

Minutes of November 24, 2009 Council Meeting

10.2.1 Annual Report Graffiti Management Plan

C A staff report dated November 9, 2009 was before Council.

Councillor Mosher introduced Ms. Jane Nauss, Manager Community Response Team, to Council. The Councillor advised that members of the Graffiti Task Force were in attendance for the presentation.

A presentation, Graffiti Management Plan Update 2008 and 2009, was provided by Ms. Jane Nauss, Manager, Community Response Team, Constable Jim Bennet, Halifax Regional Police and Councillor Mosher.

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES November 24, 2009

10

In concluding the presentation, Councillor Mosher expressed her appreciation to Mr. Curtis Sliwa for the presentations he provided to Task Force members during their time in New York.

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Wile, that Halifax Regional Council accept the report from the Graffiti Task Force.

It was noted that many members of Council support the initiatives of the Graffiti Task Force. Following the presentation, the following points were made:

C it was suggested that staff consider utilizing persons in the adult diversion system or persons sentenced to community service for graffiti removal

C HRM is working with various groups to assist in graffiti eradication

C residents can remove and/or report graffiti

C graffiti is reported by HRM staff and through citizen calls to the HRM Call Centre

C the plan is not to charge homeowners the plan is to notify homeowners through the Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Remedy to Order process

C it was noted that the Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Order to Remedy process is 96% compliant

C proposed changes to the HRM Charter (Respecting Dangerous or Unsightly Premises) has to go to the Province for approval

C the violation if caught spreading graffiti is a criminal code mischief violation with a fine of up to \$2000 or up to six months in jail

C HRM spends approximately \$380,000 on graffiti removal only

C HRM's cost, on the whole, is approximately \$750,000 for graffiti initiatives

C it was suggested that vandalism and graffiti issues be dealt with as a whole

C the HRM Art Facilitator is working with youth through the restorative justice program it was noted that this has been a success

C it was suggested that if partners are unable to honour their commitment to clean up graffiti, they can supply the necessary funds to HRM to do the work

C there are two types of graffiti tool kits one removes graffiti from painted surfaces, ie. siding or vehicles, the second kit contains chemicals and wipes for graffiti

removal

C graffiti tool kits are provided at no cost to the public

C it was noted that many new surfaces contain protective coatings and that some organizations are currently testing protective coatings on their property

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.