

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

THE DEFACING OF PUBLIC SIGNS

(Referred from the Council meeting of September 11, 2006)

Council, at its meeting of September 11, 2006, adopted the following:

That this matter be referred to the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 18, 2006.

Recommendation of the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 5, 2006:

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of Councillor Shefman, dated September 5, 2006, be approved; and
- 2) That a notice be affixed to all signs, stating that defacing of such signs is illegal and violators will be prosecuted.

Report of Councillor Shefman dated September 5, 2006

Recommendation

Councillor Shefman recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan enact a bylaw that would make it illegal to deface either the front or back faces of public traffic, directional and any other sign, standard, pole or structure placed by a municipal authority;
2. That defacing would be interpreted to include any form of defacing, marking, placing stickers or any other object or mark;
3. That any person seen defacing a public sign, etc. shall be issued a notice of infraction;
4. That the minimum fine for each infraction would be set at \$50;
5. That any information that may appear on the defaced public traffic, directional and any other sign, standard, pole or structure placed by a municipal authority, may be used as a means to identify the perpetrator and once identified, the perpetrator shall be served a notice of violation;
6. That each incident of a defaced public traffic, directional and any other sign, standard, pole or structure placed by a municipal authority shall be considered an infraction; and
7. That upon being served a notice of infraction, if the perpetrator agrees to remove all incidents of City of Vaughan public signs, etc., being defaced, restoring those signs to a state acceptable to the City, any notices of violation being imposed would be put in abeyance. If the perpetrator is then found to have violated the bylaw once again, the violation notices that had been put in abeyance shall be reimposed, along with any further fines resulting from the current violation.

Economic Impact

There is potential for added revenue as a result of infractions.

Background – Analysis and Options

Directional, traffic and other signs in the City of Vaughan are being defaced primarily by what would seem to be commercial entities disregarding the important informational and safety aspects of municipal signage. Defacing of these signs may result in drivers being distracted, therefore leading to unsafe situations on our roads. This measure will work in concert with other initiatives taken by the City to address issues of the quality of our streetscapes.

Purpose

To develop a method to address the defacing of public informational signage and to improve the level of safety on our streets.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

By implementing a bylaw to control the defacing of public signage, the City may improve traffic safety as well as rid our streetscapes of the proliferation of advertising materials.

Attachments

none

Report prepared by:

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