



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 27, 2015  
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Meeting Date: May 27, 2015

TO: Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment  
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services  
SUBJECT: Application for Payment-In-Lieu of Parking at 219 East Georgia Street

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve in principle the offer of payment-in-lieu in the amount of \$60,600 for the waiver of three parking spaces required by Section 4.1.2 of the Parking By-law for the development application at 219 East Georgia Street; and direct such payment to the Pay-in-Lieu Parking Reserve: Green Transportation.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be requested to bring forward a By-Law to amend Schedule A of the Parking By-law pursuant to Section 4.12.5 to effect this waiver.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council approval in principle for the waiver of required parking and to accept payment-in-lieu of parking for 3 residential parking spaces required by the Parking By-Law for development application DE414728 located at 219 East Georgia Street.

Council approves offers of payment-in-lieu for the waiver of parking spaces required by the Parking By-Law. The funds paid from a residential project remain in the residential Pay-in-Lieu Parking Reserve until allocated to a sustainable transportation infrastructure project(s) that support walking and cycling.

### **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

The Vancouver Charter gives Council authority to accept a payment of money as an alternative to providing off-street parking spaces required by the Parking By-law. The funding must be allocated to either the Pay-in-Lieu Parking Reserve: Off-Street Parking or the Pay-in-Lieu Parking Reserve: Green Transportation.

In 1986, Council introduced parking “payment-in-lieu” to give property developers an option if the minimum parking required for their developments could not be provided on-site. It was limited to commercial or industrial uses or for heritage retention in areas within the downtown core where the parking could instead be provided in City owned facilities. Commercial/industrial payment-in-lieu funds are used to build replacement parking or offset the cost of existing parking in nearby civic parking facilities.

In 2009, Council approved changes to the Parking By-law which permitted payment-in-lieu of parking for residential uses in several historic areas including HA-1 (Chinatown), HA-2 (Gastown), HA-3 (Yaletown), and within the Downtown Official Development Plan Sub-area C2 (Victory Square). Residential payment-in-lieu funds are used to provide public realm improvements that support walking and cycling.

On March 12, 2014, Council approved the Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan which included an amendment to the Parking By-law to add the HA-1A (Chinatown South) zoning district as a residential payment-in-lieu of parking area.

### ***CITY MANAGER’S/GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS***

The General Manager of Engineering Services, the General Manager of Planning and Development, and the Director of Finance recommend approval of the foregoing.

### ***REPORT***

#### ***Background/Context***

The Parking By-law requires that a minimum number of off-street parking spaces be provided in developments. Depending on the type of use and location, several tools are available to reduce requirements where developers cannot or do not wish to build all of these spaces on-site.

These tools are intended to reduce the demand for parking or to provide it through other means and include the provision of:

- Car share vehicles and parking spaces,
- Off-street parking on nearby sites,
- Bicycle parking spaces beyond by-law requirements, and
- Payment-in-lieu of parking.

Payment-in-lieu is generally used when no other tools are available. When an application for payment-in-lieu relief is made, staff bring a report to Council with a recommendation on the number of spaces to be waived and the dollar value to accept in lieu of those spaces. Current Council policy is to accept \$20,200 per space, which is based on the present value cost to construct and maintain a parking space in City facilities less the present value of future revenue from the space.

Should Council support the request to waive parking through payment-in-lieu, the applicant must pay \$20,200 per parking space waived. After the payment is made, the Director of Legal

Services will bring forward a by-law for Council approval to amend Schedule A of the Parking By-law and thereby allow the issuance of a Development Permit. The funds paid by the applicant are credited towards one of two pay-in-lieu reserves.

Under current Council policy, commercial or industrial payment-in-lieu funds are directed to the Pay-in-Lieu Parking Reserve: Off-Street Parking. When replacement parking spaces are identified in a nearby City-owned parkade, staff report back to Council with a recommendation to assign specific spaces to the development. When Council assigns those parking spaces for the applicant's use, the funds are transferred to the Parking Sites Reserve to offset the cost to construct and maintain the spaces. The Parking Sites Reserve was created by Council to fund the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of the City's parking facilities, and is primarily funded by revenues generated from EasyPark. The applicant is given first chance to lease the allocated spaces at the market rate.

For residential buildings, off-site parking is much less desirable than for commercial buildings because of reduced convenience and security. Therefore, residential payment-in-lieu of parking funds are directed to the Green Transportation fund. When an appropriate project is identified which provides public realm improvements for walking or cycling, Council approval will be sought to allocate payment-in-lieu funds to the capital project.

Allocation and/or transfer of funds from the pay-in-lieu reserves to specific capital projects are considered and prioritized through the Capital Planning and Budgeting processes.

### ***Strategic Analysis***

An application, pursuant to Section 4.12 of the Parking By-law, has been received seeking Council's approval in principle to waive the number of parking spaces required by Section 4.1.2 of the By-law and to make payment-in-lieu.

The particulars of the application are as follows:

Address:	219 E. Georgia St
Applicant:	Sandra Moore Birmingham & Wood Architects & Planners 231 Carrall Street Vancouver, BC 604-687-1594
Zoning:	HA-1A
DE Number:	DE414728
Type of Development:	Mixed Use - Residential & Commercial
Use:	Multiple Dwelling/Apartment
Legal Description:	PLAN EPS2073 DISTRICT LOT 1 96 NWD GROUP 1,
Residential Parking Required:	12
Residential Parking Provided:	9
Number of spaces for Payment-in-lieu:	3
Recommended Amount/Space:	\$20,200
Total Payment-in-lieu:	\$60,600

A review of this application found that payment-in-lieu is appropriate for the proposed residential use given the site constraints and the lack of opportunity to provide parking by another means. The narrow site is only 25' in width and it is not feasible to provide additional parking underground. Parking is available nearby at the city owned parkade at 185 Keefer Street.

Staff feel that directing funds towards walking and cycling improvements through payment-in-lieu is a reasonable alternative to providing additional on-site parking.

In order to facilitate a timely issuance of the development permit for this project, funds equal to the amount payable through payment-in-lieu of parking were taken and have been held as security. The recent changes to include the HA-1A zoning district as a permitted residential pay-in-lieu area allow us to bring forward this report to Council.

***Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)***

***Financial***

The City will receive payment of \$60,600 for deposit into the Pay-in-Lieu Residential Reserve: Green Transportation.

***Legal***

Where Council has agreed to accept a sum or money in lieu of parking requirements, Schedule A of the Parking By-Law hereto shall be amended to list:

- (a) the property affected by the waiver;
- (b) the extent to which the parking requirements are waived; and
- (c) the amount of money accepted by Council as payment-in-lieu.

***CONCLUSION***

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommends approval of the waiver of 3 residential parking spaces at 219 E Georgia St on the condition that the amount of \$60,600 is paid to the Pay-in-Lieu Parking Reserve: Green Transportation.

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