

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 2, Report No. 4, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on January 28, 2014.

2 ELECTION SIGN BY-LAW REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 1) That staff be requested to give notice, in accordance with the City's Notice By-law, of consideration of a committee report to incorporate the following election sign modifications to the Sign By-law:
 1. That the maximum sign size be 1.49 square meters;
 2. That the amount of time prior to the election in which election signs can be erected be 6 weeks;
 3. That the time of removal of the signs following the election be 72 hours;
 4. That one sign, per candidate, be permitted on each private property;
- 2) That the report of the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance, dated January 21, 2014, be received;
- 3) That Communication C5, presentation material entitled, "*Election Signs Sign By-law #203-92, as amended*", be received; and
- 4) That the following deputations be received:
 1. Mr. David Schenck, Mira Vista Place, Woodbridge;
 2. Mr. Styles Q. Weinberg, Pinecone Circle, Concord; and
 3. Mr. Ian Fraser, King Vaughan Road, Vaughan.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance recommend:

1. That this Report be received for information; and
2. That Council direct staff if any changes to the existing election sign regulations are desirable based on the information provided in this Report.

Contribution to Sustainability

Review of existing by-laws for relevance and suitability to community growth, needs and expectations supports and promotes the City's vision of pursuit of excellence in service delivery, enhances community safety and well-being, demonstrates leadership and promotes effective governance.

Economic Impact

Education, public awareness and ensuring compliance of new/additional regulations for election signs, if any, for the 2014 Election will require commitment of resources, including increased attention of By-law & Compliance Department staff.

Communications Plan

By-law & Compliance staff will partner with City Clerk's Department to ensure that any amendments to the election sign regulations are accurately reflected in communications and

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 2

information being shared with the public and registered candidates. City staff will communicate any amendments through various communication methods, including use of social media and City's website.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to:

1. Respond to Council's direction from its meeting of June 26, 2012 (Report No. 25, Item 5 – Attachment #1) regarding election signs;
2. Provide an update on negotiations and improved partnerships with the Regional Municipality of York ("the Region") regarding harmonization of election sign by-laws and enforcement; and
3. Communicate the enforcement strategy for the upcoming 2014 Municipal Election.

Background - Analysis and Options:

At its meeting of June 26, 2012, City Council adopted, without amendment, the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, directing staff to:

- A. Negotiate with the Region of York, with the objective of harmonizing the related by-laws and enforcement, with respect to election signs;
- B. Bring back a report with options on how to improve enforcement, in order to provide a level playing field; and
- C. Hold a forum with past candidates, residents and regional staff to discuss election sign issues, including size, and report back with recommendations for Council's consideration.

A. Harmonization with Region:

In August 2013, staff from the City's By-law & Compliance Department initiated discussions with the Region to explore harmonization of the regulatory requirements and enforcement of the Sign By-law related to election signage, with a focus on relevance, suitability and development of fair and equitable regulation. City staff have partnered with the Region to expand this comparative review to include all municipalities across York Region. Further meetings are being scheduled to continue discussions and begin this broader initiative.

As part of the overall By-law Strategy currently being developed by the By-law & Compliance Department, the Director of By-law and Compliance has initiated the creation of a Director's Working Group, to be comprised of the appropriate Directors from each municipality across the Region. The intended purpose of the Working Group is to establish a quarterly meeting forum for improved information sharing and communication regarding issues having Regional implications, harmonization of by-laws, development of consistent compliance policies and to allow for collaborative discussions regarding any other topics of mutual interest. The first meeting of the Working Group is planned for March 2014 (at Vaughan City Hall).

B. Enhanced Enforcement & Compliance Strategy:

As with other sign related enforcement activities, By-law & Compliance staff proactively patrol the City's road allowances and respond to incoming complaints regarding violations of the Sign By-law, Section 4.1 - Election Signs, including but not limited to improperly placed signs. Signs erected contrary to the By-law are acted upon in accordance with the authority prescribed within the City's Sign By-law, including the issuance of a notice of violation for signs located on private property and removal from all public property.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 3

Election signs are removed and stored for a period of no more than 30 days and can be returned to a candidate at no charge, upon their request. Removal of signs from Regional roads is undertaken by York Region Road Maintenance Department staff. The Region dedicates two staff for this purpose. The City does not provide removal services or enforcement regarding signs on Regional roads, but responds accordingly to any call of a potentially unsafe situation.

During the 2010 election year, 9,492 improperly erected election signs were removed from City roads by City staff and an additional 6,005 signs removed from Regional roads by the York Region staff, totaling 15,497 confiscated signs.

To address service demands, including responding to complaint calls and attendance at polling stations on Election Day, significant resources are traditionally dedicated. During the 2010 election, four full-time enforcement officers were dedicated to election sign enforcement activities, in addition to the scheduling of one day per week where all on duty officers were deployed to focus solely on activities relating to unlawful election signs.

For the 2014 Election, the following compliance strategy will be implemented in order to ensure a greater consistency in service delivery to the public and intended to provide a level playing field for all candidates:

- Improved information sharing and collaboration of sign removal activities with York Region Road Maintenance staff.
- Coordinated deployment and scheduling of City and Regional resources for more equitable attention to illegal signs found on both City and Regional Roads, wherever possible.
- Partnership with Access Vaughan to provide improved service and more timely access to related information and initiation of calls for service from the public.
- Election sign calls for service (complaints) will be dispatched to enforcement officers in the field for attention and resolution.
- Dedication of five full-time enforcement officers, including an identified staff member to provide a singular point of contact, resulting in improved coordination and effective communication between the City and the Region.
- Additional resources will be deployed to accommodate increasing demands normally realized as campaigning increases in intensity, including dedication of all on duty enforcement officers during specified times/dates.
- Dedicated supervisor(s) will be assigned to oversee activities of staff. Election sign service demands will be assessed periodically in an attempt to ensure adequate resource allocation is maintained in support of expected service delivery being provided efficiently, fairly and impartially.
- Signs subject to removal will be documented and stored at a centralized location (to be determined) for a period of not more than 30 days in accordance with the City of Vaughan's Sign By-law 203-92. Retrieval of signs will be accommodated by appointment only, upon request of the candidate.

