



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Cecilia Achiam
General Manager, Community Safety
Re: Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – December 2019

Date: January 15, 2020
File: 12-8060-01/20-Vol01

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – December 2019”, dated January 15, 2020, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Cecilia Achiam
General Manager, Community Safety
(604-276-4122)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
	CJ
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

This monthly report for the Community Bylaws department provides information and statistics for enforcement of bylaws related to Grease, Soils, Property Use, Short-Term Rentals, Pay Parking, Parking Enforcement, Animal Control and Dog Licencing and as well as education and public awareness initiatives.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

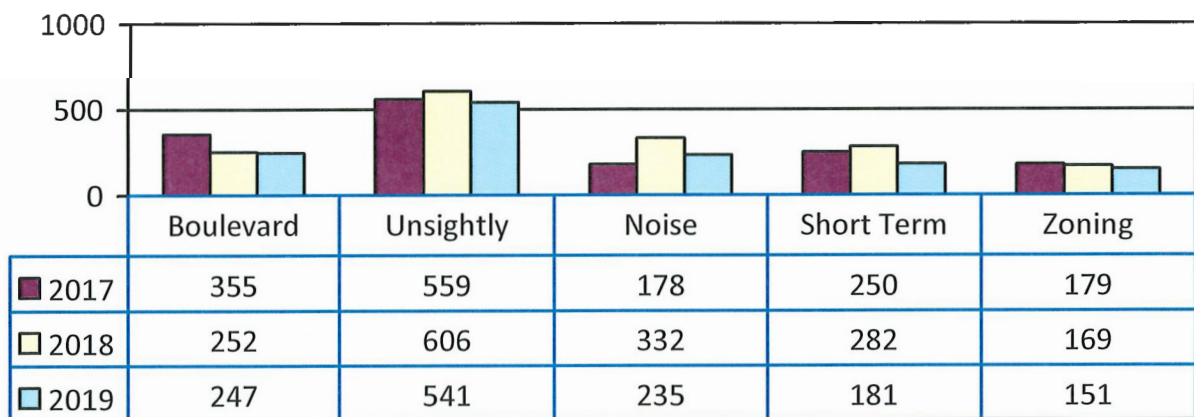
1.1 Enhance safety services and strategies to meet community needs.

Analysis

Property Use

Property use enforcement matters are divided among several groups in Community Bylaws, Engineering, Business Licencing and Vancouver Coastal Health. Figure 1 shows the calls for service (files opened) by Property Use Inspectors in the Community Bylaws department. Figure 2 shows all other property related enforcement.

Figure 1: Property Use Calls For Service - December Year-To-Date Comparison

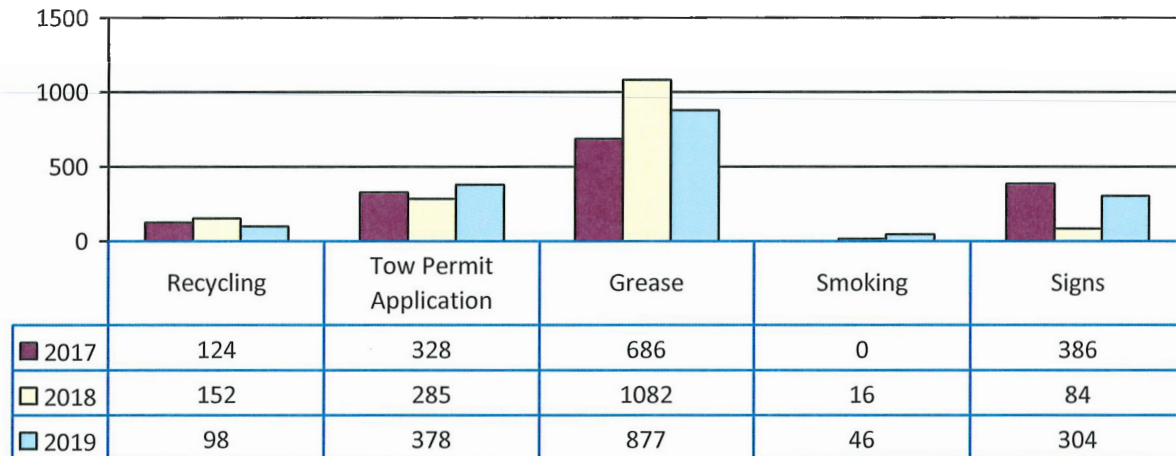


Notable highlights for the month of December include an unusual spike in dog bite investigations and favourable results in court proceedings for two longstanding enforcement files. While none of the dog bites involved serious injuries to animals or people, there were more this month than are expected during the winter, with two of these incidents receiving attention in the media.

Overall in 2019, there were fewer enforcement files opened than in previous years but more priority was given to resolving longstanding cases and getting favourable results in the Provincial and Supreme Courts. The City received payment of the fine and compliance in December with business and building bylaws for Palmer/Bridges Marina located at 23740 River Road. There was also another successful contempt of court application for 11111 Bird Road

although this property is not yet in compliance and there will be another application to the Supreme Court in January. Going forward, staff will continue to prioritize court processes and ongoing and longstanding enforcement files.

