

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 16, 2005

COMPLIANCE MEASURES COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services recommends that this report be received for information.

Economic Impact

Not applicable

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the organization and progress to date of the Compliance Measures Coordinating Committee.

Background - Analysis and Options

Council at its meeting of November 22, 2004 directed that a Committee be formed to be called the Compliance Measures Coordinating Committee and organized according to the attached chart. The Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services assumed the chair and the following staff members were added to the Committee:

Glenn Duncan, Deputy Fire Chief	Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service
Brian Anthony, Director of Public Works	Public Works
Larry Ptashynski, Manager of Inspections	Building Standards
Tony Thompson, Senior Manager	Enforcement Services

The Committee members have met individually for organizational purposes on several occasions and the Committee has had two formal meetings to date.

Coordination of Enforcement Software

At the first meeting of the Committee it became apparent that the departments taking complaints and performing enforcement activities were doing their best to communicate with each other but their daily complaints and file opening were separately tracked on different software, which had not been coordinated. Building Standards and Licensing in the Clerks Department, record their enforcement activities on Amanda, Enforcement Services and Public Works on CSMS and VFRS on Microsoft Access. Although in a timely manner, Managers were informing each other of activity of mutual interest, and some coordinated enforcement action was undertaken, there was no access across the Corporation that was available to the day to day complaints and initiation of enforcement action.

The Chief Information Officer was called into the first meeting and indicated that a program could be written in-house that would track all new files in each of the departments and be made available to all Managers in the enforcement departments. Staff are now working on that program.

Staff are also working on solutions to facilitate timely computer record transfers to a laptop computer used by the Licensing Enforcement Field Officer. This is intended to provide access to up to date business licensing information in the field.

Grow Houses

The proliferation of Marijuana grow houses in the City of Vaughan has become a serious concern, particularly in the last several months. Through the initiative of the Senior Manager of Enforcement Services, York Regional Police were contacted and agreed to notify the City each time they enter a grow house and allow entry by Enforcement Services staff. This has resulted in property standards orders being issued for four such properties in the City. This Order is filed in the Building Standards Department and subsequent purchasers of these properties would be informed. This type of illegal activity affects more than only the Police. Most of these operations radically alter the house such that there is a danger to health from mold and structural changes have been made. It is necessary to coordinate the City's Enforcement, Building and Fire departments as well as Regional Health and the Children's Aid to effectively deal with the impact of these operations.

The City Solicitor has been advised by York Regional Police that by order of the Chief of Police, the City is not to be notified on the discovery of any further grow houses until a meeting is set up for all municipalities in York Region to attend with the Chief to set up a protocol for dealing with them. Apparently, there is a concern over liability for the Region. In the Province of British Columbia, there is legislation dealing specifically with grow houses and the Province of Ontario is considering a similar act but it is not expected soon.

The Compliance Measures Coordinating Committee will continue to monitor the enforcement of grow houses by all levels of government and attempt to influence the timely dealing with the matter.

Anti Dumping Signs

There have been discussions between Public Works and Enforcement Services regarding the raising of anti dumping signs with the phone number of Enforcement Services on them with the intention of charging the owner of vehicles on the basis of a citizen's report with a license number. The matter came up at the second meeting of the Committee and the Director of Public Works has indicated that at least 150 such signs will be installed in 2005 and Enforcement Services will commence laying charges.

Basement Apartments (Second Dwelling Units)

The coordination of dealing with basement apartments or second dwelling units by the Fire and Rescue Service, Enforcement Services and the Building Standards Department was discussed. *A Policy and Procedural Instruction for 2-Unit Residential Occupancies in the City of Vaughan* protocol for each department's involvement was developed and has been field tested. This protocol has proven effective in dealing with the problem of second unit residential occupancies from a tri-services enforcement perspective. Once the merging of the complaints software has been accomplished, this initiative will be even more effective and can be formalized.

After Hours Clubs and Liquor Licensed Establishments

Under the auspices of "Project Moonshine", the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service has been working with the York Regional Police, the Alcohol, Gaming and Tobacco Commission, and the York Region Department of Health to enforce fire, liquor, and health regulations, as well as criminal issues after hours and on weekends. In addition, Project Moonshine will be targeting a growing trend to hold "special events" in banquet halls. These special events are organized as a party to which tickets are sold and there is evidence that some of the organizers are violating their special occasion permits for profit without proper concern for patron safety. Vaughan Enforcement Services will be assisting with Project Moonshine in the future to ensure a more effective response to these problems.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The subjects discussed in this report are in keeping with the Vaughan Vision by promoting community safety. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The members of the Compliance Measures Coordinating Committee unanimously agree that the focusing intended by Council for the Committee on coordination of the many departments at all levels of government which have common enforcement interests, has been a valuable exercise and recommend that the Committee be continued. It is intended to hold meetings at the call of any member of the Committee and at least quarterly. Further reports can be expected by Council periodically as goals are reached or where authority may be required.

Attachments

Organizational Chart

Report prepared by:

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City Solicitor

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Swayze

Compliance Measures Coordinating Committee Organizational Chart

