



## City of Richmond

## Report to Council

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<b>To:</b>	Richmond City Council	<b>Date:</b>	July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2006
<b>From:</b>	Councillor Linda Barnes Chair, Public Works & Transportation Committee	<b>File:</b>	12-8060-20-8100/Vol 01/8101
<b>Re:</b>	<b>ILLEGAL DUMPING</b>		

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The Public Works & Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

### Committee Recommendation

- (1) *That Bylaw No. 8100, which amends Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw 6803 to provide a recovery mechanism for costs associated with clean up and disposal of illegally dumped materials on City property, be introduced and given first three readings.*
- (2) *That a reward of \$200 be offered to the general public for information leading to the conviction of individuals who undertake illegal dumping.*
- (3) *That the Richmond Detachment of the RCMP and the Community Bylaws Department be requested to undertake additional enforcement and surveillance of illegal dumping activity.*
- (4) *That Bylaw 8101, which amends Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw 7321 to add ticketing authority by a police officer and increases the fine for depositing or dumping garbage to \$1,000, be introduced and given first three readings.*
- (5) *That staff investigate the feasibility of addressing illegal dumping on commercial properties (in a manner similar to the towing of vehicles from private properties) within the Solid Waste & Recycling Bylaw.*

Councillor Linda Barnes, Chair  
Public Works & Transportation Committee

Attach.

### VARIANCE

Please note that Committee added Part (5) above.

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report responds to a referral from Community Safety Committee which requested the following information pertaining to illegal dumping:

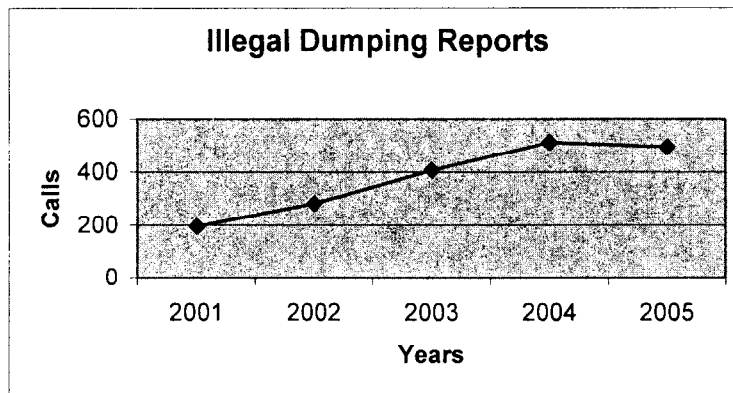
- i) Whether the situation was becoming worse;
- ii) Whether the present situation differed in any way from previous situations;
- iii) What the trend appeared to be;
- iv) Whether probable causes had been identified; and
- v) If there was probable cause, what action the City could take to deal with the matter.

This report addresses illegal dumping activities principally on City property. Issues pertaining to private property are generally referred to the property owner for clean up. Other issues pertaining to major dumping activities on private property are referred to Community Bylaws.

### Analysis

#### *Current Situation and Trend*

The number of reported illegal dumping incidences has increased markedly over the last several years -- in fact, it has more than doubled since 2001:



There was a slight drop in incidences in 2005, which could indicate that illegal dumping has levelled off, however, prior years show a considerable increase in dumping from 2001 - 2004.

There are four main categories of illegal dumping, based on the types of materials collected:

1. Dumping from new construction, i.e. roofing and building materials.
2. Illegal activities, i.e. grow-op and clandestine lab material dumps.
3. Household furniture items generally associated with tenant moves, i.e. at the end/beginning of the month.

4. Miscellaneous items, such as tires, household/business waste and green waste.

Materials are dumped in isolated or more remote areas. For example, on Mitchell Island, some individuals will remove items of value from their waste loads, i.e. recyclable materials such as aluminum, and will dump remaining items such as glass or plastic. Other common dumping areas include Triangle Road, east Richmond, areas along River Road and other isolated parts of the City. Dumping of waste into commercial garbage containers is also an issue for business owners.

### ***Probable Causes***

The reasons why individuals dump illegally are not known, but we can draw some conclusions relating to economic and social issues:

- *financial* – some small business operators/private haulers and residents do not wish to pay the costs associated with disposing of their waste, i.e. business operators/haulers may wish to reduce operating costs and maximize revenue; residents may wish to save money.
- *convenience* – business operators and residents may find it inconvenient and time-consuming to travel to appropriate disposal facilities.
- *access* - There is no local municipal or regional disposal facility for household or construction/demolition waste in Richmond. There is a demolition landfill for non-putrescible waste at the Ecowaste Landfill (on Triangle Road), but this facility caters to large commercial operators. Richmond residents and business operators must take waste to the Vancouver Landfill in Delta, or to the Vancouver South Transfer Station, off Marine Drive.
- *illegal activities* – Individuals who partake in illegal drug-related activities are likely interested in getting rid of the evidence and have no social conscience around dumping products illegally.
- *perspective* – Some individuals have the mentality that their waste isn't their responsibility, and therefore, there is nothing to be gained by paying for disposal.

Other factors include an increased population base and current economic conditions within the construction industry.

### ***City Approach***

#### ***Current Practise***

Illegally-dumped items are collected by a combination of contracted service providers, i.e. the City's garbage and recycling service contractor and by specialty-trained hazmat firms; and by City Litter and Public Works operations staff. Incidents are initiated on either a complaint basis or as reported by operations staff through observation.