Figure 2: Other Calls For Service - December Year-To-Date Comparison



Grease

The Grease Officer remains focused on education and communication. During the month of December, the Grease Officer undertook 84 grease-trap inspections, which are reflected in the cumulative total shown in Figure 2. There were no violation notices issued for contraventions of the Drainage, Dike and Sanitary Sewer System Bylaw No. 7551 in December. In 2019, 11 grease violation notices were issued, compared to 28 in 2018. This improvement in compliance is due in large part to the on-going education and communication provided by the Grease Officer. Source control is the most effective way of reducing grease in the sanitary system and the efforts of the Grease Officer help to avoid relapses in compliance and to educate new businesses that come to Richmond.

In addition to Richmond's grease management efforts, Metro Vancouver has introduced a regional grease reduction campaign to educate the community on safe and appropriate grease disposal methods.

Soils

The Soil Bylaw Officer continues to respond to complaints and issues of non-compliance with Soil Removal & Fill Deposit Regulation Bylaw No. 8094 (Soil Bylaw) as well as monitoring approved sites. During the month of December, the Soil Bylaw Officer conducted 58 site inspections and issued two violation notices for non-compliance with Watercourse Protection Bylaw No. 8441

The Soil Bylaw Officer is currently managing 43 sites that are considered non-compliant but only three of these sites are receiving active enforcement such as stop work orders and tickets. The other non-compliant sites are working through a compliance plan or being pursued through the Provincial or Supreme Court.

The focus of work in 2019 was non-compliant sites as there were only two soil deposit proposals forwarded for Council consideration. Moving forward to 2020, staff will be reviewing an additional 12 soil deposit proposals that are currently under various stages of review by City staff.

Dog Licencing and Patrols

The total number of dogs licenced in December is 2,136. This figure represents 80 new dog licence applications and 2,056 renewal applications of current licences that were processed in the month of December.

A total of 7,362 dog licences were issued in 2019. This is comparably up from the total number of dog licences issued in 2018 of 7,268.

Regional Animal Protection Society (RAPS) Officers conduct patrols of the dikes, parks and school grounds within the City. The following locations were patrolled during the month of December resulting in no bylaw violation notices being issued under the Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932 or the Dog Licencing Bylaw No. 7138.

- Brighthouse Park
- Garden City Park
- Garry Point
- Hugh Boyd Secondary
- McDonald Beach
- Odlin Neighbourhood Park
- South Arm Park
- Steveston-London Secondary
- Talmey Neighbourhood Park
- West Dyke Trail
- William Cook Elementary
- Woodward's Slough
- Garden City Elementary
- Cambie Secondary
- King George Park
- Miller Neighbourhood Park
- Richmond Nature Park
- Spul'u'kwuks Elementary
- Steveston Village
- Thomas Kidd Elementary
- Walter Lee Elementary
- William Bridge Elementary

Parking

For the month of December, Parking Officers proactively patrolled for stopping and parking infractions while continuing to monitor assigned files. Parking Officers received 216 Calls for Service for parking related offences, bringing the year-to-date total to 3,193. In comparison, 2018's year-to-date figure lists 2,696; Parking Officer attendance through Calls for Service since 2018, has risen by 497 calls. Management of files by Parking Officers is priority-based, with all safety and obstruction requests receiving top priority.

Figure 3 reflects the monthly and year-to-date parking enforcement activity measured by violation issuance. The corresponding revenue is reflected in Figure 4.

