

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 11, 2010

TORONTO WILDLIFE – ALL WARDS

Recommendation

The Director of Enforcement Services recommends that this report be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

This report is to provide information related to the deputation made by Toronto Wildlife on February 2, 2010.

Background - Analysis and Options

On February 2, 2010, a representative of the Toronto Wildlife Centre made a deputation to the Committee of the Whole regarding their business and efforts to rescue wildlife. The representative indicated that they had been contacted by Richmond Hill and were finalizing details with the Town of Markham to provide response to wildlife issues within the Town.

The Deputant requested that the City of Vaughan consider including a wildlife component to the Animal Shelter/Control RFP that would be issued in the future. At the time of the deputation the RFP had already been completed and was ready to be issued. As the addition of a wildlife component would necessitate additional budget allocation, the RFP was issued as originally prepared.

The deputation outlined the Toronto Wildlife Centre's work with the public. The majority of calls to the Toronto Wildlife pertain to issues on private property. It has been the long established practice in Vaughan to refer any callers to the City with wildlife issues to a private service provider. The City does not currently provide services regarding wildlife matters.

There are several companies that provide wildlife services to the residents of Vaughan. A search on the internet using the keywords "wildlife service" produced a result of more than 15 companies that deal with wildlife matters in the area. These companies charge a fee for service, as would the Toronto Wildlife Centre.

Staff were advised by the town of Markham that they do not have a contract with Toronto Wildlife and are not pursuing a contract. There had been some discussions regarding funding a program or donating money to Toronto Wildlife but staff are advised that the Town of Markham will not be providing any funding in 2010.

The Town of Richmond Hill advises that they did have a contract with Toronto Wildlife in the years 2006 to 2009 but that contract was not renewed.

The Deputant did not provide a cost for service projection during her presentation. The estimates she provided verbally ranged from \$20,000. to \$30,000. As indicated earlier the City of Vaughan has not provided wildlife services to private property owners in the past.

There are no funds in the 2010 budget to cover any wildlife services. Council may consider wildlife services as a new, additional service during the 2011 budgetary process. Staff, at this time, do not recommend this service due to the cost and the availability of the private sector to deliver adequate service to the residents, albeit at their cost.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is not in keeping with the priorities previously set by Council. The necessary resources have not been allocated or approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The Toronto Wildlife Centre was seeking the opportunity to provide services for the City of Vaughan. At this time there is no budget for this service and there are adequate resources within the private sector to deliver wildlife services to the residents of Vaughan.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Tony Thompson
Director, Enforcement Services

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Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services
and City Solicitor