

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2014

Item 2, Report No. 10, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 18, 2014, as follows:

By approving:

That Sign By-law 203-92 be amended as follows:

- 1) That the maximum election 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 election signs following the election be 72 hours;***

That the report of the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/ City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance, dated February 25, 2014, be received; and

That Confidential Communication C4 from Legal Counsel, dated March 13, 2014, be received.

2 ELECTION SIGN BY-LAW REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE STRATEGY

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That consideration of this matter be deferred to the Council meeting of March 18, 2014, and that legal staff report back on the issues raised by the Committee;**
- 2) That Confidential Communication C2, be received; and**
- 3) That the deputation of Mr. Kevin Hanit, Queensbridge Drive, Concord, and Communication C20, be received.**

Recommendation

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

- 1. That Council hear from interested parties with respect to amendments to the Sign By-law, in particular:**
 - 1) That the maximum election 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 election signs following the election be 72 hours;**
 - 4) That one election sign, per candidate, be permitted on each private property.**

Contribution to Sustainability

Reviewing existing regulatory 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.

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Economic Impact

Adoption of the above recommendations will have no economic impact.

Communications Plan

Public notice of the City's intent to amend Sign By-law 203-92, as amended (the "Sign By-law"), as it relates to election signs was given on January 24, 2014 in accordance with Notice By-law 394-2002, as amended. Any approved amendments to the Sign By-law, relating to election signs will be communicated to all registered candidates through the City Clerk's Department in the appropriate form, as determined by the City Clerk. Any amendments will also be posted on the City's website.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to advise Council that public notice of proposed amendments to the election sign provisions of the Sign By-law has been provided pursuant to Council direction and in accordance with the Notice By-law, and to seek further direction for any amendments to the Sign By-law as it relates to election signs.

Background - Analysis and Options

On January 21, 2014, Committee of the Whole (Working Session), as confirmed by Council, directed the following:

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.

Further to their direction, staff posted notice on the City's website on January 24, 2014 in accordance with the Notice By-law.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This Report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council. By continuing to review existing by-laws and related regulations for relevance and suitability, staff continue to promote a designed interest in service excellence and effective governance across the City.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications associated with adoption of this Report.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

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Conclusion

In accordance with the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) direction of January 21, 2014, as confirmed by Council, staff has provided public notice of proposed amendments to the election sign provisions of the Sign By-law. Any amendments to the election sign provisions of the Sign By-law will require Council resolution.

Attachments

1. Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2014.

Report prepared by:

Rick Girard
Managing Supervisor
By-law & Compliance Department

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.)

City of Markham
Sign by-law

C20#2

c20
Communication
CW: Feb 25/14
Item: 2

16.0 POSTERS

- 16.1 No person shall affix or place a poster or cause a poster to be affixed to any public property except at a designated poster sleeve and in accordance with this By-law.
- 16.2 A person shall only affix or place one poster on a designated poster sleeve and such poster shall be in accordance with the following requirements:
- (a) Indicate the name of the person or business responsible for placing the poster; and
 - (b) Be no greater in size than 22 cm by 28 cm; and
 - (c) Conform to the shape of the poster sleeve; and
 - (d) Be attached to the poster sleeve only by staples, tacks, or push pins.
- 16.3 The Town may remove and dispose of lawfully and unlawfully placed posters without notice or compensation in accordance with the Town's regular maintenance activities.

17.0 Election Signs

(Section 17 amended in its entirety by By-law 2006-202)

(Section 17 amended in its entirety by By-law 2010-57)

17.1 Time Period for Placement

Election Signs shall not be erected anywhere within the Town prior to twenty eight (28) days before the date of the election, with the exception of designated intersections on Regional Roads as shown on Schedule G where Major Road Signs only are permitted to be erected forty two (42) days prior to the date of the election.

17.2 Removal of Election Signs

All Election Signs shall be removed within seventy two (72) hours after midnight of the date of the applicable election.

17.3 Permit & Permit Fee Requirement

No person shall erect an Election Sign on public property or on the premises of an Election Campaign Office without first obtaining a sign permit and payment of the appropriate fee as prescribed in By-law 2002-276 "Fee By-law".

