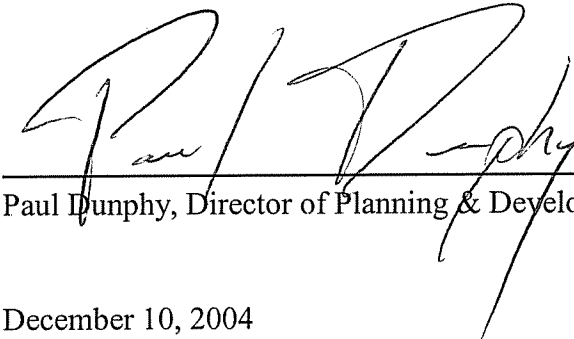




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Halifax Regional Council
December 14, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Paul Dunphy, Director of Planning & Development Services

DATE: December 10, 2004

SUBJECT: Sign By-law: Status Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

In March 2000, Regional Council initiated a process to review current signage provisions within all Land Use By-laws and sign ordinances with the intent to establish a Regional Sign By-law.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

The current sign regulatory system consists of 21 land use by-laws and 3 sign ordinances. The preferred mechanism for a new sign bylaw was to use the general bylaw provisions of the Municipal Government Act, rather than the planning and development provisions. This enables more effective enforcement and penalty measures.

Staff began the process of finalizing a new consolidated By-law. After extensive review it was determined that a single consolidated sign bylaw was far too complex. The proposed By-law needs to be simplified. Rather than trying to put all sign regulations in one bylaw, staff will only develop a new bylaw for those signs which are an issue. The majority of sign regulations will remain in the local community land use bylaws. The most problematic type of signage, both in terms of complaints and enforcement, has been Temporary Signs (mobile signs, posters, sandwich boards and signs within a public Right-of-Way). The revised Sign By-law now focuses only on temporary signs

while all other signs will be addressed under the various land use by-laws.

A draft By-law for Temporary Signs was presented to the By-law Rationalization Working Group in November. Staff are currently working on the administrative and enforcement procedures for the By-law.

In January 2005, staff will meet with the sign industry to update them on the revised By-law and to obtain feedback. In early February, staff will hold public information meetings to obtain input. Based upon the input received, staff will finalize the By-law and present it to Regional Council in March.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of a Temporary Sign By-law will impact upon the budget due to requirement for additional staff resources to enforce the provisions of this by-law. Budget implications will be presented to Regional Council during the business planning and budget process as well as in the March 2005 staff report.

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

Not applicable.

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: Kurt Pyle, 490-4428