



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Suzanne Bycraft
Manager, Emergency & Environmental Programs

Date: June 23, 2004
File: 10-6125-04-14/2004-Vol 01

Re: **Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989 Amendment Bylaw No. 7744 (Mosquito Control)**

Staff Recommendation

That Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989 Amendment Bylaw No. 7744 (Mosquito Control) be introduced and given first, second and third readings.

Suzanne Bycraft
Manager, Emergency & Environmental Programs
(3338)

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Law.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>			
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

On April 26, 2004, Council approved a proposal to retain Richmond Health Services to undertake a Proactive Larviciding Program and a Catch Basin study to combat the potential spread of West Nile Virus. In approving this program, Council further directed:

“That staff bring forward a bylaw amendment which would provide additional regulatory means to assist Richmond Health Services in controlling mosquito populations on private property.”

This report presents the amendment bylaw for Council’s consideration.

Analysis

The City’s West Nile Virus abatement/larviciding program targets treatment of mosquito populations on City property. The control of mosquito populations on private property is the property owner’s responsibility. The Regional Health Authority has overall responsibility for enforcement of health-related issues on both public and private lands under the Health Act. The addition of local regulations would benefit Richmond Health Services in enforcing mosquito control on private property. Similar bylaws have been enacted throughout the lower mainland to control the presence of standing water on private property. Proposed amendment bylaw 7744:

- Requires that owners not permit water to accumulate and/or remove any standing water or other debris which could provide harbourage for mosquito breeding sites. In addition, it requires that owners make appropriate alterations, etc. to ensure that buildings, structures, drainage pipes, etc. do not provide harbourage for mosquito breeding sites.
- Provides the authority for the Medical Health Officer to enter onto lands/buildings for inspection purposes and to order persons to take action to control mosquitoes.
- Authorizes the Medical Health Officer to take necessary actions to control mosquitoes and add the related charges to the property taxes.

In the majority of cases, property owners are responsive and will comply with requests by Richmond Health Services. The proposed amendment bylaw provides an additional enforcement tool and cost collection mechanism in the event property owners fail to comply.

Financial Impact

Bylaw 7744 is proposed as a tool to support Richmond Health Services in their responsibility for enforcing actions to control potential mosquito breeding sites on private property. Therefore, there is no cost to the City associated with adopting this bylaw.

Conclusion

Bylaw 7744 represents a positive measure to mitigate the number of mosquito breeding areas on private property. This will add another step in the City’s proactive approach to help combat the potential spread of West Nile Virus in the city.



**PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION BYLAW NO. 6989 AMENDMENT
BYLAW NO. 7744 (MOSQUITO CONTROL)**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. The Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989 is amended by deleting Subdivision 5 in its entirety and substituting the following:

**“SUBDIVISION FIVE: MOSQUITOES AND RODENT
(COMMUNICABLE DISEASE) CONTROL REGULATION**

PART 5.1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

5.1.1 Prohibitions

5.1.1.1 A person must not:

- (a) keep or store any waste products, construction material or debris, refuse or other material in such a manner as to provide shelter, refuge or food for **rodents**;
- (b) allow or permit the accumulation of waste food products, animal feed or any other foodstuffs on any property within the **City**, unless such waste food products, animal feed or any other foodstuffs are properly contained or properly disposed of so as not to provide a food source for **rodents**;
- (c) keep or maintain any animals or birds in such a manner so as to provide shelter, refuge or food for **rodents**; or,
- (d) cause or permit water, construction material or debris, refuse or other material to collect or accumulate in such a manner as to provide **mosquito** breeding sites.

5.1.2 Obligations

5.1.2.1 Every person must:

- (a) construct, repair or alter any buildings, structures, plumbing, drainage pipes or any other item to ensure that **rodents** or **mosquitoes** do not have access to the building, provide **rodent** harbourage or **mosquito** breeding sites;
- (b) destroy or eliminate any food which is unfit for human consumption, by reason of contamination by **rodents**;
- (c) remove any water, construction material or debris, refuse or other material to ensure that they cannot use the site for **mosquito** breeding.

5.1.3 Authority of Medical Health Officer

5.1.3.1 The **Medical Health Officer** is authorized to enter onto any land or into any buildings for the purpose of determining the presence of **rodents** or **mosquitoes** on such property, and may order any person to take steps which are necessary to control **rodents** or **mosquitoes** on that property.

5.1.3.2 In the event the order given under the authority of subsection 5.1.3.1 is not complied with, the **Medical Health Officer** is further authorized to enter the property in order to carry out terms of the order to control **rodents** or **mosquitoes**, and in the event the costs are not paid within 30 days after being invoiced, the amount outstanding may be added to and form part of the taxes payable on the property as taxes in arrears.”

2. The Public Health Protection Bylaw No. 6989 is further amended by adding the following definitions in alphabetic order to Subdivision 8: Interpretation:

“**ENDEMIC** means the constant presence of a disease or infectious agent within a given geographic area.”

“**MOSQUITO** means any insect of the Order Diptera, Family Culicidae, capable of transmitting an **endemic** disease to humans.”

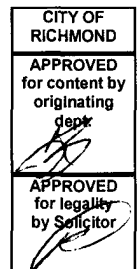
3. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the **Public Health Protection Bylaw 6989, Amendment Bylaw No. 7744.**

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED



MAYOR

CITY CLERK