



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Ron Beaman
Acting Fire Chief
Re: Cost Recovery for Inspection Program

Date: September 25, 2008
File: 09-5140-01/2008-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the "Cost Recovery for Inspection Program" report (dated September 25, 2008) from the Acting Fire Chief be received for information.

Ron Beaman
Acting Fire Chief
(604-303-2701)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES 22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the November 10, 2006 Community Safety Committee meeting, Richmond Fire-Rescue was requested to consider a cost-recovery model for re-inspections as part of the Fire Bylaw. The Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw No. 8306, adopted by Council on June 23, 2008, addressed various avenues for cost recovery for fire services, including inspections. The Bylaw provides opportunities to direct the costs of the expenses incurred by the Fire Department to the responsible parties who request the service(s) or contravene the Bylaw.

Analysis

Prior to the adoption of the Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw, all inspections were conducted at no cost to the citizens. The Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw now provides for recovery of costs for a variety of inspections, re-inspections and other costs associated with the inspection through fees and/or fines. The table below defines the inspections and associated fees.

INSPECTION/RE-INSPECTION DESCRIPTION	FEE
<p>Permit Inspection</p> <p>When application is made for a permit an inspection may be required by the Fire Department for matters such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open-air burning • storage, handling or use/disposal of flammable or combustible liquids • installation of fuel dispensing pumps • building occupancy loads <p>The cost of the permit inspection is charged to the applicant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$80 for the first hour • \$50 for every additional hour or part thereof
<p>Code/Bylaw Compliance Inspection</p> <p>When application is made to determine code or bylaw compliance, an inspection fee is charged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 for 4 storeys or less, and less than 914 m² per floor • \$300 for 4 storeys or less, and between 914 and 1524 m² per floor • \$500 for 5 storeys or more, and between 914 and 1524 m² per floor • \$700 for 5 storeys or more, and over 1524 m² per floor

INSPECTION/RE-INSPECTION DESCRIPTION	FEE
<p>Inspection/Re-inspection as a Result of Order</p> <p>After an order has been issued under this Bylaw, an inspection fee is charged.</p> <p>After a re-inspection or follow-up inspection to an order, an inspection fee is charged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$80 for the first hour • \$50 for subsequent hours or part of hour

It is important to note that the payment of these fees does not relieve a person from other fees or fines prescribed under this Bylaw or other legislation. Consequently, when an inspection occurs and a bylaw violation or non-compliance is determined, further enforcement may occur via a ticket and fine under the Municipal Ticket Information Authorization Bylaw, or a fine of up to \$10,000 may be charged upon conviction.

Furthermore, if the owner or occupier is in default of the order and there are associated costs incurred by the City of Richmond, then the owner/occupier is also responsible for the actual costs and expenses.

There are no additional expenditures related to the inspections in 2008.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

Conclusion

In the past, the City of Richmond's Fire-Rescue Department has provided all inspection services at no cost to premise owners/occupiers.

The fee provisions within the new Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw will:

1. Bring in additional revenue;
2. Shift the financial burden of repeat inspections to the party(ies) responsible; and,
3. Encourage the property owners/occupiers to rectify non-compliance matters sooner.



Kim Howell
Deputy Chief - Administration
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