

**ELECTION SIGNS**

(Matter requiring Statutory Public Hearing)

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and City Solicitor recommends:

1. That the Sign By-law 203-92 be amended with respect to election signs, as follows:
  - i) Candidates in municipal, provincial, federal or school board elections will be required to pay a deposit (\$150. for Ward Councillor, \$300. for Regional Councillor or Mayor, Provincial, or Federal office, and \$50. for School Board Trustees). Should signs associated to their campaigns be erected in a fashion contrary to the By-law, the signs will be seized and a fee of \$20. per sign will be charged. If fees exceed the deposit amount, legal action may be commenced to collect unpaid fees.
  - ii) Election signs can only be erected 21 days prior to the election date anywhere in the City of Vaughan.
  - iii) Vaughan will prohibit election signs on all public road allowances within the City of Vaughan, and Vaughan will request an amendment to the Region's sign regulations to allow the more restrictive regulation to apply within Vaughan.
  - iv) Election signs that are confiscated shall be stored for a period of 7 days after which they will be discarded.
  - v) The By-law will be amended to enable charges to be laid against anyone causing or permitting signs to be erected in contravention of the By-law.
2. That comments from the public be received and further direction, if necessary, be provided.

**Economic Impact**

The imposition of a deposit respecting the erection of election signs will assist to defer the cost of confiscating illegal signs.

**Purpose**

Notice of a proposed by-law or amendment to a by-law respecting signs on public or private property requires publication of notice in a newspaper of a public meeting to consider the proposed by-law at least thirty (30) days prior to the date the proposed by-law is to be considered.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Council, at its meeting of June 26, 2006, approved the above-noted amendments to the Sign By-law and directed that the City Clerk provide public notice for these amendments for a date in September 2006 (refer to Attachment 1).

Pursuant to the City's Notice By-law No. 394-2002, public notice was provided that amendments to the Sign By-law are to be considered at the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 5,

2006 and that members of the public could either attend the meeting to provide comments or submit their comments to the City Clerk. As of the time of writing this report, no comments have been received.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision through promoting service excellence, community safety, and developing collaborative solutions. Staff resources have been allocated and approved.

**Conclusion**

Staff's recommendation addresses issues around illegal election signs and increased enforcement capabilities for illegal signage in the City.

**Attachments**

1. Council Extract, Item 2, Report No. 36 CW (WS)

**Report prepared by:**

Janice Atwood-Petkovski, Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services/City Solicitor

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Atwood-Petkovski  
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services/City Solicitor

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2006**

Item 2, Report No. 36, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 26, 2006.

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**ELECTION SIGNS**

**The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:**

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and City Solicitor, dated June 13, 2006, be approved, subject to the following:**
  - a) inserting at the end of Clause 2 of the proposed amendment to By-Law 203-92 the words “anywhere in the City of Vaughan”; and**
  - b) deferring Clause 4 of the proposed amendment to By-Law 203-92.**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services and City Solicitor recommends:

1. That the Sign By-law 203-92 be amended with respect to election signs;
2. That the Sign By-law 203-92 be amended to improve the enforcement potential of this By-law;
3. That the City Clerk be directed to provide public notice for these amendments for a date in September 2006; and
4. That this report be received.

**Economic Impact**

The imposition of a deposit on candidates will assist to defer the cost of illegal confiscating signs.

**Purpose**

This report is to provide draft amendments to the Sign By-law 203-92, as amended.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Council, at its meeting of April 10, 2006, Item 3, Report 17, approved a number of recommendations relating to amendments to City of Vaughan Bylaw 203-92 (Sign Bylaw) as it relates to election signs. Council also requested a further report with respect to minimizing the location of larger signs.

As a result of feedback from numerous meetings and discussions on this matter, the proposed amendments to By-law 203-92 are as follows:

1. Candidates in municipal, provincial, federal or school board elections will be required to pay a deposit (\$150. for Ward Councillor, \$300. for Regional Councillor or Mayor, Provincial, or Federal office, and \$50. for School Board Trustees). Should signs associated to their campaigns be erected in a fashion contrary to the By-law, the signs will be seized and a fee of \$20. per sign will be charged. If fees exceed the deposit amount, legal action may be commenced to collect unpaid fees.

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2006

#### Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 36 – Page 2

2. Election signs can only be erected 21 days prior to the election date.
3. Vaughan will prohibit election signs on all public road allowances within the City of Vaughan; and Vaughan will request an amendment to the Region's sign regulations to allow the more restrictive regulation to apply within Vaughan.
4. The size of election signs on private property shall be restricted to 1.5 m<sup>2</sup>, except on property abutting a roadway within areas designated by OPA 600 as a rural area.
5. Election signs that are confiscated shall be stored for a period of 7 days after which they will be discarded.
6. The By-law will be amended to enable charges to be laid against anyone causing or permitting signs to be erected in contravention of the By-law.

It is anticipated that these changes will reduce the proliferation of signs on public property, and reduce the size of most signs throughout the City. The deposit system will allow the City to cover at least a small portion of the confiscation costs associated with enforcement of the By-law without need for small claims court action.

In addition to the changes to the election sign provisions of the By-law, an addition of a presumption clause ("anyone who causes or permits...") is also being recommended. This addition will provide for increased enforcement possibilities related to placard signs and other types of illegal signage. This provision will allow Enforcement to charge owners of companies, that can be identified, for signs illegally posted, without any need to adduce evidence as to who actually erected the sign.

The City Clerk will be required to provide notice for the first available date in September in order to have these provisions in place in time for the up-coming municipal election.

#### Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision through promoting service excellence, community safety, and developing collaborative solutions. Staff resources have been allocated and approved.

#### Conclusion

The amendments outlined in this report address issues around illegal election signs and increased enforcement capabilities for illegal signage in the City.

#### Attachments

1. Map of OPA 600

#### Report prepared by:

Tony Thompson  
Senior Manager, Enforcement Services

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

