

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2019

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: BY-LAW CONSOLIDATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

FROM:

Mary Reali, Deputy City Manager, Community Services

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

As staff continue to review and revise the City's regulatory by-laws as part of its Council-approved By-law Strategy, the further need to consolidate and ensure consistency across by-laws has been identified as a first-step towards the codification of the City's By-laws. This report seeks authority to systematically consolidate and harmonize all applicable regulatory By-laws.

Report Highlights

- In June of 2014, City Council approved the By-law Strategy to ensure the City's By-laws be municipally relevant, responsive to community needs and transparent to the public.
- In September of 2018, staff began the process of consolidating its regulatory By-laws to ensure accessibility and transparency and as an interim step in the codification process. This report seeks approval for additional consolidation and a series of By-law technical amendments.
- Consolidation and harmonization support a number of Council priorities, including good governance, citizen experience and operational performance.

Recommendations

1. That the recommendations in Attachment 1 of this report be adopted; and
2. That staff be authorized to undertake any other actions required to implement the recommendations of this report, including any consequential amendments to other By-laws.

Background

The City of Vaughan has often been at the forefront of regulatory practices, driven in large part by the Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan and the City's By-law Strategy. Underlying the development of many of these City policies, programs and by-laws is the tenet of protecting the health, safety and well-being of the City's residents and visitors alike, while continuing to ensure that Vaughan is a city of choice that upholds the best of Canadian values.

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to good governance, staff have been consolidating the City's By-laws with the ultimate objective of creating a City of Vaughan Municipal Code. Consolidation means that all By-laws pertaining to a particular regulatory regime will be laid out as a single coherent regulation. Some of the benefits of consolidation are:

- greater accessibility and transparency for residents, businesses and other stakeholders;
- greater ease of use for City staff and those from other regulatory agencies; and
- a more organized and logical system of regulations, promoting greater accountability.

Consolidation is intended to culminate in the creation of a City of Vaughan Municipal Code. This is an initiative jointly lead by By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, the Office of the City Clerk and the Office of the City Solicitor.

In addition, and in keeping with the City's initiative to provide service excellence to residents and visitors, staff have been putting more and more By-laws under the City's Administrative Monetary Penalties program. The main purpose of this initiative is to expedite offence disputes while providing a transparent and fair adjudication process.

Previous Reports/Authority

- [Fill By-law 189-96](#) (Approved by Council on July 8, 1996)
- [Licensing By-law 315-2005](#) (Approved by Council on December 12, 2005)
- [Anti-Graffiti By-law 046-2009](#) (Approved by Council on March 23, 2009)
- [Discharge of Firearms By-law 123-2016](#) (Approved by Council on September 20, 2016)
- [Encroachment By-law 034-2017](#) (Approved by Council on April 19, 2017)
- [Tree Protection By-law 052-2018](#) (Approved by Council on April 11, 2018)
- [Special Events By-law 061-2019](#) (Approved by Council on May 1, 2019).
- [Parking By-law 064-2019](#) (Approved by Council on May 1, 2019)

Analysis and Options

Staff are making a number of recommendations to ensure the ongoing consistent consolidation of the City's regulatory By-laws. Consolidation will mean significant standardization. As a result, staff are proposing changes that will introduce same or similar language for the City's regulatory By-laws.

Aside from adopting the City's consolidation format, staff are proposing amendments to a number of By-laws. These amendments are intended to ensure that all regulatory By-laws have similar language, especially around enforcement powers and penalties (including the ongoing designation of certain By-laws under the Administrative Monetary Penalties program).

Staff are also proposing technical amendments to the Fill By-law to ensure that both Inspectors and MLEOs have adequate enforcement authorities under the By-law. The Fill By-law is currently scheduled to be consolidated at a later date upon its overall review.

In addition, staff are proposing a number of other technical amendments, including the repeal of the Geese By-law, as its provisions are already covered in the Animal Control By-law, and amendments to the Parking By-law, introducing fines for existing contraventions and adding more precise language to certain provisions.

Financial Impact

There are no anticipated financial impacts to the City as a result of the recommendations of this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The recommendations in this report do not have an impact on other municipalities, the Region or any of its agencies.

Conclusion

In accordance with Vaughan Council's strategic priorities of *Active, Safe and Diverse Communities* and *Good Governance*, the proposed amendments will provide greater clarity to the public with respect to the City's existing regulations. The City's regulations are not only intended to protect the health, safety and well-being of its residents and visitors, but also to promote its community standards and social values.

In addition, By-law consolidation is an ongoing process to culminate in the creation of a Vaughan Municipal Code and improve both *Operational Performance* and *Good Governance*.

For more information, please contact: Gus Michaels, Director of By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, ext. 8735.

Attachment

1. Proposed Amendments

Prepared by

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