As reflected in historical data relating to election sign removals from 2010, the By-law & Compliance Department experiences an extreme surge in service demands during peak election periods as time draws closer to Election Day. Although staff believes that the enhanced approach described above will offer an improved level of service, anticipated demands are expected to exceed the Department's resource capabilities, leading to unavoidable delays in enforcement attention and resolution.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 2, CW(W/S) Report No. 4 – Page 4

C. Public Consultation:

On November 21, 2013, City staff held a public consultation meeting at City Hall. The meeting objective was to solicit public input regarding key components of the election sign portion of the City's and the Region's Sign By-laws, including but not limited to key themes such as size, placement, duration of time a sign can remain, use of private and municipal property and the use of City and Regional roads. In addition, the past candidates from the 2010 Election were extended an invitation to encourage their participation in an open public forum. The meeting included the participation of a representative from the Regional Municipality of York's Road Maintenance Department responsible for elections signs on Regional roads.

The result of the public consultation meeting further confirmed staff's beliefs regarding the key sections of the current By-law requiring review. The key issues of interest identified included considerations of size, placement, creation of dedicated locations on road allowances, use of municipal property (eg: Community Centres) and the duration of time relating to when a sign may be erected and remain, following Election Day.

During the consultative process, questions arose regarding rationale for establishing the time of when an election sign may be erected. Within the City of Vaughan, the established time in which election signs may be erected is 2:00 pm following the close of nominations, as prescribed by the City's Sign By-law. Adoption of this regulation was as a result of the decision of Council at its meeting of April 14, 2009 (Item 1, Report No. 17) following a 2007 Court challenge regarding the length of time that election signs could be posted (Heard at Newmarket Ontario Superior Court of Justice on September 13, 2007 – Case CV-07-085865-00 *Shurman v. Vaughan [City]*).

Following staff's presentation at the public consultation, additional questions and proposed possible changes were raised for consideration. The tables below identify the key topics, possible options and provide a cursory analysis including possible benefits and challenges for consideration.

SIGN SIZE		
Options	1. Establish a consistent sign size for all municipalities within the Region	2. Amend Vaughan Sign By-Law reducing size of sign to mirror Regional By-law (from 5 sq. m to 1.49 sq. m.)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear regulations• Clear for candidates• Simplified enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified enforcement• Clear for candidates• Consistent with Regional Roads
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limits the size of sign for candidates who wish to invest in larger signage
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent regulations within the City

PLACEMENT OF SIGNS		
Options	1. Regulating distance between signs	2. Not regulating distance between signs (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deters multiple signs erected in close proximity to one another• Limits the number of signs in any one area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased demands on enforcement resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proliferation of signs• Candidate signs obstructed by one another

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 5

Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intended to reduce the overall number of signs displayed at any one location • Intended to deter obstruction of candidate's signs, by another candidate • Difficult to enforce • Impact service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional impact on current resources
------------------	---	---

USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY – ROAD ALLOWANCE		
Options	1. Permit use of City Road Allowance	2. Do Not permit use of City Road Allowance (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases options for candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear regulations • Clear for candidates • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demands on enforcement resources • Increased costs • Time consuming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of unlawful signs • Storage of confiscated signs
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to regulate and ensure compliance • Impact on service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified enforcement

USE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY – eg. Community Centres		
Options	1. Permit the use of designated areas at Community Centre Properties	2. Not permit the use of Community Centre Properties (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases options for candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demands on resources • Increased costs • Time consuming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits options for candidates • Community Centres are selected for Polling Stations by the City Clerk
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of signs • Difficult to regulate and ensure compliance • Impact to service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified enforcement

DAYLIGHT TRIANGLES		
Options	1. Delineate permitted areas at each Intersection across the Region	2. Harmonize all sight line triangles for all roadways, establishing one distance requirement
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demands on resources (City & Region) • Increased cost • Time consuming • On-going maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More restrictive for candidates

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 6

Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear indication of where a sign may be placed • Implementation across the City (and/or Region) would require dedicated time, resources and appropriate funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in proliferation of signs at intersections • Consistency • Unobstructed sight lines for vehicular and pedestrian traffic
------------------	--	--

PROSECUTION / REMOVAL OF SIGNS		
Options	1. Prosecute for Violations	2. Removal and disposal of signs (no requirement to store signs)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent • Deter violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement • No storage requirements • Deter placing of unlawful signs on public property – road allowances
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive to manage/prosecute • Time consuming • Increased demands on resources (Enforcement, Regional Prosecutions and Regional Courts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates will incur additional costs to replace confiscated signs
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement, legal and Court resource inefficiencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in proliferation of unlawful signs • Reduction in service demands

VARYING BY-LAWS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN YORK REGION		
Options	1. Harmonized By-laws	2. Harmonize Vaughan's By-law with the Region (only)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities & the Region • Time consuming • Requires dedication of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus from the Region • Time consuming • Requires dedication of resources
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent regulations across the City

D. How Vaughan Compares – Municipal Comparative:

By-law & Compliance staff undertook a cursory comparative study of other municipalities' sign by-laws (Attachment #2). Although regulatory differences were identified between the City of Vaughan, the Region and other municipalities, the data collected reflected that municipalities' sign by-laws share common themes such as the regulation of size, placement, use of road allowances, timing in which a sign can be erected and remain following Election Day.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 7

In its current state, the City of Vaughan's Sign By-law as it relates to the election sign section appears comparable with other municipalities including regulating similar requirements. Although more permissive in some areas, such as larger sign size and no fees associated with removal and retrieval, it is more restrictive in others, such as not being permitted on public property (road allowances) and prescribing a maximum of 48 hours to remove signs following Election Day.

