



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: September 15, 2016

From: John McGowan
Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety

File: 12-8060-01/20-Vol01

Re: Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – August 2016

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report –August 2016”, dated September 15, 2016, from the General Manager, Law & Community Safety, be received for information.

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

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Finance Division	<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, Parking Animal Control and Grease Inspections.

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

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

Property Use

Property Use Officers continue to focus on unsightly premises, vacant properties, construction noise and illegal signage (e.g. Real Estate Boards). It is typical for complaints of this nature to increase during the summer months.

Officers remain active despite the reported decrease of 67% in property use enforcement (Attachment 1). File activity has increased 9% month over month. The year over year anomaly is the result of an exceptional decrease in water restriction files compared to last year. During August 2015, Community Bylaws handled 533 Water Restriction files, as compared to 16 such files handled during August 2016. This is a result of Metro Vancouver only reaching a "Stage 2" water restriction level in 2016, as opposed to the "Stage 3" water restriction level that was put in place for most of the 2015 season.

In addition, the property use section continues to allocate its resources towards investigating illegal hotels and bed and breakfasts (B&B's). The number of complaints related to illegal hotels and B&B's received by Community Bylaws has increased from 26 complaints in 2015 to 82 complaints year to date 2016.

Several staff were trained and are now able to perform grease inspections during scheduled or unforeseen absences. Grease Inspections resumed in August with file activity quickly rising to traditional levels.

Parking and Animal Control

Community Bylaw Officers continue to conduct patrols for a variety of traffic infractions resulting in a 15% increase in violations month over month and sustained revenues year over year.

Animal Control Officers continue to canvas for unlicensed dogs which resulted in 254 new dog licences being issued during the month. In addition, officers patrol City dykes, trails and parks, which have resulted in the issuance of 66 violations during the month of August for various dog infractions.

Permit revenue increased by 75% year over year, however, this was due largely to an "accounting adjustment" (i.e. Car2Go). As anticipated, permit revenues actually remain stable because of limited on-street parking availability and the closure of numerous permit zones due to construction.

Meter revenue decreased by 14% year over year, however, meter revenues continue to exceed revenue targets by 38%. This reflects not only a measure of increased public compliance, but also improved meter reliability and functionality.

Financial Impact

The following information is a month by month analysis of August 2016 compared to August 2015.

Consolidated Parking Program Revenue:

Consolidated meter, permit and enforcement revenue decreased by 0.8% over the same period last year to \$193,112 in August 2016 from \$194,741 in August 2015. The year to date budget for parking revenue is \$1,183,288 and actual parking program revenue is \$1,487,228.

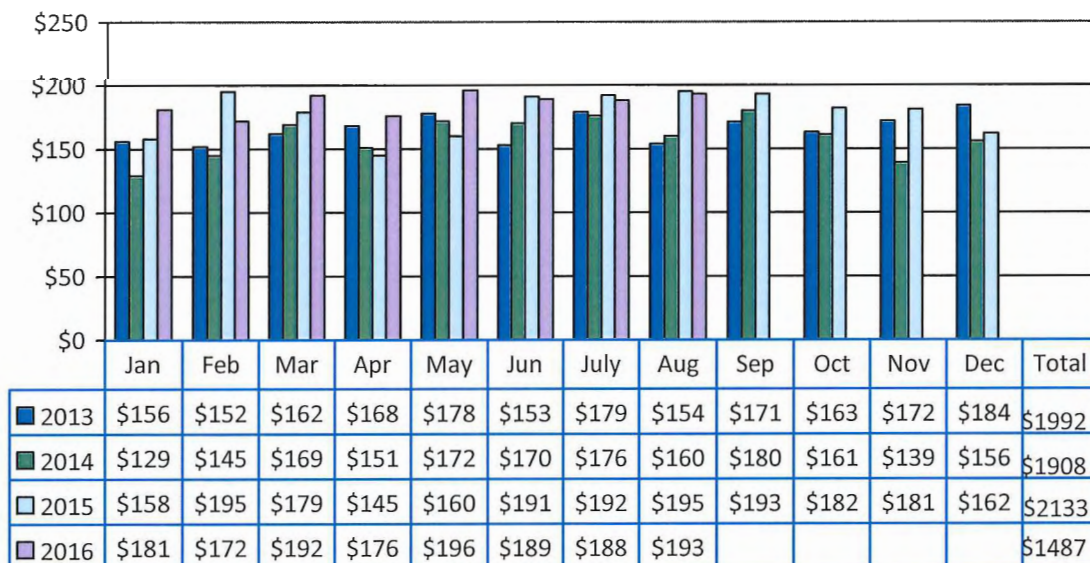
Meter Revenue decreased by 14.4% over the same period last year to \$58,003 in August 2016 from \$67,791 in August 2015. The year to date budget for meter revenue is \$368,124 and actual meter revenue is \$508,391.