17.4 Public Property Restrictions

Election Signs are not permitted anywhere on public property within the Town of Markham, other than on:

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Part of Deputation by Kevin Hanit
on February 25, 2014 at CW in regards to:
Agenda Item #2

- (a) A municipal boulevard abutting a residential lot, where the property owner of the residential lot has consented to the placement of the sign;
- (b) On a road allowance at a designated intersection shown on Schedule F;
- (c) Notwithstanding clause (a), no Election Sign shall be placed on a municipal boulevard between a sidewalk and a curb or between a sidewalk and the travelled portion of the road.

17.5 Major Road Signs

Election Signs erected on road allowances at designated intersections or on private property within the Rural Residential Area (both as shown on Schedule F) are defined as Major Road Signs in this By-law, and shall comply with the following:

- (a) The area of the sign shall not exceed 1.49m^2 ; *16 Square feet*
- (b) The area of the size shall not be less than 1.0m^2 ;
- (c) The height of the sign shall not exceed 1.22m ; *4 feet*
- (d) The width of the sign shall not exceed 1.22m ; *4 feet*
- (e) The sign shall be no higher than 2.0m above the ground;
- (f) There is only one sign per candidate at any corner of a designated intersection;
- (g) No portion of the sign shall be located within three (3) metres of the curb, the edge of the travelled highway, or the shoulder of the highway;
- (h) No portion of the sign shall be located within one (1) metre of a sidewalk;
- (i) The sign shall be placed within fifty (50) metres of the corner, but shall not be placed within the Daylight Triangle;
- (j) Only one sign per candidate is permitted on private property within the Rural Residential Area, and the sign shall be placed within the portion of private property being maintained for residential purposes;
- (k) Major Road Signs are prohibited in Special Sign Districts (Heritage District Areas).

17.6 Lawn Signs

Election Signs erected on private property or on the municipal boulevard abutting the front yard in residential zones are defined as Lawn Signs in this by-law and shall comply with the following:

- (a) The sign may be erected only with the consent of the owner of the private property on which the sign is located or the abutting municipal boulevard;
- (b) The area of the sign shall not exceed 0.75m^2 ;
- (c) The sign shall be no higher than 2.0m above the ground;
- (d) Only one sign per candidate is permitted on the residential lot or where no sidewalk exists in the abutting municipal boulevard;
- (e) Where the sign is placed adjacent to a curb or the travelled

portion of the road, the sign must be set back a minimum of 1.8m from the curb or travelled portion of the road;

- (f) Where the sign is placed adjacent to a sidewalk, the sign shall be set back a minimum of 0.6m from the edge of the sidewalk;
- (g) Subsection (g) does not apply when the sidewalk is less than 0.6m from the main wall of the building, in which case the sign shall be placed at the furthest distance possible from the sidewalk;
- (h) The sign shall independently attached to the ground;
- (i) Within Special Sign Districts (Heritage District Areas), Lawn Signs may be placed on private residential or commercial properties and shall not be placed on the abutting municipal boulevard.

17.7 Election Campaign Office

Each candidate is permitted to use signage permitted under the Sign By-law for Election Signage, except for Mobile, Portable, and Banner signage at one designated Election Campaign Office only and is further entitled to the following exemptions to the Sign By-law:

- (a) A single Major Road sign, displaying the words “ Campaign Headquarters” may be placed on private property where the candidate does not display any signage on a Ground Sign permitted under the By-law;
- (b) Within 42 days of the applicable election date, regular Sign By-law restrictions for the placement of signs in windows of the portion of the building occupied by the candidate’s Election Campaign Office are not applicable;
- (c) The above exemptions for the placement of signs do not apply to a Election Campaign Office located in a residential or institutional zone.