The intended purpose of reviewing the current By-law, partnering with the Region and sister municipalities, is to explore opportunities to harmonize the by-laws where possible and to establish a consistent, fair and equitable public environment for future elections.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The analysis being undertaken by staff to review the regulations regarding election signs across the Region and the approach outlined within this Report, including but not limited to, forging strong partnerships with the Region and other regional municipalities, are directly aligned with the City's strategy of citizens first through service excellence. By exploring opportunities to harmonize existing regulatory by-laws, City staff are further promoting a designed interest in service excellence and effective governance across the Region.

Regional Implications

Staff believe harmonization of sign by-laws will support more effective governance and equality for the public across the Region.

Conclusion

City staff believe that, although there are regulatory differences prescribed within existing sign by-laws governing election signs between the City of Vaughan, the Region and other municipalities, the data collected determined that municipalities share some common themes such as regulation of size, placement, timing of erection and duration of time a sign can remain.

Attachments

1. Excerpt of Minutes from Meeting of City Council June 26, 2012 (Report #25, Item 5 – Election Signs);
2. Municipal Comparative Chart

Report prepared by:

Gus Michaels, Director
By-Law & Compliance Department

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

C5

CW(ws) - January 21/14
Item 2

Vaughan Sign By-law Election Sign Review

Citizens First Through Service Excellence

Election Signs

Sign By-law # 203-92, as amended

January 21, 2014

By-law & Compliance Department





Background

June 26, 2012 - City Council directed staff to:

- ✓ Undertake a review of existing By-law as it relates to election signs
- ✓ Negotiate with the Region with the intent of harmonizing related by-laws and enforcement activities
- ✓ Develop options on improving enforcement for election signage
- ✓ Provide a forum for past candidates, public and other stakeholders to discuss issues related to election signage



Purpose & Scope

- ✓ Provide comparative of other municipalities
- ✓ Provide an update regarding negotiations with the Region in respect to harmonizing related by-laws and enforcement activities
- ✓ Provide outcome of public consultation meeting
- ✓ Present findings to enable Council to make informed decisions re: “level playing field” for all candidates



Consultation Outcome

Common Themes

- ✓ Size of Signage
- ✓ Placement
- ✓ Enforcement
- ✓ Challenges associated with site lines at intersections
- ✓ Use of Private Property
- ✓ Use of Municipal Property
- ✓ City vs Regional Roads
- ✓ Varied By-law regulations across Municipalities



Existing By-law Regulations

Non-Refundable Fees

- ✓ Mayoral and Regional Councillor Candidates: **\$300**
- ✓ Ward Councillor Candidates: **\$150**
- ✓ School Board Trustee Candidates: **\$50**

**Only Registered Candidates are permitted to post signs*



Size Restrictions

- ✓ Signs shall not exceed **5.0** square metres in size

Timing

- ✓ Signs may not be erected prior to Nomination Day
- ✓ Once non-refundable sign deposit fee is paid, signs can be erected after 2:00 p.m. following the close of Nomination Day on **September 12, 2014**
- ✓ All signs must be removed 48 hours following the date of the election



Sign Size

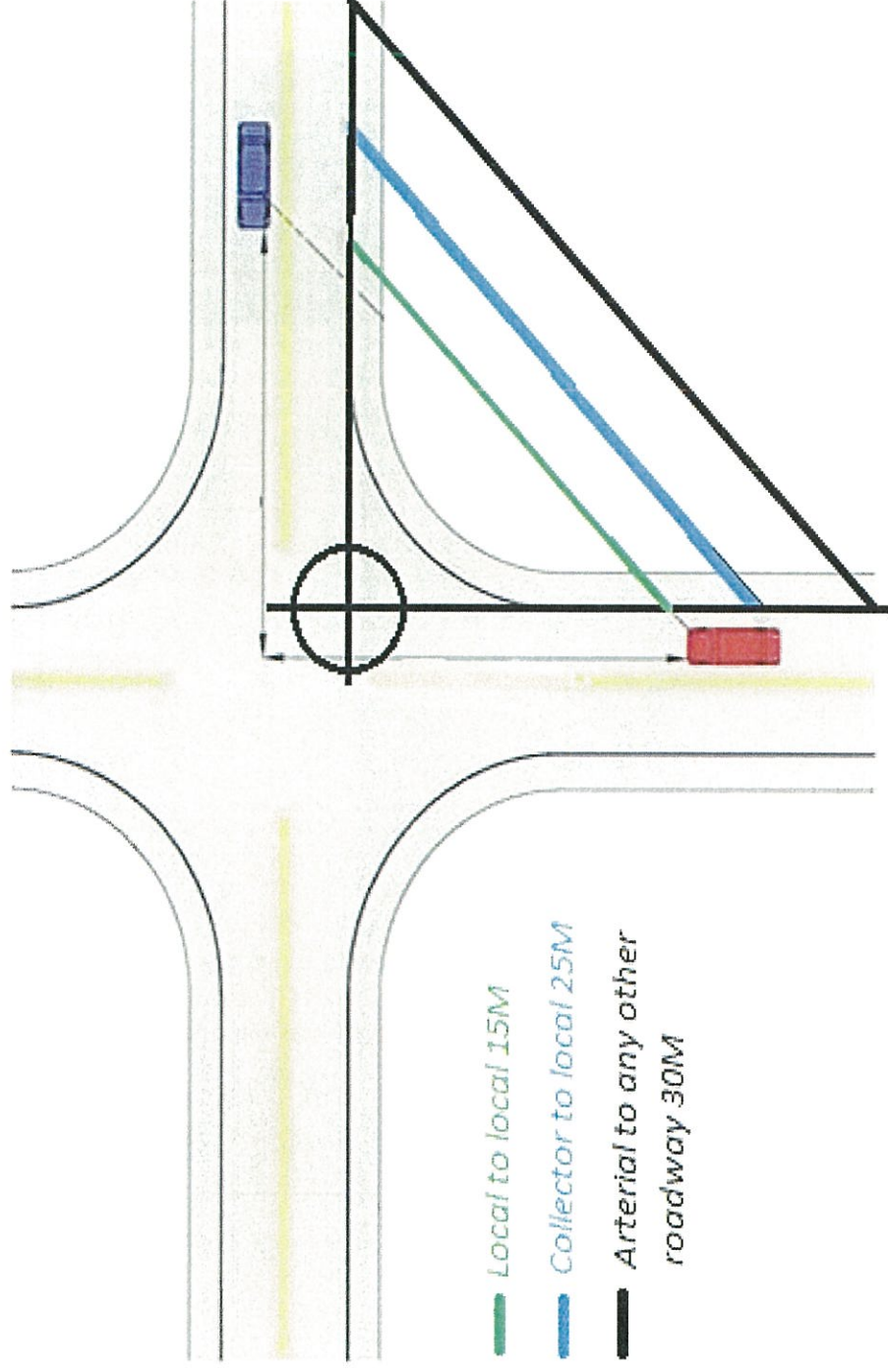
SIGN SIZE	
Options	1. Establish a consistent signs size for all municipalities within the Region 2. Amend Vaughan's Sign By-Law reducing size of sign to mirror Regional By-law (from 5 sq. m to 1.49 sq. m.)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearer regulations• Clearer for candidates• Simplified enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified enforcement• Clearer for candidates• Consistent with Regional Roads
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limits the size of sign for candidates who wish to invest in larger signage
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities• Consistent regulations within the City



