



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

Supports Item No. 2  
CS&B Committee Agenda  
September 22, 2005

### POLICY REPORT ENVIRONMENT

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TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Garbage Container Licence Program - 2006 Permit Fee

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the existing half-time Street Use Inspector position in the Streets Administration Branch responsible for enforcement of graffiti on garbage containers be moved to the Solid Waste Management Branch and converted to a full-time position to assist with education and enforcement of litter and commercial container issues. Funding for this additional half-time position to come from a \$13 increase in the CLA permit fee.
- B. THAT Engineering Services increase the annual garbage Container Licence Agreement (CLA) permit fee by \$16 effective January 1, 2006 based on anticipated inflationary increases for 2006 of \$3 and increased staff costs of \$13 as noted in recommendation A.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommends the approval of A, and B.

#### COUNCIL POLICY

In 1992, Council authorized the execution of the licence agreements between the City and the participating companies which implement the City's garbage container permit program.

Permit fees are reviewed periodically to comply with Council policy that fees recover the full cost of providing services or are equivalent to competitive charges where the fee is of a market nature.

On June 14, 2001, Council approved an anti-graffiti policy for amenities such as garbage containers on City streets.

On April 25, 2002 Council approved funding of \$25,000 per year be allocated for enforcement of graffiti removal from containers in lanes with funding provided from annual garbage container lane permit fees.

On June 30, 2005 Council approved a three step process for enforcement of overflowing containers including education to reuse, donate or recycle materials rather than dispose them, and ultimately ends with issuing notices of bylaw violation.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of a \$16 increase in the Container Licence Agreement (CLA) permit fee from the current rate of \$106 to a new fee of \$122 effective January 1, 2006.

## **BACKGROUND**

### Container Licence Agreement

Under the CLA, companies that place commercial garbage and recycling containers on City streets (lanes) are regulated and charged a permit fee for the use of that space. At present there are approximately 2,000 commercial waste containers on City streets.

The CLA permit fees are set to recover costs of managing the container program and enforcing graffiti on containers. On September 30, 2004 Council approved an increase in the annual permit fee for garbage containers on City property from \$99 per container (fee set in 2002) to \$106 per container beginning January 2005, to account for inflationary increases.

The CLA requires the City to give permit holders at least 3 months notice of any amendments prior to renewal of the agreement. This translates to a deadline of October 1, 2005 for a fee increase for January 2006, when the CLA's are scheduled to be automatically renewed.

### Current Staff Resources

Two regular full time Street Use Inspector positions in the Solid Waste Management Branch are responsible for enforcement related to litter and garbage on City streets and lanes. The Garbage Container Co-ordinator position is responsible for oversight of the inventory of commercial garbage containers on public property across the City (excludes graffiti enforcement).

Council approved the second position on April 25, 2002 (RTS 2632). Approximately 75 percent of this Street Use Inspector position's time is dedicated to education and enforcement of City bylaws relating to litter and garbage. This work program includes tracking, investigating, and

enforcing abandoned garbage issues, and assisting the Garbage Container Co-ordinator with the enforcement of regulations governing commercial garbage containers. For approximately three months of the year this position also co-ordinates volunteer cleanup events throughout the City, including the annual Keep Vancouver Spectacular (KVS) program.

Currently, enforcing the removal of graffiti on garbage containers is the responsibility of a half-time position in the Streets Administration Branch. This half-time position is funded by CLA permit fees.

## DISCUSSION

### Additional Education & Enforcement

Over the past year staff have experienced a noticeable increase in public and media attention surrounding the issues of litter and the general cleanliness of the City's public realm. Recently there has also been a marked increase in demand from the public for dealing with issues related to messy commercial garbage containers and illegally dumped garbage on City streets. For example, in 2003 staff responded to approximately 100 reports of garbage loads abandoned on public property. In 2004 the number of these call-outs increased to 297, and as of August 19th this year, staff have dealt with over 260 abandoned garbage complaints.

As part of the initiatives approved by Council June 30, additional staff time will be required to apply the three step process of enforcement of overflowing containers, and the enforcement of mandatory garbage and recycling service for all non-residential properties.

To more effectively deal with the increased demand for litter, abandoned garbage and commercial container use education and enforcement, it is recommended that the existing half-time Streets Administration Branch EA II position responsible for enforcement of graffiti on garbage containers be converted to a full-time position and moved to the Solid Waste Management Branch. This full-time position would work closely with and assist the efforts of the two previously mentioned existing Solid Waste Management Branch positions that deal with litter and container issue education and enforcement. It is proposed that funding for this additional half-time position come from a \$13 increase in the CLA permit fee.

### Inflationary Adjustment

As part of the City's budget building process, an inflationary adjustment of 2.75% for revenues has been established. This adjustment results in a \$3 increase in the CLA permit fee.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended increase in fees will result in an additional \$32,000 in revenue in 2006, which offsets the costs associated with the additional half-time position and inflation. The 2005 budgeted revenue from the CLA fees is \$180,000

## PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

One temporary half-time Engineering Assistant 2 CUPE 15 position in the Streets Administration Branch would be converted to one regular full-time CUPE 15 Street Use Inspector position in the Solid Waste Management Branch. Source of funding for increased costs is provided by \$13 increase in Container Licence Agreement (CLA) permit fee.

## CONCLUSION

The recommendations of this report will provide for more effective management of bylaws governing garbage and the Container Licence Agreement, and an inflationary adjustment to the permit fees associated with the agreement.

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