Permit Revenue increased by 75 % over the same period last year to \$20,128 in August 2016 from \$11,501 in August 2015 (refer to explanation under “Parking and Animal Control”). The year to date budget for permit revenue is \$83,403 and actual permit revenue is \$144,284.

Enforcement Revenue decreased 0.4% over the same period last year to \$114,980 in August 2016 from \$115,449 in August 2015. The year to date budget for enforcement revenue is \$731,761 and actual enforcement revenue is \$834,553.

Figure 1 compares *consolidated revenue* by month from 2013 to 2016:

Figure 1: Consolidated Parking Revenue (000's)



Conclusion

The property section continues to focus on seasonally driven files such as boulevard obstructions and unsightly properties, while grease inspections resumed in August. Further, due to an increased number of complaints bylaw staff allocated considerable resources towards investigating illegal hotels and B&B's.

The pay-parking program remains strong reflecting sustained activity in both meter and permit revenue, including corresponding strength in enforcement revenue. As a result, consolidated parking program revenue continues to exceed year to date targets.



Ben Dias
Manager, Community Bylaws (604-247-4601)

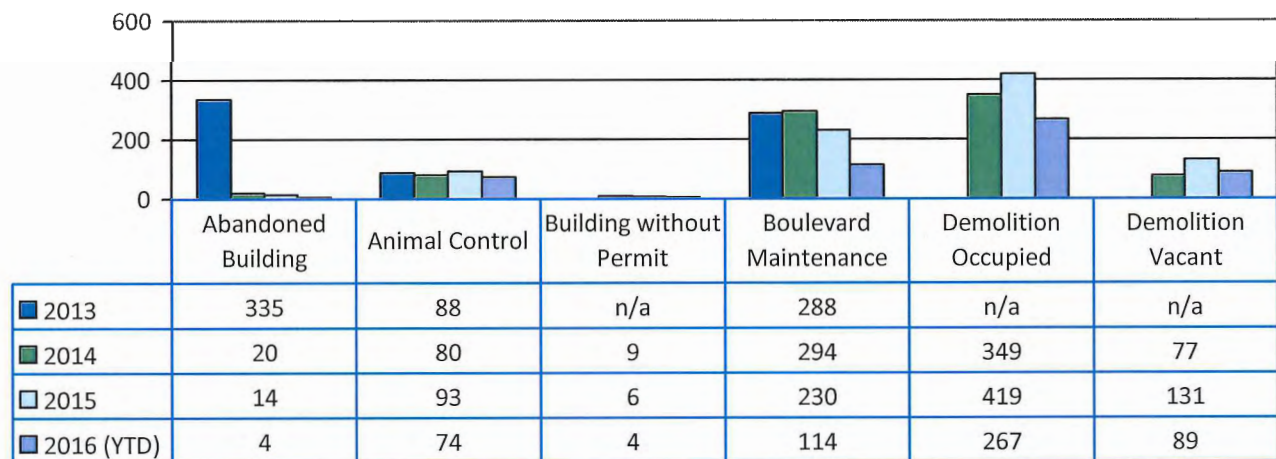
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Att. 1: Property Use and Parking – Enforcement Activity

1. Property Use

Community Bylaw Property Use Officers handled 238 new investigational files during the month of August 2016. This activity represents an increase of 9.2% compared to the number of files handled in July 2016 and decrease of 66.9% compared to the number of files handled in August 2015.

Currently there are 21 residences on “Abandoned /Vacant Home Joint Operations” list, which staff continues to actively monitor.

Figure 1a: Service Demand Comparison



1. In 2013 all vacant properties were categorized as abandoned buildings. As of 2014 three other categories were created – “Demolition Occupied”, “Demolition Vacant” and “Vacant Building”.
2. Animal Control in these charts is in reference to dangerous dog investigations.