Private Property Restrictions

- ✓ Set back a minimum of 1 metre from all street lines
- ✓ Signs to be set back a minimum of 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary with an adjacent lot
- ✓ Shall not be placed in a home window prior to 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day
- ✓ Shall not be placed on a “daylight triangle”

Daylight Triangle Restrictions



Daylight Triangles

DAYLIGHT TRIANGLES		
Options	1. Delineate permitted areas at each Intersection across the Region	1. Harmonize all sight line triangles for all roadways, establishing one distance requirement
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demands on resources (City & Region) • Increased cost • Time consuming • On-going maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More restrictive for candidates
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear indication of where a sign may be placed • Implementation across the City (and/or Region) would require dedicated time, resources and appropriate funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in proliferation of signs at intersections • Consistency • Unobstructed sight lines for vehicular and pedestrian traffic



Municipal Property Restrictions

- ✓ Signs may not be erected on municipally owned property or on public road allowances

* “Municipal property” refers to land owned or operated by the City of Vaughan, including City owned libraries and community centres.



Use of Municipal Property

Use of Municipal Property - Community Centres		
Options	1. Permit the use of designated areas at Community Centre Properties	1. Do Not permit the use of Community Centre Properties (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increases options for candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clearer regulationsClearer for candidatesSimplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased demands on resourcesIncreased costsTime consuming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limits options for candidates
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proliferation of signsDifficult to regulate and ensure complianceImpact to service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Simplified enforcement

Use of Public Property

ROAD ALLOWANCE		
Options	1. Permit use of City Road Allowance	1. Do Not permit use of City Road Allowance (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increases options for candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clear regulationsClear for candidatesSimplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased demands on enforcement resourcesIncreased costsTime consuming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proliferation of unlawful signsStorage of confiscated signs
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Difficult to regulate and ensure complianceImpact on service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Simplified enforcement



Voting Location Restrictions

- ✓ No signs may be placed within 100 metres of a property designated by the City Clerk
- ✓ Electioneering is the act of campaigning or attempting to solicit votes and is not permitted within 100 metres of a designated voting location. This includes, but is not limited to, prohibition for displaying of signs



Campaign Offices

- ✓ Any related signs erected on the property must adhere to the applicable sections of the City of Vaughan Sign By-law provisions
- ✓ Signs requiring permits (e.g. wall signs, etc.) are administered through the Building Standards Department



Unlawful Signs

- ✓ Erected on municipal property
- ✓ Erected prior to Nomination Day (pertains to private, public and campaign office properties)
- ✓ Placed closer than 1.0 metre from street lines and less than 1.5 metres from any common lot boundary
- ✓ Banner signs

Prosecution / Removal of Signs

PROSECUTION / REMOVAL OF SIGNS		
Options	1. Prosecute for Violations	1. Removal and disposal of signs (no requirement to store signs)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent • Deter violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement • No storage requirements • Deter placing of unlawful signs on public property – road allowances
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive to manage/prosecute • Time consuming • Increased demands on resources (Enforcement, Regional Prosecutions and Regional Courts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates will incur additional costs to replace confiscated signs
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement, legal and Court resource inefficiencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in proliferation of unlawful signs • Reduction in service demands



Regional Road Requirements

By-Law # R-1232-2000-074

- ✓ Size cannot exceed 1.49 square metres
- ✓ Signs cannot be erected prior to 6 weeks before election
- ✓ No more than 1 sign is permitted per registered candidate on any one street corner
- ✓ Unlawful signs will be removed and stored for a period of 30 days
- ✓ Signs must be removed from Regional roads 72 hours after date of election (12:01 am on October 30th, 2014)
- ✓ Signs not retrieved will be destroyed by Region

Varying By-law

MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN YORK REGION		
Options	1. Harmonized By-laws	1. Harmonize Vaughan's By-law with the Region (only)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearer regulations• Clearer for candidates• Simplified enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearer regulations• Clearer for candidates• Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities & the Region• Time consuming• Requires dedication of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus from the Region• Time consuming• Requires dedication of resources
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent regulations across the City



