

DATE: November 6, 2019

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Ian Wells, General Manager, Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Parking and Traffic Bylaw and the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Council:

1. Grant first three readings to the "City of Prince George Parking and Traffic Bylaw No. 6056, 1993, Amendment Bylaw No. 9081, 2019"; and
2. Grant first three readings to the "City of Prince George Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 8813, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 9089, 2019"

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to recommend changes to the Parking and Traffic and Bylaw Offence Notice Bylaws that will address gaps in administrative processes, clarify inconsistencies and better reflect the needs of the community.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The recommended changes are consistent with Council's strategy to update and improve systems to ensure appropriate and valid customer service delivery.

DISCUSSION:

Since 1987, the UBCM has administered the Commercial Vehicle Licensing and decal program, originally established with the intent to help municipalities offset the expenses related to the use of local roads by commercial vehicles. It was determined that the original goal no longer was being met, and required significant administration with little financial returns to either the UBCM or participating municipalities. Under the Commercial Vehicle Decal program, owners and operators of vehicles eligible for the decals paid an annual fee ranging from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per vehicle. The revenue provided to the City of Prince George from this program for the past few years has been approximately \$20,000.00 annually. The UBCM has notified municipalities that the program will stop as of December 31, 2019.

While the City of Prince George participated in the program, the only benefit identified by staff was the determination of which vehicles could use specifically marked loading zones or were exempt from timed parking restrictions. Based on the historical revenues, it would be cost prohibitive for the City of Prince George to establish and administer a similar program for these uses.

Bylaw Services has identified the vehicles that would normally require the municipal decals to meet the exemption for timed parking zones and be able to access some loading zones, and are recommending changes to the Parking and Traffic Bylaw that will continue to provide those exemptions, save administrative costs and reduce costs of owners of commercial vehicles.

Vehicles recommended for exemption from timed parking restrictions are as follows:

- Government vehicles being used to perform work requiring the vehicle;
- Vehicles owned by Utility Company performing repairs or installation requiring the vehicle;
- Emergency Vehicles;
- Commercial Vehicles making a delivery or pick up of a commodity, or being used for making a repair or installation of equipment of a bona fide customer;
- Vehicles for Hire with a valid Business License on duty;
- Tow Trucks with a valid Business License on duty;
- Vehicles displaying a valid Veterans License Plate; or
- Vehicles displaying one of the following valid parking permits:
 - Disabled Parking Permit;
 - Residential Parking Permit for the zone it is parked in;
 - City Council Parking Permit;
 - Freedom of the City Parking Permit,
 - Volunteer Parking Permit; or
 - Special Parking Permit.

A Special Parking Permit will be made available to any Social Service agency or Health Care provider, at no cost, for the use of their staff or volunteers while providing services requiring the transportation of clients or patients to and from the downtown or other location having a posted time limit for parking.

Clarification on the timed parking zone restrictions have been included by removing reference to “cumulative” time and outlining that the time starts from the first time a vehicle was parked in the block or zone. These are concerns that routinely are part of disputes and clarifying them should result in less confusion.

Two additional offences are being recommended to be included in the Parking and Traffic Bylaw, as follows:

- Parking in an on street Reserved Stall without authorization; and
- Parking a Vehicle on a highway without license plates or expired license plates.

Both issues are regularly reported to and dealt with by Bylaw Services, and while there are authorities to tow vehicles the need to also ticket the vehicles in violation was identified by enforcement staff.

The prohibition to parking in an alley or lane is being amended to exempt all vehicles while they are actively being used for loading or unloading provided space for passage of other vehicles is left available.

Other recommended amendments include changing and updating definitions, creating several schedules that outline the process to obtain Volunteer, Special and Residential parking permits, and housekeeping items regarding the cancellation to the current Commercial Vehicle decal program.

The recommended changes to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw include:

- The addition of Bylaw Enforcement Officers, Animal Control Officers and Parking Control Officers as Screening Officers for Bylaw Notice disputes;

- Addition of fines for new recommended offences under the Parking and Traffic Bylaw; and
- Change of the fine amount for the parking of a Heavy Vehicle on a street so it is consistent with the fine under the Zoning Bylaw.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Administration supports these recommended amendments that will create a more efficient and effective method for enforcement of the Parking and Traffic Bylaw and take another step in improving processes for enforcement of the City of Prince George Bylaws.

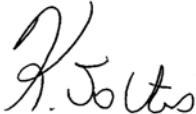
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Ian Wells, General Manager, Planning and Development

PREPARED BY: Fred Crittenden, Manager, Bylaw Services

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: November 18, 2019