up their streets. Residents were told that their streets would be cleared of leaves and this did not happen before the first snowfall. This has led to blocked drains and localized flooding and freezing conditions. The lack of leaf removal is now a public safety issue on these respective streets.

Halifax Regional Municipality is fortunate that we have engaged citizens who attempt to keep the storm drains clean, however the volume makes it impossible for residents to remove all the leaves and debris from HRM's streets. When storm drains get clogged with leaves the water can no longer be drained from the street causing the potential for localized flooding and freezing. Residents continue to contact 311 and we have an extensive list of streets where leaf collection was not completed.

It is difficult to respond to citizens as to when (and if) the leaves will be cleared as there is no specific work plan. On November 25th we were told "The crews are working systematically from street to street (north to south and south to north). There is no schedule we can provide for a specific street, but the program as a whole is scheduled to be completed in the next 4 weeks." This did not occur and now residents are faced with frozen drains, resulting in flooding and icing conditions on the street.

Outcome Sought: Ensure appropriate resources are in place for leaf collection/street cleaning to finish the program for this year. Assign appropriate resources and develop work plan for next year. HRM adopt a public notification program, similar to that in Vancouver Please visit link: <http://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/leaf-collection-from-city-streets.aspx>

Councillor Linda Mosher

District 9