



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** February 24, 2017  
**From:** Ron Graham **File:** 12-8060-20-005870  
 Acting Manager, Community Bylaws  
**Re:** **Proposed Amendment to Traffic Bylaw No. 5870**

### Staff Recommendation

1. That Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 9689 be introduced and given first, second and third readings; and
2. That Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 9690 be introduced and given first, second and third readings.

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

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>  Engineering Roads & Construction Law	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> <sup>(Acting)</sup>  
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>  DW	<b>APPROVED BY GAO</b>  

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report responds to a referral from the Community Safety Committee meeting January 10, 2017.

*That staff review bylaw 5870, section 6.1, to analyze potential amendments to include single-family homes and enforcement measures with regard to snow clearing regulations and report back.*

Currently, Section 6.1 of the Traffic Bylaw obligates owners/occupiers of commercial, industrial and multi-family dwellings (other than duplexes) to remove snow and ice from adjacent sidewalks no later than 10:00 a.m. everyday.

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

#### Background

Relative to the remainder of the province the majority of lower mainland municipalities experience negligible annual snowfall. This is due to our temperate climate and, in the case of Richmond, the City's proximity to sea level. Historically average annual snowfall within the lower mainland has remained unremarkable except on two occasions, the first being the winter of 2008 - 2009 and the second being this past winter of 2016 - 2017.

<b>Weather History</b>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Snowfall (cm)	109	26	17	24	27	12	26	0	28	36
<i>Annual snowfall within Vancouver British Columbia courtesy of "weatherstats.ca"</i>										

In conjunction, the City of Richmond has grown by about 10 per cent since the 2006 census and property development over the past decade has led to considerable City densification.

The combination of these events resulted in an extraordinary increase in snow-clearing complaints from the public during the winter of 2016 - 2017. Prior to 2016 the City processed about a dozen complaints per year. However, this season alone, the City processed 106 such complaints representing nearly an 80 per cent increase. Further, it is estimated that 25 per cent of these complaints are associated with single family homes.

In response to the rise in complaints the Community Bylaw Department launched an educational initiative, which sought to remind the public of their responsibility to remove snow and ice from City sidewalks. Consequently, bylaw officers attended 242 local businesses and strata complexes in an effort to promote compliance. The existing snow-clearing regulations, set out in the City's Traffic Bylaw, do not require owner and residents of single family homes and duplexes to clear snow from sidewalks.

## Regulations

Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Section 6.1, stipulates the following, which does not currently apply to single family homes or duplexes:

*The owner or occupier of any parcel of real property which is developed for, or used in whole or in part for, commercial, industrial or multi-family dwelling use other than a two-family dwelling shall remove all snow and ice from any sidewalk adjacent to such parcel for a distance that coincides with the property line of his real property, not later than 10:00 a.m. of everyday, including Sunday.*

## **Recommendation**

### Proposed Amendment to Traffic Bylaw No. 5870

It is recommended that Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 be amended by replacing Section 6.1 with the following so that owners and occupants of all commercial industrial or residential properties in the City must remove all snow and ice from their adjacent sidewalks no later than 10:00 a.m. every day:

*The owner or occupier of any parcel of real property which is developed for, or used in whole or in part for commercial, industrial, multi-family dwelling, or single-family dwelling use shall remove all snow and ice from any sidewalk adjacent to such parcel for a distance that coincides with the property line of their real property, not later than 10:00 a.m. of everyday, including Sunday.*

Traffic Bylaw No.5870. Amendment Bylaw No. 9689 is attached to this report.

### Proposed Amendments to Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122

In order to increase compliance with snow removal obligations, a penalty is recommended to be added to the Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, such that each failure to remove snow and ice from sidewalks will be subject to a penalty of \$70 per incidence. Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122. Amendment Bylaw No. 9690 is attached to this report.

## **Financial Impact**

There may be an initial increase in ticketing revenue following adoption of the bylaw amendments. It is anticipated that the amount of tickets issued during the heavy snow fall in the winter months will level off once the general public becomes familiar with the new snow removal regulations.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed bylaw amendments would expand the existing snow clearing regulations to apply to single family homes and duplexes. It will also apply a bylaw violation notice and fine if snow is not cleared.

February 24, 2017

- 4 -

In addition, the penalty for not clearing snow or ice from sidewalks may increase compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Graham".

Ron Graham  
Acting Manager, Community Bylaws

RG:rg

- Att. 1: Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 9689
- 2: Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 9690



**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870  
Amendment Bylaw No. 9689**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

- 1. **Traffic Bylaw No. 5870**, as amended, is further amended at Section 6 – “[Obstruction of Traffic]” by replacing the existing paragraph 6.1 with the following:

“6.1 The **owner** or occupier of any parcel of real property which is developed for, or used in whole or in part for, commercial, industrial, multi-family dwelling, or single-family dwelling use shall remove all snow and ice from any sidewalk adjacent to such parcel for a distance that coincides with the property line of their real property, not later than 10:00 a.m. of everyday, including Sunday.”.

- 2. This Bylaw is cited as “**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 9689**”.

FIRST READING

\_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING

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THIRD READING

\_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED

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CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept. <i>[Signature]</i>
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor <i>[Signature]</i>

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

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



Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 9690

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

- 1. Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, as amended, is further amended by adding the following to the beginning of the Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 (1992) portion of Schedule A of Bylaw No. 8122:

Table with 8 columns: A1 Bylaw, A2 Description of Contravention, A3 Section, A4 Compliance Agreement Available, A5 Penalty, A6 Early Payment Option, A7 Late Payment Amount, A8 Compliance Agreement Discount. Row 1: Period of Time from Receipt (inclusive), n/a, 29 to 60 days, 1 to 28 days, 61 days or more, n/a. Row 2: Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 (1992), Failure to clear snow from sidewalk (commercial, industrial and residential), 6.1, No, \$ 70.00, \$ 45.00, \$ 95.00, n/a.

- 2. This Bylaw is cited as "Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 9690".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

MAYOR

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CORPORATE OFFICER

CITY OF RICHMOND APPROVED for content by originating Division [Signature] APPROVED for legality by Solicitor [Signature]