

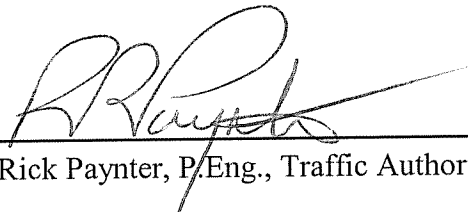
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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**November 25, 2003**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

**DATE:** November 19, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Proposed 2003/04 Overnight Winter Parking Ban

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

This report originates from staff and is intended to outline the plan for the implementation of the overnight winter parking ban for the upcoming 2003/04 winter season.

**BACKGROUND**

The Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) gives the local Traffic Authority the power to declare an overnight winter parking ban during the winter months to ensure that public safety is maintained through the effective clearing of snow from streets. This Information Report to Council is intended to advise on the plans for the implementation of such an overnight parking ban for the upcoming 2003/04 winter season within the Core area of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

## DISCUSSION

The effective removal of snow from streets during periods of heavy snowfall accumulation cannot be effectively achieved when such snow removal operations are interfered by cars parked on the streets. Staff realizes that on-street parking availability is an important issue for both residents and commercial establishments. However, overall safety and the cost-effectiveness of the snow removal operation must be given overriding priority.

For the 2002/03 winter season, staff implemented a flexible winter parking ban whereby the start and end date was determined by the winter weather conditions. For 2002/03, the parking ban was not implemented until the first part of January. For 2003/04, we plan to take the same flexibility approach. As with last year's winter parking ban, staff will be implementing a comprehensive communications plan around the issues relating to on-street parking and its significance to the overall snow & ice removal operation. These communications ads are planned to commence the week of November 24, 2003.

Staff would note that extensive discussion around the issues associated with the winter parking ban were undertaken at two separate Committee of the Whole meetings of Regional Council last fall (September 10 and October 15, 2002) resulting in the conclusion by the Traffic Authority that a winter parking ban remains appropriate and necessary to effectively deal with the Municipality's snow removal operations.

Further discussions around this proposed winter parking ban can be held at the time staff presents to Council targeted cost-saving actions for implementation as a result of the comprehensive snow & ice review, presently underway.

### **Time of The Parking Ban:**

The overnight parking ban will be effective 1:00am to 7:00am. It should also be noted that per Section 202 (b) of the Motor Vehicle Act "No person shall park an unattended vehicle, during the period from one hour after a snowstorm has commenced to two hours after such snowstorm has stopped, upon any highway in the core service area of the Halifax Regional Municipality."

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

While difficult to quantify, not having an overnight winter parking ban will add to the overall cost of the winter snow & ice removal operations.

**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**

Staff is not recommending any alternatives for the upcoming winter season.

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: Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director, Public Works & Transportation Services/Traffic Authority 490-4855