

FILE: 4020-01

DATE: August 7, 2019

TO: Chair and Directors
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Bylaw Enforcement Semi-Annual Report

Purpose

To keep the Electoral Areas Services Committee (EASC) informed of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) bylaw enforcement files and activities.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

For information purposes only.

Executive Summary

This report references January 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019. Some highlights of this reporting period include:

- 102 files have been opened to date this year.
- An Area C resident challenged an issued ticket on a barking dog where the dog was left alone for long periods of time and neighbours had complained numerous times to staff and animal control regarding a barking/howling dog. This matter is currently before the courts and will likely be scheduled for trial in the fall.
- Bylaw staff has begun filing claims for unpaid tickets with the BC Government Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT). This new process is being employed by Bylaw to collect outstanding fines and costs. The CRT is an online version of small claims court. To date the process has been 100 per cent successful.
- 38 Municipal Ticket Information's (MTIs) were issued during this reporting period.
- Bylaw staff completed 15 patrols of CVRD Parks and assisted Parks with a Sunday patrol to identify unauthorized use of the Royston Cumberland Trail by all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles and vehicles.
- Additionally, staff have also scheduled Sunday Parks patrols during the summer with the primary aim of identifying and reducing park bylaw violations.
- Staff have received an increase in formal complaints regarding odors related to Cannabis being grown in residential areas, and have successfully achieved compliance and concluded files.

The Bylaw Enforcement Policy requires that detailed reports are maintained on all bylaw enforcement activities, in addition to regular reporting of enforcement activity.

Prepared by:

Concurrence:

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Background/Current Situation

This semi-annual report is for the period of January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019.

- Within this reporting period there have been 110 files opened of which 17 were illegal dumping;
- Within this reporting period there have been 92 files closed.

Further to the above file statistics, within this reporting period bylaw staff have fielded

- 760 phone calls related to specific enforcement files
- 468 phone calls of general enforcement inquiries

Bylaw staff continue to notice an increase in email complaints, inquiries and communication with the majority of new files generated by complaints submitted electronically.

Some notable successes for CVRD Animal Control for this reporting period include:

- 1,092 dog licenses have been sold to June 2019.
- CVRD Animal Control Officers investigated 44 barking dog complaints, 14 aggressive incidents, which included one dog bite and 91 reports of dogs at large.
- CVRD Animal Control were also involved with 15 incidents where animals were impounded and they conducted 481 park and trail patrols.

Options

This report is presented for information purposes only.

Financial Factors

There are no specific financial costs for this reporting period...

Legal Factors

Bylaw staff prepare and process all disputed MTIs issued by the CVRD Bylaw and Building staff as well as any issued by RCMP or Animal Control officers. Bylaw Compliance staff established a system to review any fine disputes, which has greatly assisted in having fines paid and mediation with property owners without having to attend court. Staff now utilize the Province's CRT to collect unpaid MTIs and have been successful on our first case of outstanding fines on an unsightly property.

Regional Growth Strategy Implications

Compliance is achieved on unsightly premises files while working with property owners and tenants that may be living in hazardous or unhealthy living conditions. A sound methodology in negotiating compliance achieves the aim of supporting a quality of life through the protection and enhancement of community health, safety and well-being.

Intergovernmental Factors

Often compliance is achieved on our enforcement files with the help of outside agencies such as RCMP, Corps of Commissionaires for Animal Control, Agricultural Land Commission, M'akola Housing Society, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure along with their roads contractor, BC Hydro, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resources, Islands Trust, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Interdepartmental Involvement

Bylaw Compliance continues to work closely with the other branches of the CVRD with a variety of enforcement issues, including illegal dumping, enforcement in CVRD parks and issuing MTIs.

Citizen/Public Relations

The CVRD continues to process and respond to all bylaw complaints and inquiries in a timely manner, in addition to utilizing the CVRD website to keep the public informed of changes to legislation. The website has been used to address numerous questions and educate the public on the legalization of non-medical cannabis, dog licensing and firework permits. During this reporting period, work has started on educational videos for land alterations near a watercourse and Development Permit requirements, with the intention to role these out in the fall.