



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Safety Committee
FROM: Sandra Tokarczyk
Manager, Community Bylaws
RE: **Abandoned Buildings Update**

DATE: March 28, 2001
FILE: -

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the staff report which provides an update on abandoned buildings in Richmond be received for information.

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Sandra Tokarczyk
Manager, Community Bylaws

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. M. ...'.

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

On February 5, 2001 the General Purposes Committee received a report on the issue of abandoned residential buildings in Richmond. The report indicated that staff would pursue several actions. This report provides an update on those actions and provides resulting information.

ABANDONED HOME INVENTORY

City staff have identified and created an up-to-date inventory of what appeared to be vacant abandoned residential buildings in our community. A total of 22 homes were placed on this inventory.

Since conducting the inventory, a total of six buildings have since been demolished. Three buildings have current demolition permits issued, however demolition has yet to occur. One property has an active development application. This would leave 12 remaining homes to review.

Staff have collected data on safety concerns from the Fire, RCMP, Bylaws, Building, and Health Departments. Information on the owner's intention for the remaining 12 buildings is also being collected. Upon completion of the inventory, it will be circulated to the various department's on a monthly basis to ensure that all new safety concerns are captured and reviewed.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps that City staff will be pursuing are to:

- contact the one development applicant and ask them to pursue demolition prior to rezoning;
- diarize the three active demolition permits to ensure that they are concluded by July 2001;
- contact the remaining 12 property owners to determine their intentions with regards to their respective buildings;
- monitor the condition of the buildings to ensure that they remain secure; and
- review the monthly list for new safety concerns.

Once the information on the owners' intentions has been collected, staff will meet to review the data and determine if any building(s) appear fitting to pursue under Section 727 of the Local Government Act. A joint inspection between Fire, Bylaw, and Building Inspectors is conducted as part of the final data gathering steps.

Should, based on a review of the findings, it appear fitting to proceed under the safety provision, then staff would prepare and issue the appropriate letter and order(s) to the property owner based on Section 727. If the matter is not satisfactorily addressed, then a report from the Manager of Building Approvals, requesting demolition, would be sent to Council.

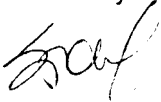
A future staff report will address the remaining issue of the condition of vacant lands without homes and with occupied homes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

CONCLUSION

Staff are actively addressing the issue of abandoned residential buildings in Richmond. Inventory statistics and next steps are provided in this information report.



Sandra Tokarczyk
Manager, Community Bylaws