Figure 1b: Service Demand Comparison

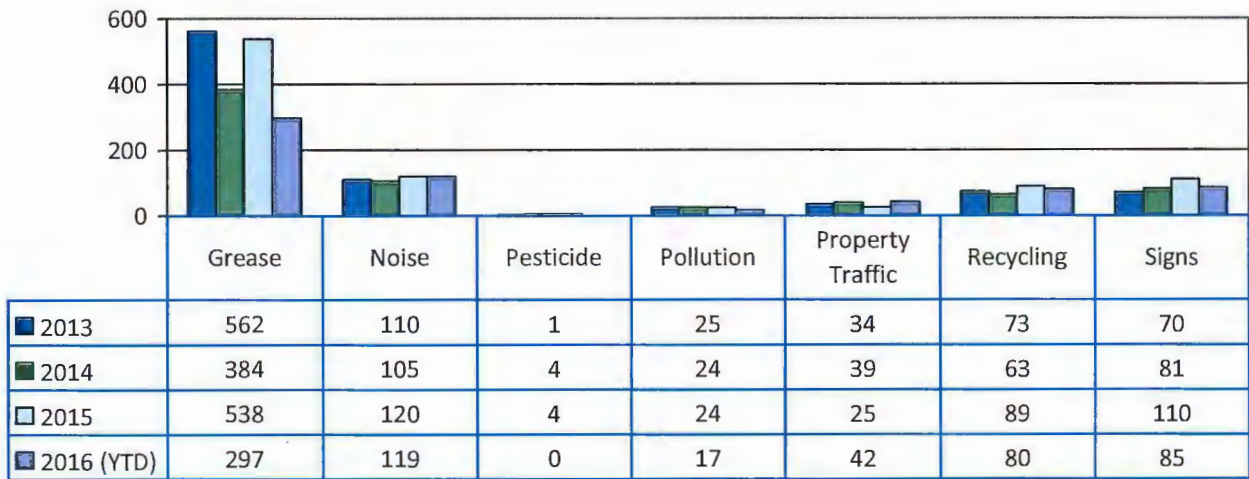
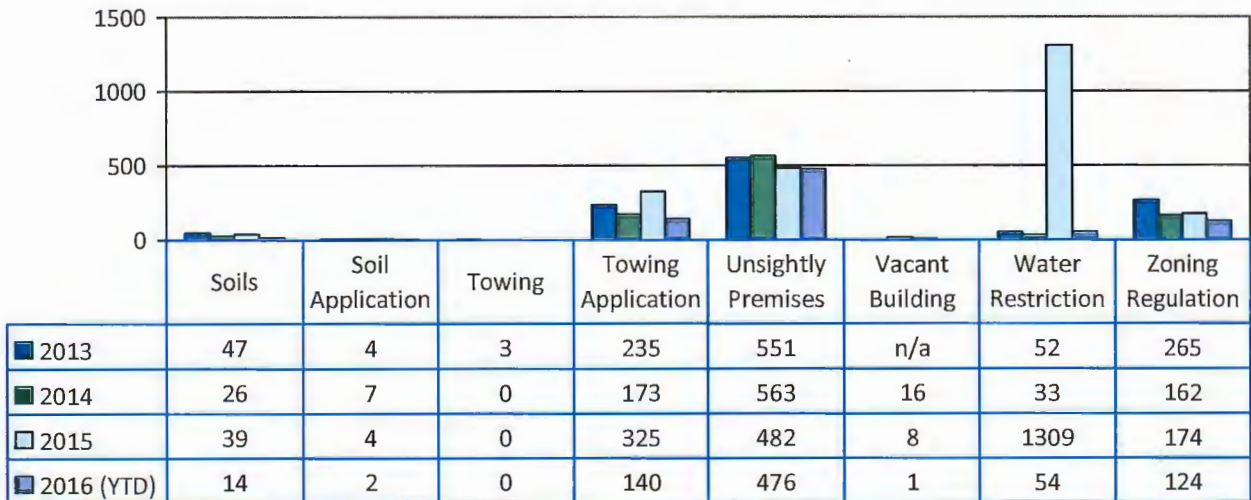


