



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 20, 2017
From: John McGowan **File:** 12-8060-01/20-Vol01
 Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety
Re: **Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report - February 2017**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report - February 2017”, dated March 20, 2017, from the Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety, be received for information.

John McGowan
 Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety
 (604-276-4104)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

This monthly activity report for the Community Bylaws Department provides information on Property Use, Grease, Soils, Parking and Animal Control.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

Analysis

Property Use

Property Use Officers continue to respond to changing public demand with a focus on demolition permits, boulevard infractions, zoning and noise complaints.

In addition, officers processed and closed all pending towing permit applications.

Grease and Soils

The Grease Officer remains diligent in inspecting food establishments while maintaining a focus on education and voluntary compliance. Inspection volume continues to increase due to a recent position upgrade from part-time to full-time status.

The Soil Officer remains engaged in the investigation of files that require ongoing monitoring, inspection and liaison with various departments and external agencies. In particular, a stop-work-order has been issued for unauthorized fill activity along River Road.

Parking and Animal Control

Parking and Animal Control Officers remain proactive in patrolling for non-moving traffic violations and continue to place priority on safety and liability issues (fire hydrants, crosswalks, school zones). The number of violations issued during February declined due to numerous factors including, pay-parking zone closures due to road work, developments and enforcement impediments caused by extraordinary snowfall.

Dog licencing season is off to a strong start with approximately 75 per cent of all licence renewals processed for 2017.

Financial Impact

The following information represents an analysis of Parking Program Revenue for February 2017, in comparison to the previous month as well as the same month last year.

Consolidated Revenue

Monthly revenue from meter, permit and enforcement operations totalled \$113,822 and year to date revenue totalled \$273,183. This represents a decrease of 29 per cent compared to the previous month and a decrease of 34 per cent compared to the same month last year.

Meter Revenue

Monthly revenue from meter operations totalled \$51,205 and year-to-date revenue totalled \$104,429. This represents a decrease of four per cent compared to the previous month and a decrease of seven per cent compared to the same month last year.

Ongoing road improvement projects, such as Leslie Road combined with multiple developments within the city, continue to adversely affect the revenue for pay parking.

Permit Revenue

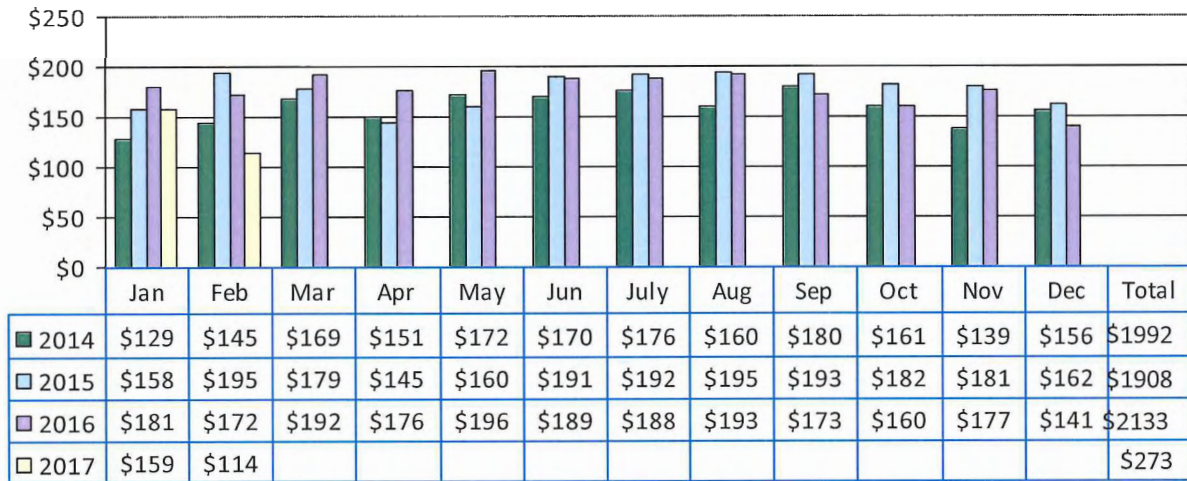
Monthly revenue from permit operations totalled \$9,113 and year-to-date revenue totalled \$40,606. This represents a decrease of 71 per cent compared to the previous month and a decrease of 32 per cent compared to the same month last year.