17.8 Restrictions on Sign Placement

No Election Signs shall be displayed or erected:

- (a) In any park or open space area or any municipal boulevard abutting any park or open space area;
- (b) On the property of any municipal, provincial or federal building or any school, or on the municipal boulevard abutting such facilities;
- (c) On the property of a Voting Place, or the municipal boulevard abutting any Voting Place;
- (d) On vacant lands or the abutting municipal boulevard;
- (e) Attached to a fence, wall, hoarding, or any other structure;
- (f) Attached to a tree, bush, or any other form of vegetation;
- (g) Attached to a utility pole, bus shelter, traffic sign, or any other municipal infrastructure;
- (h) Within five (5) metres of a fire hydrant or bus shelter;
- (i) Within ten (10) metres of a non- residential driveway;
- (j) On any centre median, traffic island, or centre boulevard within a road allowance;

Page 3 of 4 Part of Deputation of
Kevin Hanit

- (k) Within a Daylight Triangle;
- (l) So as to impair or obstruct movement of vehicular traffic, or the visibility of warning devices and traffic signs or signals;
- (m) Other than independently attached to the ground.

17.9 Fences on Municipal Boulevard

For the purposes of this By-law, all fences abutting a municipal boulevard shall be deemed to be on the property line and no Election Sign shall be erected on the fence.

18.0 EXCEPTIONS

18.1 The provisions of this By-law are modified to the extent set out in the following exceptions. Unless otherwise indicated in the following exceptions, all of the provisions of this By-law which are not inconsistent with the following exceptions shall apply.

18.2 Signs will be permitted on the lands delineated on Schedule "G" to this By-law only as follows:

- (a) Ground signs will only be permitted at the locations identified in Schedule "H."
- (b) All signs other than ground signs will be permitted as identified on Schedule "I."
- (c) No ground or wall sign shall be permitted on the lands except at the locations delineated in Schedule "I" and as specifically shown on Schedules "J-1" to "J-22" inclusive.

18.3 Notwithstanding Section 5.3.9, a second ground sign shall be permitted along the Markham Road frontage subject to the following:

- (a) No two signs shall be setback less than 45 metres from each other.
- (b) No ground sign is permitted along the Denison Road frontage.
- (c) No ground sign is permitted on the parcel of land immediately to the north as outlined on Schedule A to this by-law.

(Amended by By-law No. 2006-169)

19.0 VARIANCES

19.1 An application for variance shall be made on the appropriate form and shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee, as set out in Schedule "A".

19.2 The Commissioner of Development Services shall prepare a report for the consideration of Development Services Committee, setting out the reasons for the variance and a recommendation to Council.

Page 4 of 4 part of deputation
of Kevin Hanit

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 25, 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 Council hear from interested parties with respect to amendments to the Sign By-law, in particular:
 - 1) That the maximum election 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 election signs following the election be 72 hours;
 - 4) That one election sign, per candidate, be permitted on each private property.

Contribution to Sustainability

Reviewing existing regulatory 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

Adoption of the above recommendations will have no economic impact.

Communications Plan

Public notice of the City's intent to amend Sign By-law 203-92, as amended (the "Sign By-law"), as it relates to election signs was given on January 24, 2014 in accordance with Notice By-law 394-2002, as amended. Any approved amendments to the Sign By-law, relating to election signs will be communicated to all registered candidates through the City Clerk's Department in the appropriate form, as determined by the City Clerk. Any amendments will also be posted on the City's website.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to advise Council that public notice of proposed amendments to the election sign provisions of the Sign By-law has been provided pursuant to Council direction and in accordance with the Notice By-law, and to seek further direction for any amendments to the Sign By-law as it relates to election signs.

Background - Analysis and Options

On January 21, 2014, Committee of the Whole (Working Session), as confirmed by Council, directed the following:

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.

Further to their direction, staff posted notice on the City's website on January 24, 2014 in accordance with the Notice By-law.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This Report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council. By continuing to review existing by-laws and related regulations for relevance and suitability, staff continue to promote a designed interest in service excellence and effective governance across the City.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications associated with adoption of this Report.

Conclusion

In accordance with the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) direction of January 21, 2014, as confirmed by Council, staff has provided public notice of proposed amendments to the election sign provisions of the Sign By-law. Any amendments to the election sign provisions of the Sign By-law will require Council resolution.

Attachments

1. Extract from Council Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2014.

Report prepared by:

Rick Girard
Managing Supervisor
By-law & Compliance Department

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

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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
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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

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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
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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.

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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.)