



SUBJECT: Amendment to Firearm Discharge By-law 83-1991

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: By-law Compliance Department

Report Number: BL-01-24

Wards Affected: All

Date to Committee: February 5, 2024

Date to Council: February 13, 2024

Recommendation:

Approve the amendment to By-law 83-1991, a by-law to regulate or prohibit the discharge of firearms, to exempt agents of the City of Burlington for the purpose of destroying sick, injured, or vicious animals as authorized by law in the performance of their duty, attached as Appendix A to by-law compliance department report BL-01-24, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel.

PURPOSE:

To update the language in By-law 83-1991, which regulates the discharging of firearms within the City of Burlington, to ensure alignment with the Coyote Response Strategy.

Related Reports: CM-26-22, BB-03-23

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

Background and Discussion:

The City of Burlington Coyote Response Strategy, updated in response to several coyote attacks in 2022, allows for the use of outside agents (i.e., Certified Wildlife Professionals) who may need to use firearms as part of their work. The current language in By-law 83-1991 which regulates the discharging of firearms in the City of Burlington does not specifically address these professionals which means a by-law

officer trained in firearm discharge would be required to accompany the agents should there be a need to discharge a firearm. This is a duplication of work and the proposed by-law amendment will eliminate the redundancy.

It should be noted that the goal of the Coyote Response Strategy is education and awareness and in no way is this by-law change suggesting a change in protocol or strategy for the management of coyotes.

Strategy/process/risk

Without an amendment, the City of Burlington would be required to have a by-law officer trained in firearm discharge which is not required in the normal course of duties for these positions. This could hinder the ability to attract and retain staff.

Options Considered

An alternative option would be to have Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) attend should a firearm be required. HRPS have indicated this is not their area of expertise and they do not have the resources to engage in a timely fashion.

Financial Matters:

Not Applicable

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable

Climate Implications:

Coyotes do contribute to a balanced eco-system and management of their habitat and interactions with humans is important to ensure their success.

Engagement Matters:

Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS), Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Conclusion:

The proposed by-law amendment will align By-law 83-1991, a by-law to regulate or prohibit the discharge of firearms, with the Coyote Strategy and eliminate the need for City of Burlington staff to be trained in the discharge of firearms.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendices:

- A. Amendment to By-law 83-1991

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.