



SUBJECT: Temporary Roadside Memorials Policy

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-13-18

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 100-02

Date to Committee: September 10, 2018

Date to Council: September 24, 2018

Recommendation:

Approve the Temporary Roadside Memorials Policy attached as Appendix A to Roads, Parks and Forestry department report RPF-13-18.

Purpose:

An Engaging City

- Good Governance

Background and Discussion:

The City currently does not have a policy regarding the placement, maintenance, or removal of temporary roadside memorials. The memorials can be described as any temporary decoration placed at a site for the purposes of honouring a deceased person after a traffic fatality. The memorials often include such items as flowers, toys, notes, and photos.

Strategy/process

In the absence of a policy, the sensitive nature of temporary roadside memorials creates difficulty for staff, families involved in the tragedy, and residents in addressing issues that arise. Existing policies in Mississauga, Markham, Region of Peel, Region of Durham, City of Toronto, and Region of York have been reviewed in preparation of this policy.

None of the municipalities within Halton Region currently have a policy in place although some have expressed an interest in developing a policy.

This policy would not apply to regional roads within the City of Burlington.

Options considered

The City does not have an encroachment by-law that would address any encroachment, including roadside memorials.

Policies in other municipalities for temporary roadside memorials vary in the size of memorial allowed, duration of time, and reasons for removals. This policy is moderate in permitting a small size memorial, taking into consideration safety of the public and the impact on neighbouring properties and businesses.

Financial Matters:

N/A

Connections:

The Transportation Department has been consulted and provided feedback on the policy.

Public Engagement Matters:

Information and the policy will be placed on the City website and will be shared with Halton Regional Police, Halton Region, Town of Milton, Town of Oakville, and Town of Halton Hills.

Conclusion:

The policy will provide a framework to guide staff when a roadside memorial is installed, reflect maintenance expectations and factors that could result in the relocation or removal of a memorial.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Battaglia

Director – Roads, Parks & Forestry

905-333-6166 x 6134

Appendices:

- A. Corporate Policy: Temporary Roadside Memorials

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.