



SUBJECT: COVID-19 Special Parking Enforcement Areas

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Transportation Services Department

Report Number: TS-17-20

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers:

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: April 20, 2020

Recommendation:

Approve the amendment to the City of Burlington Parking and Idling By-law 39-2016 to establish special enforcement areas and increased fines due to the COVID-19 Emergency, as attached as Appendix A to Report TS-17-20, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

PURPOSE:

To create special parking enforcement areas with higher penalties to discourage the public from gathering in public places during the COVID-19 Emergency.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

Vision to Focus identifies key priorities like the environment and climate change, transit, and the health and well-being of our residents and businesses. While the proposed bylaw has no specific alignment to a Key Action from Vision to Focus, the proposed by-law aligns with the broader purpose and intent of Vision to Focus by contributing to the quality of life for our community.

Background and Discussion:

In order to protect the health and safety of the public during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Burlington has:

- Declared a State of Emergency as of March 21, 2020 under the provisions of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

- Closed all city administrative and recreation facilities until at least June 30 including parks, playgrounds, sports fields and their associated parking lots to discourage gatherings greater than five (5) people as per Ontario Regulation 52/20 made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.
- Converted parking lots adjacent to Spencer Smith and Beachway Park Trail to permit only parking for hospital staff at Joseph Brant Hospital.
- Implemented a physical distancing by-law which requires all members of the public to remain at least two (2) metres from those who do not reside in their household.

Despite these measures, parking enforcement has been responding to areas across the city where people are violating parking regulations in order to access and gather at closed facilities. Infractions include driving over curbs to access closed parking areas, parking on unpaved shoulders and bike lanes on high speed and arterial roadways and parking in permit only areas reserved for medical personnel.

In an effort to further discourage this behavior, it is recommended that City of Burlington Parking and Idling By-law 39-2016 be amended to create special parking enforcement areas with increased fines for parking infractions surrounding locations closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The amendment would be in effect for the duration of the declared COVID-19 emergency.

Special Enforcement Areas would include parking lots and roadways surrounding areas closed as part of the COVID-19 Emergency as follows:

- Municipally owned parks, sports fields, paths, trails, recreation centres, arenas and municipally owned parking lots.
- Temporary permit parking areas intended for medical personnel surrounding Joseph Brant Hospital
- Conservation Areas
- The Bruce Trail

An increased penalty amount of \$250 would be applied to specific parking infractions as noted Schedule 3 of Appendix A attached. Current parking penalties related to public health and safety issues (e.g. blocking fire routes, accessible parking, idling and blocking snow operations) range from \$120 - \$400. The amount of \$250 was chosen as it is in line with this range and a high enough value to act as a deterrent.

Enforcement officers will have discretion in applying these higher fees with the goal being education and compliance.

Financial Matters:

There will be no additional operating costs as enforcement will be conducted by existing staff. It is expected that education on the increased fines will result in compliance so additional revenue should be negligible.

Climate Implications

Not Applicable.

Engagement Matters:

Staff will work with the Communications Department to develop appropriate communication and media releases.

Conclusion:

The proposed amendment to the City of Burlington Parking and Idling By-law 39-2016 is intended enhance physical distancing measures by reducing illegal parking surrounding areas where gathering is occurring.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendices:

- A. Amendment to By-law 39-2016

Report Approval:

The direction for the proposed by-law comes from the City's Emergency Control Group as our priority is to keep people safe and minimize the spread of COVID-19.