Enforcement Strategy 2014

- ✓ Five dedicated enforcement officers will patrol City streets pro-actively and ensure timely responses to complaints
- ✓ Additional resources may be deployed as needed
- ✓ Direct in-field supervisory support
- ✓ Enhanced service delivery – all complaints relating to election signage treated as priority calls and dispatched to enforcement officers



Enforcement Strategy 2014

- ✓ Improved partnership with Access Vaughan will enable timely and efficient complaint intake, response to inquiries and information sharing
- ✓ Improved coordination with Regional staff
- ✓ Improved coordination with City of Toronto regarding complaints on Steeles Avenue



Enforcement Strategy 2014

Unlawful Signs

- ✓ Removed by City Enforcement Officers and held for a period of 30 days
- ✓ Signs not retrieved within the 30 day period will be disposed
- ✓ Confiscated signs will be stored at a central location to be determined
- ✓ Retrieval of signs by candidates will be accommodated by appointment through the By-law & Compliance Department

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Region of York	1.49 sq. m.	6 weeks	72	✓ 30 days, \$50 sign retrieval fee	✓ Yes	✓ No more than 1 sign on any one street corner	✓ Regional Roads
Vaughan	5.0 sq. m.	close of nomination day	48	✓ 30 days then disposed of	✓ \$300 per mayoral/ regional candidate, \$150 per ward candidate	× No	× No
Markham	1.49 sq. m.	4 weeks	72	✓ \$10 deducted from \$200 deposit for every sign unlawfully displayed	✓ \$200 deposit	✓ No more than 1 sign on any one street corner or on private property	✓ only by permit

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Richmond Hill	1.49 sq. m.	On nomination day	72 hours	✓ 30 days after election, after which signs are destroyed with no compensation to the owner	✓ Election sign fee \$250 ✓ Filing fee \$200 Mayor, \$100 for all other	× No	✓ only if sign is portable & abides by by-law restrictions
Aurora	2 sq. m.	As per Municipal Elections Act	4 days	✓ no specified timeline	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayor, \$100 for all other	× No	✓ only if sign abides by by-law restrictions
Georgina	2 sq. m.	At the close of nomination day	7 days	✓ Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayor, \$100 for all other	× No	✓ On public property adjacent to roadway not on town property

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Whitchurch / Stouffville	2 sq.m	25 days	3 days	✓ Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed. \$10 per sign deducted from deposit for each unlawfully placed sign	✓ \$245 sign permit deposit fee	x No	✓ On public property adjacent to roadway not on town property
East Gwillimbury	No size restriction	On nomination day	72 hours	✓ Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	x No	✓ Only if sign abides by by-law restrictions
King * New By-law not available	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

Municipality	Max. Size	# Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs	# Hours for Removal Following Election	Unlawful Sign Placement Removal	Candidate Fees	Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area	Signs Permitted on Public Property
Newmarket Note: By-law under review, website states updates coming in 2014	2.97 sq. m.	30 days prior to election	48 hours	✓ 30 days after election after which signs are destroyed. Minimum charge of \$75 per sign to owner, plus \$5 per sign retrieval fee	✓ Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	x No	✓ Only on or adjacent to private property
Toronto (bordering municipality)	1.2 sq. m.	25	72	✓ 30 days, \$25 deducted from candidates' campaign deposit	✓ \$250 deposit per candidate	X No	✓ only on HWYS or TTC ad space approved by TTC



Steeles Avenue

- ✓ Road allowances on both the North and South sides of Steeles Avenue fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Toronto
- ✓ Governed by the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 693 and enforced by the Municipal Licensing & Standards Division
- ✓ Complaints/inquiries regarding signs should be directed to the Municipal Licensing & Standards Division by contacting 3-1-1
- ✓ Access Vaughan and By-law & Compliance Departments to inform complainants of City contact information



Complaints & Inquiries

- ✓ Information or complaints regarding unlawful election signs on City of Vaughan roads can be directed to Access Vaughan by calling 905-832-2281, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ✓ For information or complaints regarding Regional roads, contact the Road Maintenance Division at 1-877-464-9675, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Questions?

Q & A

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – JANUARY 21, 2014

ELECTION SIGN BY-LAW REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance recommend:

1. That this Report be received for information; and
2. That Council direct staff if any changes to the existing election sign regulations are desirable based on the information provided in this Report.

Contribution to Sustainability

Review of existing by-laws for relevance and suitability to community growth, needs and expectations supports and promotes the City's vision of pursuit of excellence in service delivery, enhances community safety and well-being, demonstrates leadership and promotes effective governance.

Economic Impact

Education, public awareness and ensuring compliance of new/additional regulations for election signs, if any, for the 2014 Election will require commitment of resources, including increased attention of By-law & Compliance Department staff.

Communications Plan

By-law & Compliance staff will partner with City Clerk's Department to ensure that any amendments to the election sign regulations are accurately reflected in communications and information being shared with the public and registered candidates. City staff will communicate any amendments through various communication methods, including use of social media and City's website.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to:

1. Respond to Council's direction from its meeting of June 26, 2012 (Report No. 25, Item 5 – Attachment #1) regarding election signs;
2. Provide an update on negotiations and improved partnerships with the Regional Municipality of York ("the Region") regarding harmonization of election sign by-laws and enforcement; and
3. Communicate the enforcement strategy for the upcoming 2014 Municipal Election.

Background - Analysis and Options:

At its meeting of June 26, 2012, City Council adopted, without amendment, the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, directing staff to:

- A. Negotiate with the Region of York, with the objective of harmonizing the related by-laws and enforcement, with respect to election signs;

- B. Bring back a report with options on how to improve enforcement, in order to provide a level playing field; and
- C. Hold a forum with past candidates, residents and regional staff to discuss election sign issues, including size, and report back with recommendations for Council's consideration.