In an attempt to deter illegal dumping, staff undertake a number of steps, including:

- remove items quickly to avoid larger accumulations,
- clear vegetation to make areas more visible,
- post “no dumping” signs,
- cut off access, where possible

We also promote the City’s \$5.00 Garbage Disposal Voucher Program (for disposal at Vancouver Landfill), and encourage reporting of illegal dumping to our Works Yard Dispatch office. The City’s Recycling Depot operation also helps to reduce dumping of some larger items, such as barbeques, appliances, etc., by accepting these items at no charge. The high number of calls to the Recycling Depot node of our automated voice response system (as compared with our other services) is a strong indication that residents are frequently looking for no-cost disposal alternatives for unwanted items.

Another successful initiative is our Partners for Beautification Program, which is designed to reduce dumping/litter through adoption of areas.

The City’s Solid Waste & Recycling Regulation bylaw contains a specific provision to make it illegal to dump garbage and this is supported by a \$100 fine in the ticket information bylaw. However, no fines have been issued to date.

#### *Potential Additional Measures*

- Where possible, obtain identifying information from the waste materials and pursue potential prosecution and cost recovery from the offending party. An amendment to the Solid Waste & Recycling Regulation Bylaw is required to support the cost recovery mechanism.
- Increase the present fine under Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw 7321, which is currently \$100, to \$1,000. The present bylaw allows ticketing only by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer. In requesting added support from Richmond RCMP, it would be prudent to also allow ticketing by a police officer.
- Offer a reward to the general public for information (\$200) which leads to the conviction of offending party/ies.
- Request added enforcement and sporadic surveillance by staff of Community Bylaws and the RCMP.
- Provide additional information on the City’s website concerning illegal dumping and what residents can do to help. Staff will undertake this task subsequent to Council’s consideration of this report/recommendations.

Another option staff explored was the use of cameras, but this was discounted due to privacy concerns, costs and reliability of the information for prosecution (cameras may not produce the clear detail and images needed to advance a charge). It is also impractical and cost prohibitive to locate a sufficient number of cameras throughout the City to be effective. Vandalism of the cameras is another potential concern.

### **Financial Impact**

Illegal dumping costs are funded in the Sanitation & Recycling budget at \$40,000 annually. This covers contracted service support and Public Works Operations staff and equipment. It does not include Litter Operations staff time associated with collecting illegally-dumped materials during the performance of their regular duties. While we have been able to maintain the annual budget at this amount for the last several years, additional funding in 2007 will invariably be required.

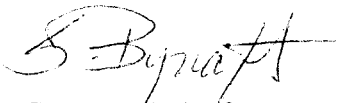
Additional costs (not included in the \$40,000 budget discussed above) involve clean-up of illegally-dumped clandestine lab materials. The costs for just three incidents, which occurred on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and March 22, 2006, were over \$47,000 (No. 7 Road Pier, Palmberg Road, Westminster Hwy/No. 9 Road).

Costs associated with the Spring Clean-Up/Garbage Disposal Voucher program are approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 annually.

### **Conclusion**

Illegal dumping has increased in Richmond and is a difficult issue to resolve due to the covert nature of the activity. This problem is not unique to Richmond, as other communities in the Lower Mainland experience similar concerns.

A combination of additional measures including education, enforcement, surveillance, reward and prosecution are proposed to help deter and reduce illegal dumping.



Suzanne Bycraft  
Manager, Fleet & Environmental Programs  
(3338)

SJB:



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**Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw 6803,  
Amendment Bylaw 8100 (2006)**

The Council of the City of Richmond, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The City of Richmond Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803 is amended by deleting section 3.1.2 and substituting the following:

3.1.2. A person must not leave, deposit, dump, scatter, litter or otherwise dispose of

- (a) garbage;
- (b) materials listed in section 1.6.1;
- (c) recyclable materials;
- (d) yard and garden trimmings; or
- (e) other discarded materials

on any highway, park or other public place or on land owned by or under the jurisdiction of the City.

2. The City of Richmond Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803 is amended by adding the following provisions:

3.1.3. The General Manager for Engineering and Public Works, or his or her delegate, may arrange for, direct and supervise the removal of any material left, deposited, dumped, scattered, littered or disposed of contrary to section 3.1.2; its transport to an authorized facility; and the remediation and restoration of the affected site to the state it was in before the contravention of section 3.1.2 occurred.

3.1.4 Any person who acts contrary to section 3.1.2, or who directs, supervises or aids another person in acting contrary to that section, shall promptly and at his or her own expense, comply with any notice or direction of the General Manager or his or her delegate to have the offending material removed and transported to an authorized facility; to carry out related remedial steps; and to take remedial action to have the affected site restored to the state it was in before the contravention of section 3.1.2 occurred.

3.1.5. A person who fails to comply with section 3.1.4 shall compensate and pay the City for any expenses, fees or costs incurred by the City in carrying out the removal and transport

- 3.1.5. A person who fails to comply with section 3.1.4 shall compensate and pay the City for any expenses, fees or costs incurred by the City in carrying out the removal and transport of the discarded materials and the restoration of the affected property. Costs incurred by the City in relation to removal, transport and restoration of discarded materials shall be a debt owing to the City that is in addition to any penalty or fines that may be imposed in relation to an offence under this Bylaw.
3. This Bylaw is cited as **“Solid Waste And Recycling Regulation Bylaw 6803, Amendment Bylaw 8100 (2006)”**.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

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CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CORPORATE OFFICER



**Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7321  
Amendment Bylaw 8101**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. The Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7321 is amended at Schedule B 11 in relation to "Depositing or dumping garbage," and "Bylaw Section 3.1.2" by deleting the figure "\$100" in the Column 3 and substituting the figure "1,000".
2. The Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7321 is amended at Schedule A, Item 11, "Solid Waste & Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803," by adding the following words to Column 2:  
  
"- Police Officer"
3. This Bylaw is cited as "**Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw No. 7321, Amendment Bylaw No. 8101**".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

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CITY OF RICHMOND
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APPROVED for legality by Solicitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CORPORATE OFFICER