

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



Report Date: August 9, 2005  
Author: John W. McLewin  
Phone No.: 604.326.4706  
RTS No.: 5235  
CC File No.: 1375  
Meeting Date: September 15, 2005

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets  
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services  
SUBJECT: Litter Can Servicing

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approve transferring the one remaining day shift position for servicing litter containers to night shift.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

This report recommends transferring the one remaining day shift litter container servicing position to nights as it is significantly more cost effective to do so. If Recommendation A is not approved, it is recommended that Council increase the annual street cleaning budget by \$45,000 starting in 2006, subject to the 2006 budget process, to ensure existing service levels are maintained.

**COUNCIL POLICY**

On April 8, 2004, Council approved an increase of \$190,000 in the annual street cleaning budget for 2005 for servicing an additional 400 litter containers. Council approved the transfer of litter can servicing from days to nights but asked that one position be retained on days and be reassessed after one year.

On July 14, 2005, Council postponed a decision on this matter to allow management and CUPE1004 to clarify and resolve an apparent outstanding issue.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council the results of the day shift litter collection assessment and seek approval to transfer the one remaining litter container servicing position to nights.

## BACKGROUND

As part of the new street furniture contract the number of litter containers on City streets will increase to approximately 1350 containers. An additional 115 containers are located around False Creek and Coal Harbour. Of the 1350 containers, about 1200 have already been installed. The remainder are waiting for input and approval of locations from some Business Improvement Associations.

As noted in the Council Policy above, Council had requested a productivity analysis of retaining one day shift litter can servicing position after a period of one year.

In early 2004, staff had discussed the proposed night time servicing with CUPE 1004. CUPE 1004 did not support a further transition to night shift collection of litter cans. Essentially the Union's position was that day shift jobs are preferable to night shift jobs so the City should not be doing work at night that could be done during the day. They did acknowledge that it would be more efficient to do the work at night and had suggested that they would not be opposed to any additional positions being on the night shift, if at least one of the existing positions remained on days. At that time, preliminary analysis showed that collection during the day is approximately 35% less productive than collection at night.

On July 14, 2005, Ken Davidson, President of CUPE 1004, advised Council that there were still some job placements to be resolved for the changeover to automated garbage and yard trimmings collection and that the subject dayshift position may help in this regard. Engineering Services subsequently advanced the changeover process on the automation job changes and worked with CUPE 1004 to clarify any remaining issues related to the transfer of the final litter can collection position to nights. As a result, CUPE 1004 has indicated that it no longer objects to the subject position being transferred from dayshift to nightshift in the Sanitation Branch.

## DISCUSSION

The majority of the 1200 litter containers on City streets are currently being serviced at night. As directed by Council, one position has been retained on day shift for one year. Following one year's experience with the one day time position, staff have compared and analysed the servicing times of night shift vs. day shift to determine the difference in efficiency. Beat checks were done during both night shift and day shift for the same route.

Overall, it was found that servicing of containers took 60% more time during the day than at night. The difference is mainly due to the following day shift traffic challenges:

- Traffic congestion in business districts where the majority of litter containers are located, resulting in slow travel between containers and difficulty entering the traffic from a stopped loading position.

- Curb side parking, which tends to be heavy in areas where there are litter containers.
- Delays caused by road construction during the daytime.

These challenges are greatly reduced when containers are serviced at night.

Based on these findings it is again recommended that the last day shift position (1 Full Time Equivalent - FTE) be moved to night shift as it is more efficient to service the containers at night.

If one day shift crew is retained there would be a requirement of an additional 0.4 FTE at night to service the containers that could not be serviced during the day. This translates to an additional \$45,000/year in the annual street cleaning budget. Should the 1 day shift litter servicing crew continue, the annual street cleaning budget should be increased by \$45,000 beginning 2006. Sanitation Operations has been able to absorb the additional cost of the current day shift position because of the delay in completing container installation this year.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Transferring the remaining day shift to night shift does not have any financial implication as the existing budget is based on all containers being serviced at night and the reduced workload from uninstalled containers offsets the cost of retaining the day shift position in 2005.

Continuing the day shift servicing of some containers would require an additional \$45,000 per year be added to the street cleaning budget to maintain the same level of street cleaning service. This would have to be added to the 2006 operating budget subject to the 2006 budget process, assuming the last 150 containers are installed by the end of 2005.

### **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no personnel implications if the remaining day shift position is moved to night shift. The current employee who works the remaining day shift will be accommodated in an equivalent day shift position.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The change of the existing day shift to night shift would be implemented immediately.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis of the remaining day shift litter collection operation, it was found that the servicing of containers took approximately 60% longer during the day than at night. It is therefore recommended that the one remaining day shift litter can servicing position be transferred to night shift. CUPE 1004 does not oppose this change.

\* \* \* \* \*