

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 19, 2007

PROTECTING OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS TASK FORCE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services recommends:

1. That the Protecting Our Neighbourhoods Task Force become a standing item on the agenda of the Compliance Coordinating Committee; and
2. That the Ward Councillor be invited to that Committee should an address in their Ward be discussed.

Economic Impact

N/A

Purpose

This report is to provide information on how the Protecting Our Neighbourhoods Task Force will be rolled out.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council, at its meeting of September 11, 2006, Item 3, Report 40, approved the following recommendations:

“That the City of Vaughan establish a task force comprised of staff and Members of Council to investigate the scope of the problem of inappropriate and/or illegal infringements of commercial and institutional entities into our residential communities;

That the task force prepare, for Council’s consideration, through a review of current practices in Vaughan, other municipalities and with consultation with residents, a compliance and enforcement strategy to address these situations; and

That the Task Force begin its deliberations immediately and that Members of Council interested in participating on the task force be selected after November 14, 2006; and

That the Task Force present its recommendations to Council by February 15, 2007.”

In the time since September 11, 2006, the Compliance Coordinating Committee meets on a monthly basis. The departments represented on the Committee, Enforcement Services, Vaughan Fire & Rescue Service, Building Standards, and Public Works, felt it would be an efficient use of time and resources to discuss any new complaints relating to businesses being operated in residential areas at this Committee.

This approach would allow individual compliance strategies to be developed, deployed, and monitored by the department heads responsible for compliance of City by-laws and Provincial Statutes.

As each complaint could have its own “local” flavour, the Ward Councillor for that complaint would be invited to the discussion table for input and feedback.

Enforcement Services recently developed a process relating to this matter. The process will see complaints relating to businesses in residential areas being investigated initially by Enforcement Services staff as a possible Zoning By-law infraction. Strict timelines for compliance have been included in this process. Should compliance not be achieved, the Building and Fire Departments would be added to the investigation.

Other municipalities in the Region have been polled and report that they deal with complaints relating to businesses in residential areas as possible Zoning Bylaw infractions and investigate them as such.

The work of the Compliance Coordinating Committee will be discussed in a report at a later date. However, issues that cross departmental jurisdiction are the subject matter discussed by the Committee. These discussions ensure that every available option to bring the situation into compliance is being deployed. This relates not only to commercial uses in residential areas, but any situation that requires the attention of more than one department.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously established by Council in that it speaks to Service Excellence and Community Safety.

Conclusion

The work being undertaken by the Compliance Coordinating Committee provide for an existing process to manage the expectations relating to commercial activities in residential areas.

Attachments

None.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services