With temporary road closures due to development and road improvements, permit holders affected by these activities were issued refunds. The closure of the Lansdowne/Firbridge Way permit zone, due to development, incurred a loss of 50 on-street permits. It should be noted that the sale of permits typically occurs in the first two months of a new year; therefore, revenues are lower as the year progresses.

Enforcement Revenue

Monthly revenue from enforcement operations totalled \$53,504 and year-to-date revenue totalled \$128,113. This represents a decrease of 28 per cent compared to the previous month and a decrease of 48 per cent compared to the same month last year. The emergent issue of short-term rentals and the direction to address this matter has resulted in the temporary re-deployment of Community Bylaws staff.

Figure 1: Consolidated Parking Program Revenue Comparison (000's)



Conclusion

Community Bylaw staff strive to maintain the quality of life and the safety of residents through coordinated efforts with other City departments and community partners. Staff remain committed to educating the public and promoting a culture of voluntary compliance.

Ron Graham
 Acting Manager, Community Bylaws
 (604-247-4601)

CT:sl

Att. 1: Activity Summary - Property Use, Grease, Soils, Parking and Animal Control

1. Property Use Activity

A total of 493 new files were opened for the month of February 2017. This activity represents an increase of 58 per cent compared to the number of files handled during the previous month and an increase of 101 per cent compared to the number of files handled during the same month last year. The sharp increase is due to the fact that out of the 493 new files, 329 were associated to snow removal.

At present 24 residences remain on the “Abandoned /Vacant Home Joint Operations” list, which staff continues to monitor.