Figure 1c: Service Demand Comparison



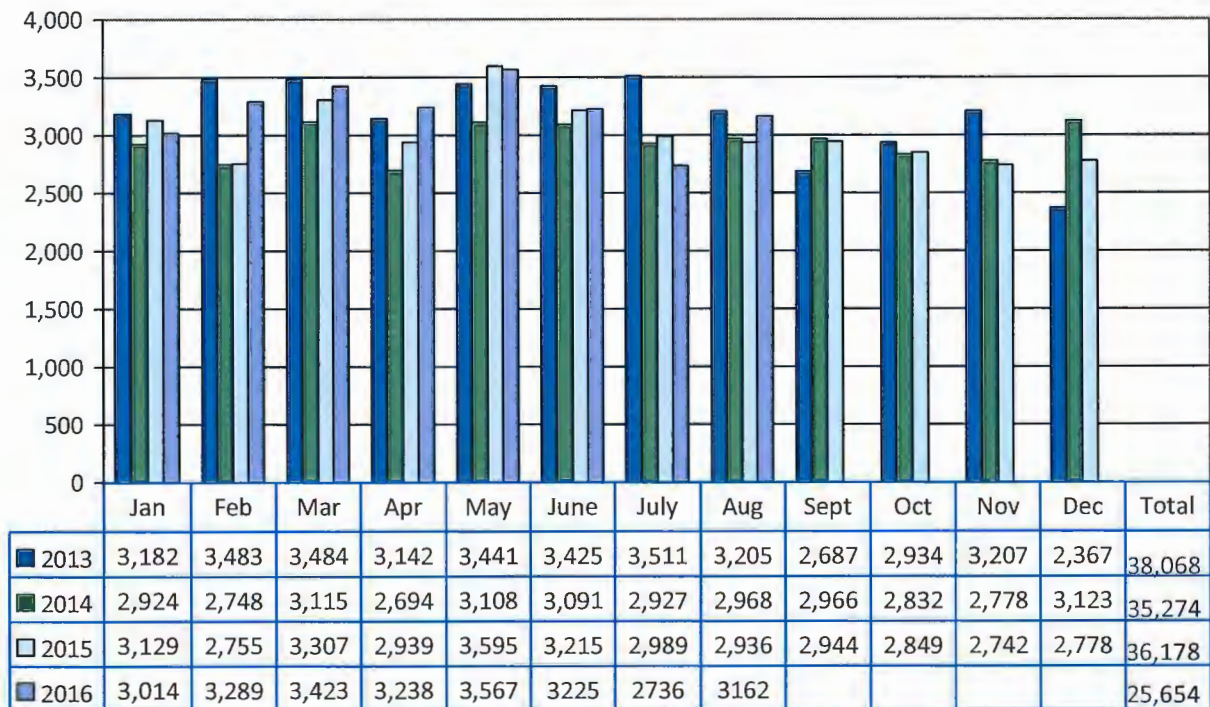
2. Grease Management Program

Grease Inspections resumed during the month of August with a total of 80 inspections being conducted. This resulted in the issuance of ten “Warnings” and three “Fines” for non-compliance.

3. Parking Program

A total of 3,162 violations were issued for parking, safety and liability infractions during the month of August 2016. This activity represents an increase of 15.6% compared to the number of violations that were issued in July 2016 and an increase of 7.7% compared to the number of violations that were issued in August 2015.

Figure 2: 2013 - 2016 Comparison for Parking Violations Issued



In August 2016, 108 violations or 3.4% of all infractions issued were subsequently changed to warnings. The following table provides a breakdown of the common reasons for the cancellation of bylaws violation notices pursuant to Council's Grounds for Cancellation Policy No. 1100 under specific sections.

Figure 3: *Ticket Cancellations for August 2016*

Section 2.1 (a)	Identity issues	16
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	19
Section 2.1 (d)	Contravention was necessary for the preservation for health and safety	0
Section 2.1 (e)	Multiple violations issued for one incident	7
Section 2.1 (f)	Not in the public interest	6
Section 2.1 (g)	Proven effort to comply	56
—	Total	108

4. Adjudication Program

A total of nine cases were reviewed during the September 27 adjudication hearing with all nine charges being upheld by the adjudicator. The next adjudication hearing is scheduled for November 29, 2016.

5. Animal Control

Community Bylaws issued 125 new dog licences during the month of August 2016. This activity represents a decrease of 17.2% compared to the number of licences issued in July 2016 and a decrease of 20.9% compared to the number of licences issued in August 2015.

In August 2016, 28 animal control tickets were issued related to various dog violations, including failure to produce a dog license, failure to leash a dog and failure to pick up dog excrement. The Officers conducted patrols of the following locations:

- Garry Point Park
- Railway Shared Pathway
- West Dyke Trail
- North Dyke Trail
- Steveston Community Park
- Great West Cannery Park (South Cove)
- T. Homma Neighbourhood School Park
- Diefenbaker Neighbourhood Park
- Talmey Neighbourhood Park
- McDonald Beach
- Terra Nova Natural Area
- Terra Nova Rural Park
- Manoah Steeves Neighbourhood Park
- Imperial Landing Park
- Britannia Heritage Shipyard Park
- Great West Cannery Park (South Cove)
- T. Homma Neighbourhood School Park
- Garden City Community Park
- Shell Road Trail
- West Dyke Trail

As of the end of August 2016 there were 7491 dogs licensed within the City including 110 dangerous dog licenses. During this same period public reports of dog bites resulted in seven dangerous dog investigations.