

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
**BYLAW A-200**  
**RESPECTING AUTOMATIC MACHINES**

WHEREAS automatic machines are in competition with business establishments that are obligated to pay commercial property and business occupancy taxes;

AND WHEREAS the Halifax Regional Municipality believes that it should be compensated for providing police, fire and other services to protect these machines

THEREFORE the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality under the authority vested in it by Section 172(1)(g) of the Municipal Government Act, enacts as follows:

**Short Title**

1. This Bylaw may be cited as Bylaw A-200, the “Automatic Machines Bylaw”.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Bylaw

- (a) "amusement machine" means an automatic machine which does not dispense foods, wares, or services, but is used as a game, contest of chance or skill, or for amusement whether or not registering a score, including but not limited to electronic or mechanical game machines, electronic video games, skill ball, bowling game machines, horse-racing machines, driving games, target games, pinball machines, shuffleboards, mechanical rides and other similar machines or devices under whatever name they may be indicated, but does not include video gaming devices or video lotteries licensed by the Alcohol and Gaming Authority of the Province of Nova Scotia, nor those things, the use or keeping whereof is prohibited by law;
- (b) "automatic machine" means a mechanical or electronic device that is operated by the introduction of a coin, counter, slug, paper money, debit card, credit card or other such payment device or is designed or normally intended to be so operated and includes vending machines, and amusement machines but does not include automatic scales, telephone apparatus, gas or electric meters or postage stamp vending machines, or a machine that is licensed by the Province of Nova Scotia or an agency of the Province. Each mechanical or electronic device that is operated by its own payment mechanism is an individual automatic machine regardless of how many such devices are attached to the same stand.
- (c) “bulk machine” means an automatic machine which dispenses an unpackaged product such as but not limited to gum ball(s) and nut(s) which is operated by the introduction of a coin,

slug, paper money, debit card, credit card or other such payment device;

- (d) "Council" means the Regional Council of the Municipality;
- (e) "Laundry machine" means a washing or drying machine which is operated by the introduction of a coin, slug, paper money, debit card, credit card or other such payment device;
- (f) "License Administrator" means the License Administrator appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer or his designate;
- (g) "License Inspector" means the License Inspector appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer or his designate;
- (h) "maintain" includes own, maintain, control or have in one's custody or possession or on one's premises for operation by other persons;
- (i) "Municipality" means the Halifax Regional Municipality;
- (j) "newspaper box" means a box for the purpose of vending newspapers which is operated by the introduction of a coin, slug, paper money, debit card, credit card or other such payment device;
- (k) "occupier" includes the person entitled to the possession of land, a leaseholder, and a person having or engaging for any way or purpose the use of the land, otherwise than as owner;
- (l) "owner" includes one or a combination of the following:
  - (a) a person who is entitled to possession as a tenant in fee simple, for life, or for a term of not less than twenty (20) years;
  - (b) a mortgagee in possession;
  - (c) where the mortgagee of land is not in possession, the person entitled to the equity of redemption;
  - (d) the person managing or receiving the rent of the land or premises, whether as his own account or as an agent or trustee of any other person; and
  - (e) a person who is assessed for the premises or the Assessment Roll of the Municipality as of the date of an alleged violation; and

- (m) “principal business” means a business carried on in a building or premises, the gross receipts of which represent seventy-five percent or more of the total receipts of all business carried on in the building or premises; and
- (n) “vending machine” means an automatic machine which dispenses food, beverages, goods, wares or services.

### **Automatic Machine License**

- 3. No person shall maintain any automatic machine unless the person has obtained and is in possession of a valid licence from the municipality permitting the person to maintain such automatic machine.

### **License Exemption**

- 4. A licence is under this by-law shall not be required for any automatic machine when:
  - (1) the machine is situated in a building or premises where the principal business carried on in that building or premises is the sale of goods or merchandise or the dispensing of services through the operating of automatic machines, proof of which must be provided when requested by the municipality;
  - (2) the machine is a newspaper box that is licenced under By-law C-500, the Commerce and Vending on Municipal Lands By-law, or
  - (3) 100% of the proceeds of the machines are used to support:
    - a) a charitable organization registered under the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*.
    - b) a not for profit society incorporated under the *Societies Act of Nova Scotia*
    - c) a religious institution, or
    - d) a school.

### **Procedure For Obtaining License**

5. (1) The application for a license pursuant to this By-law shall be made to the License Administrator on the prescribed form obtained from the Municipality and shall be signed by the applicant and accompanied by the appropriate license fee..