Figure 3: Parking Violations Issuance Comparison

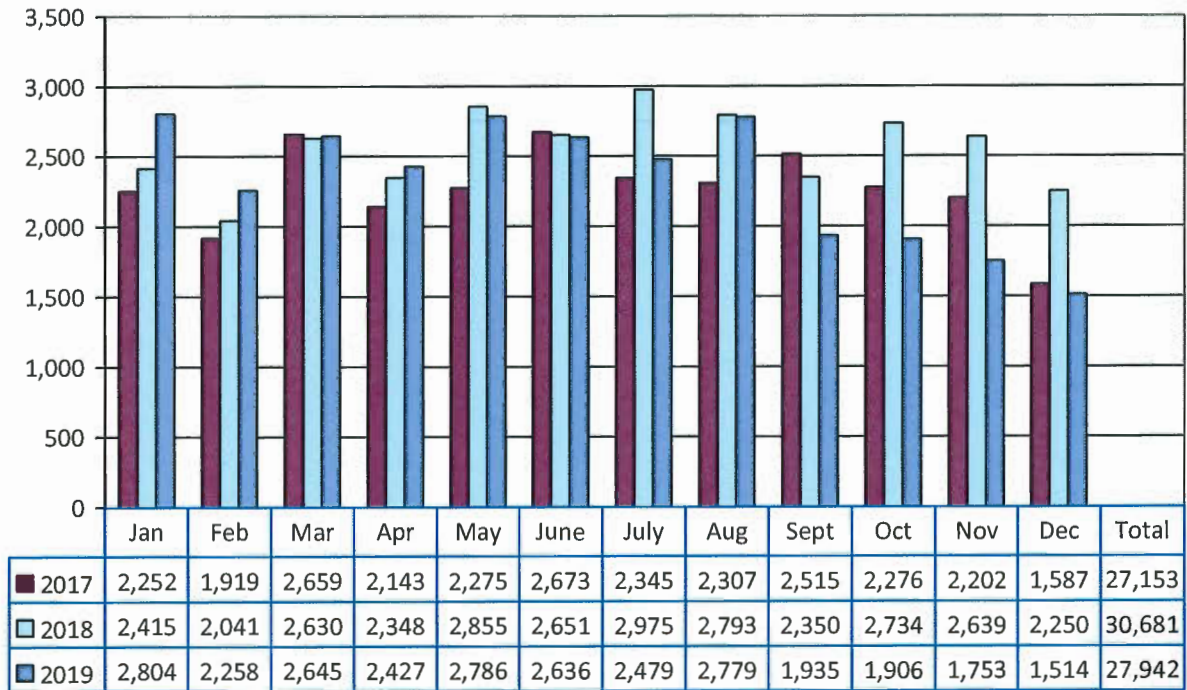


Figure 4: Consolidated Parking Program Revenue Comparison (000's)



All Enforcement Activity

While parking violations make up the majority of tickets issued by Bylaw Enforcement Officers, there are a number of other categories which are of interest to the public. Table 1 exhibits the number of parking violations issued, including those additional categories. The Bylaw Enforcement Officers' daily objective is to obtain compliance through enforcement and education; this is occasionally better served as a warning notice in place of a violation notice.

Table 1: Community Bylaw Violations

Ticket Issuance (BVN's & MTI's)	December	YTD
Short-Term Rental Offences	1	50
Soil Removal & Fill Deposit Offences	2	35
Grease Trap Offences	0	11
Parking & Stopping Offences	1,514	27,942 ¹
Animal Control Offences	17	474
Totals	1,534	28,512

Bylaw Adjudication

The Adjudication session held on December 10, 2019, consisted of a total of 19 contraventions; 17 contraventions of the Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 and two contraventions for Animal Control Bylaw No. 7932; the adjudicator ruled in favour of the City on all accounts. The next Adjudication is scheduled for February 20, 2020.

Revenue and Expenses

The Community Bylaws Department derives much of its revenue from parking meters, parking permits and parking violations. The remainder of revenue generated is from dog licences, false alarm disturbances, tow permits and other permits and bylaw fines. Table 2 outlines individual revenue types while Table 3 highlights revenue and expenses for the three main programs within Community Bylaws.

While revenue in some areas was lower than expected for December, annual revenue across all categories exceeded budget expectations in 2019. Moreover, expenses were similarly lower than budgeted, resulting in an overall surplus for Community Bylaws.

¹ 20 tickets received after reporting cut-off from RCMP

Table 2: Department Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget Dec 2019	Actual Dec 2019	YTD Budget Dec 2019	YTD Actual Dec 2019
Contract Revenue ²	0	5,000	0	60,000
Filming Revenue	0	478	0	29,865
False Alarm	4,442	244	53,300	20,695
Dog Licences	38,297	57,616	238,800	261,365
Towing Permits	638	1,777	15,700	26,690
Other Permits ³	1,517	600	37,300	43,607
Other Bylaw Fines ⁴	3,120	4,900	46,700	158,485
Parking Revenue ⁵	226,431	146,305	2,042,800	2,057,636
Receivable Income ⁶	11,084	0	100,000	38,634
Total Revenue	285,529	216,920	2,534,600	2,696,977

Table 3: Revenue and Expenses by Program in Community Bylaws

Community Bylaws by Program		YTD Budget Dec 2019	YTD Actual Dec 2019
Parking	Revenue	2,142,800	2,186,136
	Expenses	1,533,700	1,346,575
	Net Revenue (Expense)	609,100	839,561
Animal Control	Revenue	249,000	301,445
	Expenses	274,300	225,048
	Net Revenue (Expense)	(25,300)	76,397
Property Use	Revenue	142,800	209,396
	Expenses	1,131,800	872,314
	Net Revenue (Expense)	(989,000)	(662,918)
Total Net Revenue (Expense)		(405,200)	253,040

² City Towing Contract with Rusty's Towing³ Newspaper box and soil permit applications⁴ Property Use and Animal control violations⁵ Parking Revenue consists of Parking Meters, Monthly Parking Permits, and Parking Enforcement⁶ Receivable Income consists of Night Market Recoveries

Financial Impact

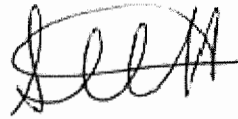
None.

Conclusion

Community Bylaws administers a wide range of bylaws related to property use, parking, animal control, soil and grease. This current report presents monthly statistics for December, including annual totals. Of note, this year there has been a higher demand for parking enforcement with the number of calls for service calls up by almost 20 percent. This has contributed to an overall increase in bylaw revenue leading to a surplus across all areas in Community Bylaws.



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