Figure 1a: Property Use, Grease and Soils Service Demand Comparison

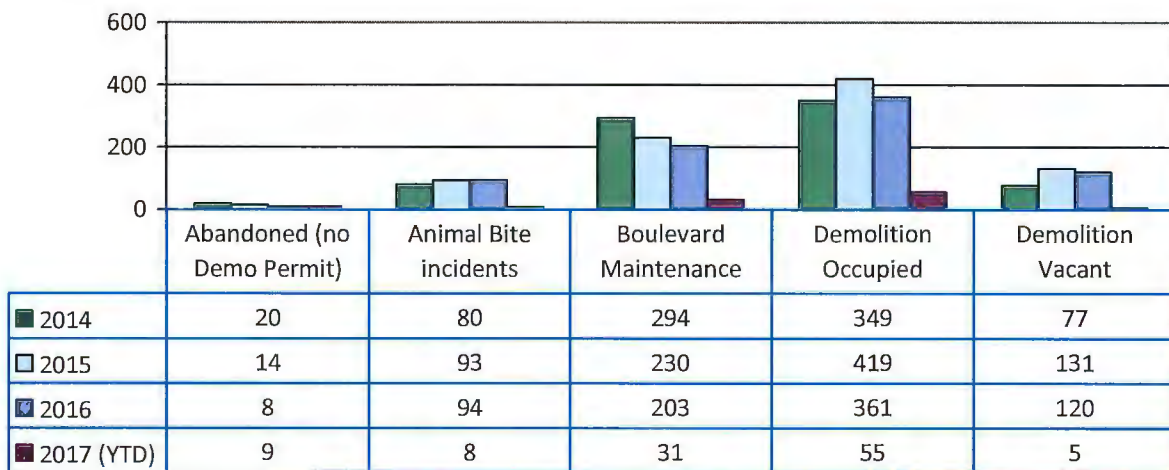


Figure 1b: Property Use, Grease and Soils Service Demand Comparison

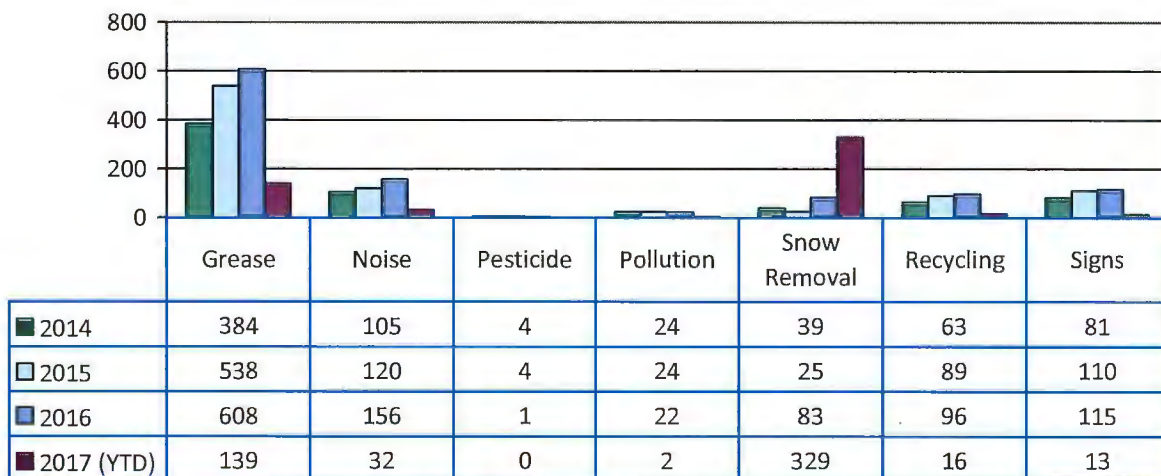
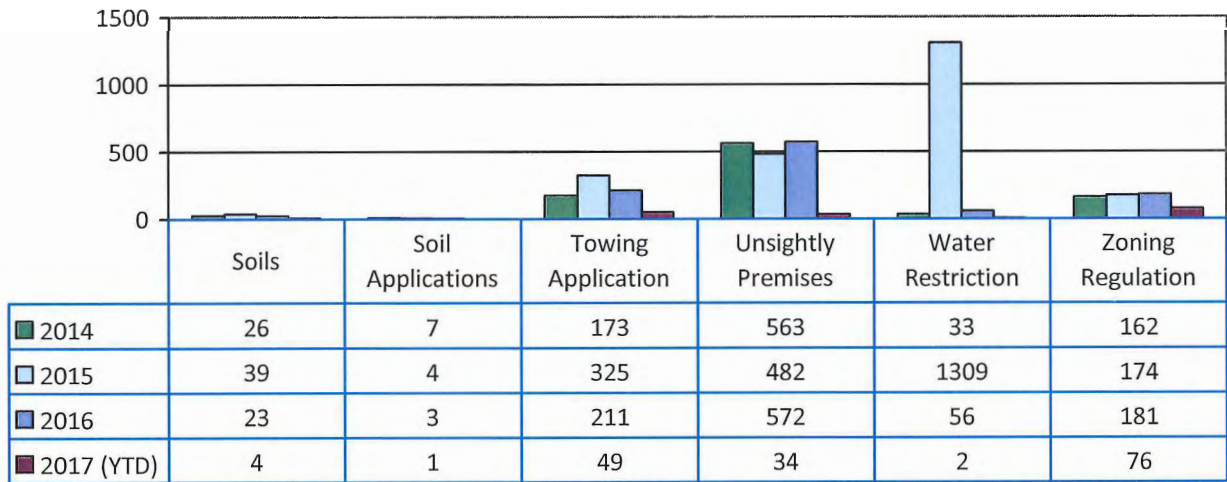


