



DATE: June 5, 2023

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Gus Michaels, Deputy City Manager, Community Services

RE: **COMMUNICATION – Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) June 6, 2023**
Item 4, Report No. 29
Enforcement Options for Unlawful Uses of Agricultural Lands

Recommendation

That this communication be received for information only.

Background

Enforcement Services, a division of By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services (BCLPS) is currently investigating 33 agricultural properties being actively used for storage of vehicles, shipping containers and equipment, in contravention of the City's Zoning By-law, as well as a number of other City by-laws. At its December 13, 2022 meeting, the Council directed staff to: investigate the feasibility of dedicating one staff person for a 2-year period to deal only with land use matters; and investigate the implications of taking back ownership of King-Vaughan Road. This Communication deals with the first matter, as well as providing an update on a number of other actions directed by Council. The second matter with respect to the assumption of King-Vaughan Road is being addressed under separate cover in a report from the Deputy City Manager, Public Works.

Analysis

Enforcement Services has been coordinating efforts with other City departments and other agencies such as York Regional Police, York Transportation, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. An Officer has been assigned on a full-time basis to actively coordinate these enforcement efforts. At the same time, BCLPS continues to work with Legal Services to progress the exploration of proceeding with injunctive action, where appropriate.

An Officer, out of an active complement of eleven full-time Property Standards Enforcement Officers, represents a significant portion of resources available. Files that were under the carriage of the redeployed Officer have been reassigned to the rest of the complement, with the service impact manifesting itself largely in terms of longer times to resolution.

In addition, staff confirm that the following actions, as directed by Council, have now been performed:

- Correspondence was sent to companies that were positively identified as having trucks or containers on any of the subject properties;
- Utility companies were similarly contacted and made aware of the issues on the subject properties;
- Government agencies, including the Canada Revenue Agency, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment, and Ministry of Labour, were contacted and informed of the land use violations;
- City staff are continuing to coordinate joint enforcement efforts with the Region, provincial ministries and other City Departments;
- A letter has been sent from the Mayor and City Clerk to the Ministry of the Attorney General, copying the Regional Municipality of York, supporting more court resources in York Region;
- Staff continue to coordinate efforts with the Regional Municipality of York, York Regional Police and the Ministry of Transportation to address illegal truck traffic along the rural roads, including the formation of an inter-agency task force that meets on a monthly basis to share information and coordinate efforts;
- the Council resolution on this matter has been forwarded to all local MPPs and the Minister of Transportation.

For more information, contact Susan Kelly, Director and Chief Licensing Officer, By-law & Compliance, Licensing & Permit Services, ext. 8952.

Respectfully submitted by,



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Professional, GDPA
Deputy City Manager, Community Services

cc: Nick Spensieri, City Manager
Wendy Law, DCM, Legal and Administrative Services and City Solicitor
Zoran Postic, DCM, Public Works