A. Harmonization with Region:

In August 2013, staff from the City's By-law & Compliance Department initiated discussions with the Region to explore harmonization of the regulatory requirements and enforcement of the Sign By-law related to election signage, with a focus on relevance, suitability and development of fair and equitable regulation. City staff have partnered with the Region to expand this comparative review to include all municipalities across York Region. Further meetings are being scheduled to continue discussions and begin this broader initiative.

As part of the overall By-law Strategy currently being developed by the By-law & Compliance Department, the Director of By-law and Compliance has initiated the creation of a Director's Working Group, to be comprised of the appropriate Directors from each municipality across the Region. The intended purpose of the Working Group is to establish a quarterly meeting forum for improved information sharing and communication regarding issues having Regional implications, harmonization of by-laws, development of consistent compliance policies and to allow for collaborative discussions regarding any other topics of mutual interest. The first meeting of the Working Group is planned for March 2014 (at Vaughan City Hall).

B. Enhanced Enforcement & Compliance Strategy:

As with other sign related enforcement activities, By-law & Compliance staff proactively patrol the City's road allowances and respond to incoming complaints regarding violations of the Sign By-law, Section 4.1 - Election Signs, including but not limited to improperly placed signs. Signs erected contrary to the By-law are acted upon in accordance with the authority prescribed within the City's Sign By-law, including the issuance of a notice of violation for signs located on private property and removal from all public property.

Election signs are removed and stored for a period of no more than 30 days and can be returned to a candidate at no charge, upon their request. Removal of signs from Regional roads is undertaken by York Region Road Maintenance Department staff. The Region dedicates two staff for this purpose. The City does not provide removal services or enforcement regarding signs on Regional roads, but responds accordingly to any call of a potentially unsafe situation.

During the 2010 election year, 9,492 improperly erected election signs were removed from City roads by City staff and an additional 6,005 signs removed from Regional roads by the York Region staff, totaling 15,497 confiscated signs.

To address service demands, including responding to complaint calls and attendance at polling stations on Election Day, significant resources are traditionally dedicated. During the 2010 election, four full-time enforcement officers were dedicated to election sign enforcement activities, in addition to the scheduling of one day per week where all on duty officers were deployed to focus solely on activities relating to unlawful election signs.

For the 2014 Election, the following compliance strategy will be implemented in order to ensure a greater consistency in service delivery to the public and intended to provide a level playing field for all candidates:

- Improved information sharing and collaboration of sign removal activities with York Region Road Maintenance staff.
- Coordinated deployment and scheduling of City and Regional resources for more equitable attention to illegal signs found on both City and Regional Roads, wherever possible.
- Partnership with Access Vaughan to provide improved service and more timely access to related information and initiation of calls for service from the public.
- Election sign calls for service (complaints) will be dispatched to enforcement officers in the field for attention and resolution.
- Dedication of five full-time enforcement officers, including an identified staff member to provide a singular point of contact, resulting in improved coordination and effective communication between the City and the Region.
- Additional resources will be deployed to accommodate increasing demands normally realized as campaigning increases in intensity, including dedication of all on duty enforcement officers during specified times/dates.
- Dedicated supervisor(s) will be assigned to oversee activities of staff. Election sign service demands will be assessed periodically in an attempt to ensure adequate resource allocation is maintained in support of expected service delivery being provided efficiently, fairly and impartially.
- Signs subject to removal will be documented and stored at a centralized location (to be determined) for a period of not more than 30 days in accordance with the City of Vaughan's Sign By-law 203-92. Retrieval of signs will be accommodated by appointment only, upon request of the candidate.

As reflected in historical data relating to election sign removals from 2010, the By-law & Compliance Department experiences an extreme surge in service demands during peak election periods as time draws closer to Election Day. Although staff believes that the enhanced approach described above will offer an improved level of service, anticipated demands are expected to exceed the Department's resource capabilities, leading to unavoidable delays in enforcement attention and resolution.

C. Public Consultation:

On November 21, 2013, City staff held a public consultation meeting at City Hall. The meeting objective was to solicit public input regarding key components of the election sign portion of the City's and the Region's Sign By-laws, including but not limited to key themes such as size, placement, duration of time a sign can remain, use of private and municipal property and the use of City and Regional roads. In addition, the past candidates from the 2010 Election were extended an invitation to encourage their participation in an open public forum. The meeting included the participation of a representative from the Regional Municipality of York's Road Maintenance Department responsible for elections signs on Regional roads.

The result of the public consultation meeting further confirmed staff's beliefs regarding the key sections of the current By-law requiring review. The key issues of interest identified included considerations of size, placement, creation of dedicated locations on road allowances, use of municipal property (eg: Community Centres) and the duration of time relating to when a sign may be erected and remain, following Election Day.

During the consultative process, questions arose regarding rationale for establishing the time of when an election sign may be erected. Within the City of Vaughan, the established time in which election signs may be erected is 2:00 pm following the close of nominations, as prescribed by the City's Sign By-law. Adoption of this regulation was as a result of the decision of Council at its meeting of April 14, 2009 (Item 1, Report No. 17) following a 2007 Court challenge regarding the length of time that election signs could be posted (Heard at Newmarket Ontario Superior Court of Justice on September 13, 2007 – Case CV-07-085865-00 *Shurman v. Vaughan [City]*).

Following staff's presentation at the public consultation, additional questions and proposed possible changes were raised for consideration. The tables below identify the key topics, possible options and provide a cursory analysis including possible benefits and challenges for consideration.