Figure 1c: Property Use, Grease and Soils Service Demand Comparison



2. Grease and Soils Activity

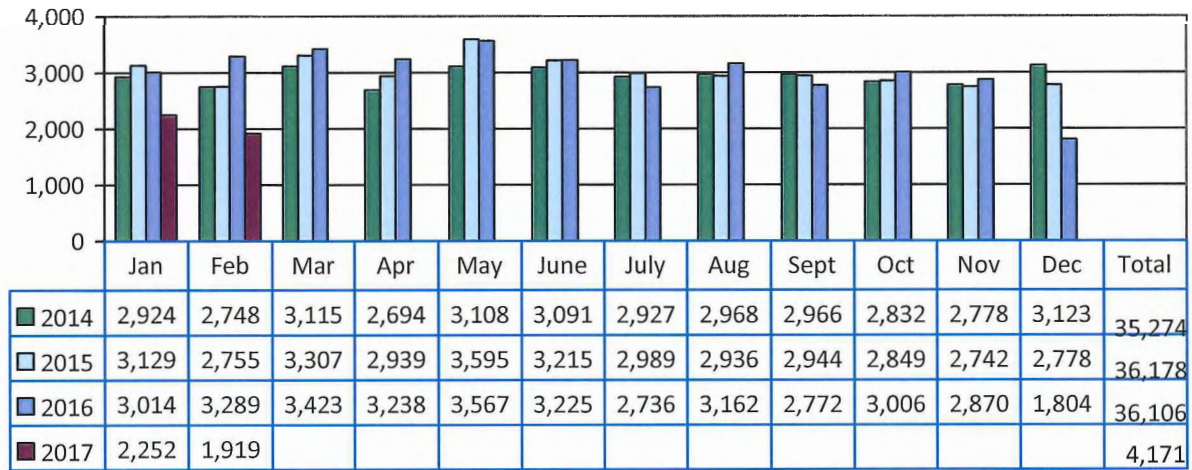
A total of 73 grease-trap inspections were conducted during the month of February 2017. This resulted in the issuance of two warnings and three fines for non-compliant activity.

A total of 32 soil files remain under active investigation including several “Non-Farm Use” soil applications and one stop-work-order.

3. Parking Activity

A total of 1,919 violations were issued for parking offences during the month of February 2017. This activity represents a decrease of 17 per cent compared to the number of violations issued during the previous month and a decrease of 71 per cent compared to the number of violations issued during the same month last year. Education, compliance and safety continue to be the focal point for officers.

Figure 2: Parking Violation Issuance Comparison



A total of 63 violations were cancelled during the month of February 2017. The following table provides a breakdown of common reasons for fine withdrawal pursuant to Council Grounds for Cancellation - Policy No. 1100.

Figure 3: Parking Violation Cancellation Comparison

Section 2.1 (a)	Identity issues	9
Section 2.1 (b)	Exception specified under this bylaw or other bylaw	4
Section 2.1 (c)	Poor likelihood of success at adjudication for the City	6
Section 2.1 (d)	Contravention was necessary for the preservation for health & safety	0
Section 2.1 (e)	Multiple violations issued for one incident	3
Section 2.1 (f)	Not in the public interest	6
Section 2.1 (g)	Proven effort to comply	35
	TOTAL:	63

4. Adjudication Activity

An adjudication hearing was held on February 28, 2017. A total of five cases were heard resulting in three violations being upheld and two violations being dismissed.

The next adjudication hearing is scheduled for May 23, 2017.

5. Animal Control Activity

A total of 114 new dog licences were issued during the month of February 2017. This activity represents a decrease of 1 per cent compared to the number of new licences issued during the previous month and a decrease of 36 per cent compared to the number of new licences issued during the same month last year. The decrease can be attributed to an overall increase of new licenses in 2016 which resulted in a higher number of renewal licenses.

Year to date approximately 5651 dog licences have been renewed and or purchased for 2017. A total of 7700 dogs are expected to be licenced by the end of the year.

Seven animal control violations were issued during the month of February 2017. These violations are typically associated with failure to produce a dog license, failure to leash a dog or failure to pick up dog excrement. Three new dog bite files were opened during February and remain under active investigation.