

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 3, 2006

SIGN OFF INITIATIVE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services, in consultation with the Senior Manager of Enforcement Services, recommends:

1. That the City deploy student staff hired under the federally-funded Summer Student Placement Program, or alternatively reassigned from existing summer student resources, to cover all street signs and metal poles at intersections within the City of Vaughan, with an environmentally friendly rust proofing product;
2. That Enforcement Services, Parks, and Public Works staff continue to remove placard signs from intersections as part of their duties and in projects that may be developed;
3. That this report be received

Economic Impact

The cost of this initiative would be absorbed within the existing budget.

Purpose

This report is to provide information on a potential initiative to reduce the incidents of street sign spam.

Background - Analysis and Options

Staff has conducted research into ways of preventing the application of street sign spam to the reverse side of traffic signs and some poles. In particular, this initiative would be specific to those illegal signs that are glued to the reverse of traffic signs and metal poles.

This initiative would involve applying a liquid rust proofing solution to the back of signs and metal poles at intersections. The liquid has a residue that would prevent signs from being stuck to traffic signs and poles. Even if signs stay in place, they can easily be removed.

Information received indicates that a minimal amount of the solution would need to be applied, and it should last for approximately one year.

Safety & Environmental Concerns

Staff received copies of documents produced by the manufacturer of the solution used by a local rust proofing company. The product is safe to the environment and the staff applying the liquid. The document advises that "Ingestion of small amounts during normal handling is not likely to cause injury" and "No hazard under normal conditions of use".

In the Toxicological Information section of the report, it is written that the product contains no known skin or respiratory sensitizers, and no components of the product are listed as carcinogens.

The local company's own documentation reiterates the report from Shrader Canada by calling the product, non-toxic, non-flammable, non-hazardous and environmentally friendly.

The Ministry of the Environment was also contacted to inquire whether they had any concerns with this kind of application of rust proofing solution. An investigator responded by way of e-mail indicating that he did not "...generally see any environmental problems associated with applying cooking oil or an undercoating type material to posts and signs".

The cost to obtain the hardware and product is approximately \$5,000.00.

Summer Students

Economic Development has provided a package of information regarding grants which may be available to assist in deferring the costs of hiring summer student(s) for this initiative. An application has been submitted under the federally-funded Summer Student Placement program to support the hiring of a summer student for a 16 week period to support this initiative.

Community Services has indicated their willingness to make available some summer student support for this initiative as well, recognizing that this may affect service levels.

Next Steps

Should this initiative move forward, the process of which department will administer and purchase the product will need to be determined.

Permission should be obtained from York Region to apply this solution to their signs and poles prior to moving forward as most of the problem areas are at intersections of Regional Roads.

The product will need to be acquired. Krown advised that the cost of the solution is \$1,800.-\$2,000. per 45 gallon drum. Krown advised that they use ½ gallon per vehicle sprayed in their operation, so one or two drums would likely be sufficient per year.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This initiative supports the Vaughan Vision 2007 of safeguarding our environment and promoting community safety, health and wellness.

Conclusion

Applying an environmentally friendly rust proofing solution to signs and poles should prevent the sticking of illegal street sign spam in these locations.

This is not cost prohibitive and could be a viable option.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Janice Atwood-Petkovski,
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services