SIGN SIZE		
Options	1. Establish a consistent sign size for all municipalities within the Region	2. Amend Vaughan Sign By-Law reducing size of sign to mirror Regional By-law (from 5 sq. m to 1.49 sq. m.)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear regulations • Clear for candidates • Simplified enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified enforcement • Clear for candidates • Consistent with Regional Roads
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits the size of sign for candidates who wish to invest in larger signage
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent regulations within the City

PLACEMENT OF SIGNS		
Options	1. Regulating distance between signs	2. Not regulating distance between signs (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deters multiple signs erected in close proximity to one another • Limits the number of signs in any one area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demands on enforcement resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation of signs • Candidate signs obstructed by one another
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intended to reduce the overall number of signs displayed at any one location • Intended to deter obstruction of candidate's signs, by another candidate • Difficult to enforce • Impact service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional impact on current resources

USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY – ROAD ALLOWANCE		
Options	1. Permit use of City Road Allowance	2. Do Not permit use of City Road Allowance (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases options for candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear regulations Clear for candidates Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased demands on enforcement resources Increased costs Time consuming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proliferation of unlawful signs Storage of confiscated signs
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to regulate and ensure compliance Impact on service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplified enforcement

USE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY – eg. Community Centres		
Options	1. Permit the use of designated areas at Community Centre Properties	2. Not permit the use of Community Centre Properties (Current Vaughan By-law Standard)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases options for candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearer regulations Clearer for candidates Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased demands on resources Increased costs Time consuming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits options for candidates Community Centres are selected for Polling Stations by the City Clerk
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proliferation of signs Difficult to regulate and ensure compliance Impact to service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplified enforcement

DAYLIGHT TRIANGLES		
Options	1. Delineate permitted areas at each Intersection across the Region	2. Harmonize all sight line triangles for all roadways, establishing one distance requirement
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearer regulations Clearer for candidates Simplified enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearer regulations Clearer for candidates Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased demands on resources (City & Region) Increased cost Time consuming On-going maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More restrictive for candidates
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear indication of where a sign may be placed Implementation across the City (and/or Region) would require dedicated time, resources and appropriate funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in proliferation of signs at intersections Consistency Unobstructed sight lines for vehicular and pedestrian traffic

PROSECUTION / REMOVAL OF SIGNS		
Options	1. Prosecute for Violations	2. Removal and disposal of signs (no requirement to store signs)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent • Deter violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement • No storage requirements • Deter placing of unlawful signs on public property – road allowances
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive to manage/prosecute • Time consuming • Increased demands on resources (Enforcement, Regional Prosecutions and Regional Courts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates will incur additional costs to replace confiscated signs
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement, legal and Court resource inefficiencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in proliferation of unlawful signs • Reduction in service demands

VARYING BY-LAWS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN YORK REGION		
Options	1. Harmonized By-laws	2. Harmonize Vaughan's By-law with the Region (only)
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer regulations • Clearer for candidates • Simplified enforcement
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus amongst all municipalities & the Region • Time consuming • Requires dedication of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonizing by-laws will require consensus from the Region • Time consuming • Requires dedication of resources
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent regulations within all Regional Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent regulations across the City

D. How Vaughan Compares – Municipal Comparative:

By-law & Compliance staff undertook a cursory comparative study of other municipalities' sign by-laws (Attachment #2). Although regulatory differences were identified between the City of Vaughan, the Region and other municipalities, the data collected reflected that municipalities' sign by-laws share common themes such as the regulation of size, placement, use of road allowances, timing in which a sign can be erected and remain following Election Day.

In its current state, the City of Vaughan's Sign By-law as it relates to the election sign section appears comparable with other municipalities including regulating similar requirements. Although more permissive in some areas, such as larger sign size and no fees associated with removal and retrieval, it is more restrictive in others, such as not being permitted on public property (road allowances) and prescribing a maximum of 48 hours to remove signs following Election Day.

The intended purpose of reviewing the current By-law, partnering with the Region and sister municipalities, is to explore opportunities to harmonize the by-laws where possible and to establish a consistent, fair and equitable public environment for future elections.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The analysis being undertaken by staff to review the regulations regarding election signs across the Region and the approach outlined within this Report, including but not limited to, forging strong partnerships with the Region and other regional municipalities, are directly aligned with the City's strategy of citizens first through service excellence. By exploring opportunities to harmonize existing regulatory by-laws, City staff are further promoting a designed interest in service excellence and effective governance across the Region.

Regional Implications

Staff believe harmonization of sign by-laws will support more effective governance and equality for the public across the Region.

Conclusion

City staff believe that, although there are regulatory differences prescribed within existing sign by-laws governing election signs between the City of Vaughan, the Region and other municipalities, the data collected determined that municipalities share some common themes such as regulation of size, placement, timing of erection and duration of time a sign can remain.

Attachments

1. Excerpt of Minutes from Meeting of City Council June 26, 2012 (Report #25, Item 5 – Election Signs);
2. Municipal Comparative Chart

Report prepared by:

Gus Michaels, Director
By-Law & Compliance Department

Respectfully submitted,

MaryLee Farrugia
Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/
City Solicitor

Gus Michaels
Director of By-law & Compliance

ATTACHMENT # 1

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2012

Item 5, Report No. 25, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 26, 2012.

5

ELECTION SIGN REVIEW

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services & City Solicitor, and the Director of Enforcement Services, dated June 5, 2012, be approved;
- 2) That staff negotiate with the Region of York, with the objective of harmonizing the related by-laws and enforcement with respect to election signs;
- 3) That staff bring back a report with options on how to improve enforcement, in order to provide a level playing field; and
- 4) That staff hold a forum with past candidates, residents and regional staff to discuss election sign issues, including size, and report back with recommendations for Council's consideration.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services & City Solicitor, and the Director of Enforcement Services recommend that this report be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the City's experience with respect to placement of election signs during the weeks prior to the 2010 Municipal Election.

Background - Analysis and Options

By-law 203-92, the Sign By-law, regulates the placement of signs on public property, including restrictions on the placement of election signs.

Currently, the following restrictions are in place under the By-law:

- Election signs cannot be erected prior to the close of nominations or the dropping of the writ, as the case may be – effectively allowing a six (6) week period for signs to be erected.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2012

Item 5, CW Report No. 25 – Page 2

- Candidates must pay a non-refundable fee to the City prior to the erection of election signs.
- Signs may not be erected on municipal road allowances, or on City property.
- Signs cannot exceed 5 square metres, and must meet minimum set back requirements of 1 metre from all street lines and 1.5 metres from a common boundary with an adjacent lot.
- Signs must also be removed 48 hours after an election.