- (2) Every application for a license shall contain:
  - (a) the name, mailing address and telephone number of the owner of the automatic machine;
  - (b) the civic number, name of building and location within building where each automatic machine is to be located;
  - (c) the name and address of the owner and occupier of the premises on which the automatic machines is to be located;

- (d) number, type and serial number of the automatic machine sought to be licensed;
  - (e) a copy of the encroachment license issued pursuant to By-law E-200, the Encroachment By-law, for any automatic machine proposed to be located on a street;
  - (f) a declaration that the automatic machine is permitted on the premises on which the automatic machine is to be located pursuant to the provisions of the applicable Land Use By-law; and
  - (g) any other information required by the License Administrator to evaluate the application under the terms of this By-law;
  - (h) in order to obtain a charitable exemption pursuant to section 4(3), the applicant shall provide the following:
    - a) written confirmation that the machines are owned and operated by the charity
    - b) confirmation of charitable status
    - c) an income statement which provides confirmation that 100% of the proceeds of the machines is used in support of operating the charity.
- (3) An application pursuant to subsection (2) may be for more than one machine and location.
- (4) The fee for said license shall be as prescribed from time to time in the License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order.
- (5) A license issued under this By-law shall display
- (a) the words "Licensed Automatic Machine";
  - (b) the licensing year;
  - (c) a description of the type of automatic machine to which the licenses applies;
  - (d) a unique license number; and
  - (e) the date the license was issued.
- (6) The owner shall cause the license issued under this By-law to be affixed in a conspicuous place to the automatic machine to which it applies.
- (7) The owner of a machine operating under a “charitable” licence shall ensure that the machine

clearly indicates which charity it supports.

(8) A license issued under this By-law may be used for any automatic machine of the type to which the license applies and may be transferred from one automatic machine to another of the same type on the same premises.

(9) A license issued under this By-law shall expire on the 31st day of March following the date of issue.

(10) It shall be an offence for any person to make any false statement in an application hereunder.

### **Administrator's Records**

6. The License Administrator shall maintain a permanent record of each license issued and record the reports of violation thereon.

### **Replacement of License Sticker**

7. The License Administrator, on payment of the fee of \$5.00, shall replace any license when a licensed owner files a declaration that the said sticker has been lost, stolen or destroyed.

### **License Transferability**

8. (1) A license issued under this By-law shall not be transferable from one owner to another.

(2) A license issued under this By-law to an owner may be transferred from one automatic machine to another of the same type which is owned by the same owner and on the same premises, provided the owner has notified the License Administrator of the change in serial numbers.

(3) A license issued under this By-law in respect of any premises may be transferred to another premises, provided the owner of the machine has notified the License Administrator of the civic number, name of building and location of the new premises in which the automatic machine is to be located and the name and address of the owner and occupier of the new premises.

### **License Revocation**

9. (1) A license issued under the provisions of this Bylaw may be revoked at any time by the License Inspector if he believes that any provisions of this Bylaw has been violated and upon the holder of the license being notified in writing of such revocation by the License Inspector, such holder shall forthwith cease to permit or suffer any automatic machine in respect of which the license was in force to be operated and such machine shall be immediately removed from the premises stated in the license.

(2) The License Inspector shall immediately notify the License Administrator of the revocation of a license.

## **Appeal**

**10.** (1) Any person whose application for a license under this Bylaw has been refused by the License Administrator or revoked by the License Inspector may appeal to the Appeals Committee of Council.

(2) An appeal shall be in writing setting forth the grounds for appeal addressed to the Appeals Committee of Council, with a copy to the License Administrator or the License Inspector, as applicable, within fourteen (14) days after receipt by such person of written notice from the License Administrator or the License Inspector of refusal or revocation.

## **Operation of Unlicensed Machine**

**11.** No person shall permit or suffer to be operated any automatic machine with respect to which there is no license in force under this By-law.

## **Offenses and Penalties**

**12.** (1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any other provision of this By-law shall be guilty of an offense and liable to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) and in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days.

(2) Every day during which such contravention or failure to comply continues shall be deemed to be a new offense.

(3) Where an automatic machine is maintained on any premises for which there is no license in force, the License Inspector may, after ten (10) days notice in writing by personal service or by regular or registered mail to the owner of the premises on which the machine is located, enter the premises and seize and/or remove the automatic machine and all expenses incurred by the License Inspector in seizing, removing and storing the machine may be recovered as a debt due from the owner of the premises from which the machine was removed and the License Inspector may sell the machine to recover the expenses of its seizure, removal, storage and sale and the such expenses shall be a first lien on the property of the owner from which the machine was removed.

## **Inspections**

**13.** The License Inspector may enter upon any land or premises at a reasonable time without a warrant to determine whether an automatic machine is licensed and the provisions of subsection (3) of Section 503 of the Municipal Government Act shall apply to such inspection.

## **Repeal**

**14.** Section 2 through 13 of Bylaw A-501 of the former City of Dartmouth as amended, Ordinance 151 of the former City of Halifax, Section 2(a) and (d) and Section 9, of By-law 15 of the former Halifax County Municipality and Sections 2(a) and 9 of the former Town of Bedford Bylaw 15100 are hereby repealed.

Done and passed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2004

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Mayor

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Acting Municipal Clerk

I, Jan Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk of the Halifax Regional Municipality, hereby certify that the above-noted by-law was passed at a meeting of the Halifax Regional Council held on March 2, 2004.

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Jan Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk

Notice of Motion:	February 3, 2004
First Reading:	February 10, 2004
“Notice of Public Hearing” Publication:	February 14, 2004
Second Reading:	March 2, 2004
Approval of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs:	N/A
Effective Date:	March 6, 2004

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Amendment # 1

Notice of Motion:	August 8, 2006
First Reading:	September 5,,2006
Notice of Public Hearing - Publication:	September 16, 2006
Second Reading:	October 3, 2006
Approval of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations:	N/A
Effective Date:	October 14, 2006