In addition, election signs are permitted to be erected on intersections of Regional roads with another Regional road, or with a City road. These are subject to specific restrictions to numbers per candidate per corner of the intersection, distance from the intersection, and sight lines.

With the exception of the time when election signs can be erected, most of these restrictions have remained unchanged over the past decade.

As with all sign enforcement on City property, staff proactively patrol the City road allowances for improperly placed signs. Any illegally erected signs are removed by staff and are returned at no charge to the candidate, or their representatives. The City does not enforce for illegally erected election signs on Regional roads, however, during the 2010 Municipal Elections, and subsequent provincial and federal elections, York Region staff have proactively enforced for illegally erected election sign on Regional road allowances, removing any illegal signs.

Since 2010, there have been several elections in this jurisdiction for which election signs have been erected, including the General Municipal Election, a Federal By-election, a School Board By-election, the General Federal Election and the General Provincial Election.

The table below indicates the number of signs seized by the City during these elections.

Election Signs Impounded by City of Vaughan Staff

YEAR	ELECTION	# OF CONFISCATED SIGNS
2010	Municipal Election	6,016
2010	Federal By-election	350
2010	School Board By-election	204
2011	Federal Election	1,245
2011	Provincial Election	1,676
TOTAL		9,492

In addition to the above, York Region advises that they removed a further 6,005 signs during the 2010 Municipal Election.

Significant staff resources are dedicated to the enforcement of election sign restrictions, including responding to complaints about signage at polling stations on election day.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2012

Item 5, CW Report No. 25 – Page 3

The provisions in surrounding municipality's sign by-laws are similar to those in the City of Vaughan. Although various restrictions and processes have been implemented over the past number of years, a large number of election signs are confiscated each election campaign.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision in respect to the pursuit of service excellence and providing a safe environment.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The current restrictions on erection of election signs is proactively enforced by City Enforcement staff on City road allowances and other City-owned property. The Region enforces for illegally erected election signs on its own road allowances. The non-refundable fee imposed on candidates provides a nominal off-set to the City resources expended in enforcement of the By-law. No changes are being recommended at this time.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Tony Thompson, Director
Rick Girard, Managing Supervisor

ATTACHMENT #2

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions							
<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Maximum Size</i>	<i># Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs</i>	<i># Hours for Removal Following Election</i>	<i>Unlawful Sign Placement Removal</i>	<i>Candidate Fees</i>	<i>Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area</i>	<i>Signs Permitted on Public Property (Road Allowance)</i>
Region of York	1.49 sq. m.	6 weeks	72	30 days, \$50 sign retrieval fee	No	No more than 1 sign on any one street corner	Regional Roads
Vaughan	5.0 sq. m.	After 2 pm on close of nomination day	48	30 days then disposed of, no retrieval fee	\$300 per mayoral/ regional candidate, \$150 per ward candidate	Not restricted	Not permitted
Markham	1.49 sq. m.	4 weeks	72	\$10 deducted from \$200 deposit for every sign unlawfully displayed	\$200 deposit	No more than 1 sign on any one street corner or on private property	By permit

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Maximum Size</i>	<i># Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs</i>	<i># Hours for Removal Following Election</i>	<i>Unlawful Sign Placement Removal</i>	<i>Candidate Fees</i>	<i>Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area</i>	<i>Signs Permitted on Public Property</i>
Richmond Hill	1.49 sq. m.	On nomination day	72 hours	30 days after election, after which signs are destroyed with no compensation to the owner	Election sign fee \$250 Filing fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	No	Only if sign is portable & abides by by- law restrictions
Aurora	2.0 sq. m.	As per Municipal Elections Act	4 days	no specified timeline	Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	No	Only if sign abides by by- law restrictions
Georgina	2.0 sq. m.	At the close of nomination day	7 days	Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed	Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	No	On public property adjacent to roadway not on town property

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Maximum Size</i>	<i># Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs</i>	<i># Hours for Removal Following Election</i>	<i>Unlawful Sign Placement Removal</i>	<i>Candidate Fees</i>	<i>Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area</i>	<i>Signs Permitted on Public Property</i>
Whitchurch / Stouffville	2.0 sq. m	25 days	3 days	Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed. \$10 per sign deducted from deposit for each unlawfully placed sign	\$245 sign permit deposit fee	No	On public property adjacent to roadway not on town property
East Gwillimbury	No size restriction	On nomination day	72 hours	Sign held for 30 days, after which signs are destroyed	Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	No	Only if sign abides by by-law restrictions
King * New By-law not available	1.5 sq. m	38 days preceding voting day	7 days after last voting day	\$20 removal fee per sign (deducted from permit deposit fee)	\$250 permit deposit fee	No	On public property as prescribed by by-law

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART – Election Sign Restrictions Continued

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Maximum Size</i>	<i># Days Prior to Election to Erect Signs</i>	<i># Hours for Removal Following Election</i>	<i>Unlawful Sign Placement Removal</i>	<i>Candidate Fees</i>	<i>Restriction on #Signs Permitted in One Area</i>	<i>Signs Permitted on Public Property</i>
Newmarket Note: By-law under review, website states updates coming in 2014	2.97 sq. m.	30 days prior to election	48 hours	30 days after election after which signs are destroyed. Minimum charge of \$75 per sign to owner, plus \$5 per sign retrieval fee	Filing Fee \$200 Mayoral, \$100 for all other	No	Only on or adjacent to private property
Toronto (bordering municipality)	1.2 sq. m.	25	72	30 days, \$25 deducted from candidates' campaign deposit	\$250 deposit per candidate	Not provided	Only on HWYS or TTC ad space approved by TTC