

DATE: June 13, 2013

TO: Honourable Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: MaryLee Farrugia
Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor

RE: Animal Services - Pigeons
Item 25, Committee of the Whole Meeting May 21, 2013

c <u>3</u>
Communication
cw: <u>June 18/13</u>
Item: <u>24</u>

On May 21, 2013, Committee of the Whole deferred Item 25 of Report 23 titled "Animal Services-Pigeons" to the June 18, 2013 Committee of the Whole meeting, for staff to report back on the issues raised by Committee, including the policies of other municipalities and recommendations on suitable setbacks. In addition to examining setbacks, staff have also examined in further detail complaints received.

- **Further information Regarding Pigeon Complaints**

Animal Services staff have received a total of 12 complaints (instead of 7 as previously reported) since 2010 in relation to pigeons. Staff have also determined that there are 11 CRPU members residing in Vaughan and have obtained their addresses. For privacy reasons, the specific addresses of either the members or complainants are not provided in this memorandum. Attached as Schedule "A" is a map of the City which outlines the approximate location of these complaints. Six (6) of these complaints are in Ward 1, four (4) in Ward 2, one (1) in Ward 3, and one (1) in Ward 5. Of these 12 complaints, 7 complaints were against members of the CPRU, or members of the Canadian Pigeon Fanciers' Association. The majority of the complaints are related to the placement or condition of the lofts (coops), but there was also one complaint in relation to flight times, and another with respect to pigeon defecation. Of these 7 complaints against the members, only 3 violations were observed by Enforcement Staff. These violations are now resolved through full compliance with the Animal Control By-law.

Three of the 12 complaints were against non-CPRU members and all have been resolved. In one case, a shed was in such a state of disrepair that wild pigeons began to inhabit the shed. The other two cases were against the same individual, and related to the placement of the lofts (coops). Should Council adopt staff's recommendation in the May 21, 2013 Report, the keeping of pigeons by non-CPRU members will be prohibited. The remaining two of the 12 complaints were not verifiable by Enforcement staff.

- **Setback Information from other Municipalities**

Attached as Schedule "B" is a chart outlining the setback requirements for the Cities of Brampton, Hamilton, Mississauga, London, and Markham. All of these municipalities require that pigeon lofts (coops) be setback a minimum distance from the property line. In this respect, Vaughan's setback requirement of 4.5 meters exceeds all other municipalities, with the exception of Mississauga, which has a minimum setback of 6.1 meters from the property line.

However, in addition to the property line setback, Brampton, Hamilton, and Markham also have a minimum setback from a dwelling unit. This ranges from 6.1 meters to 12 meters.

Mississauga does not have a minimum setback requirement from a dwelling unit for a pigeon loft (coops). In light of this information, Staff are recommending that the Animal Control By-law be amended to require that lofts (coops) be setback 7 meters from any dwelling unit. Staff believe that a setback in the lower range is appropriate, given the 4.5 meter setback from the property line already required by the by-law.

for 
MaryLee Farrugia
Commissioner of Legal &
Administrative Services/City Solicitor

Attachment: Schedule A
 Schedule B

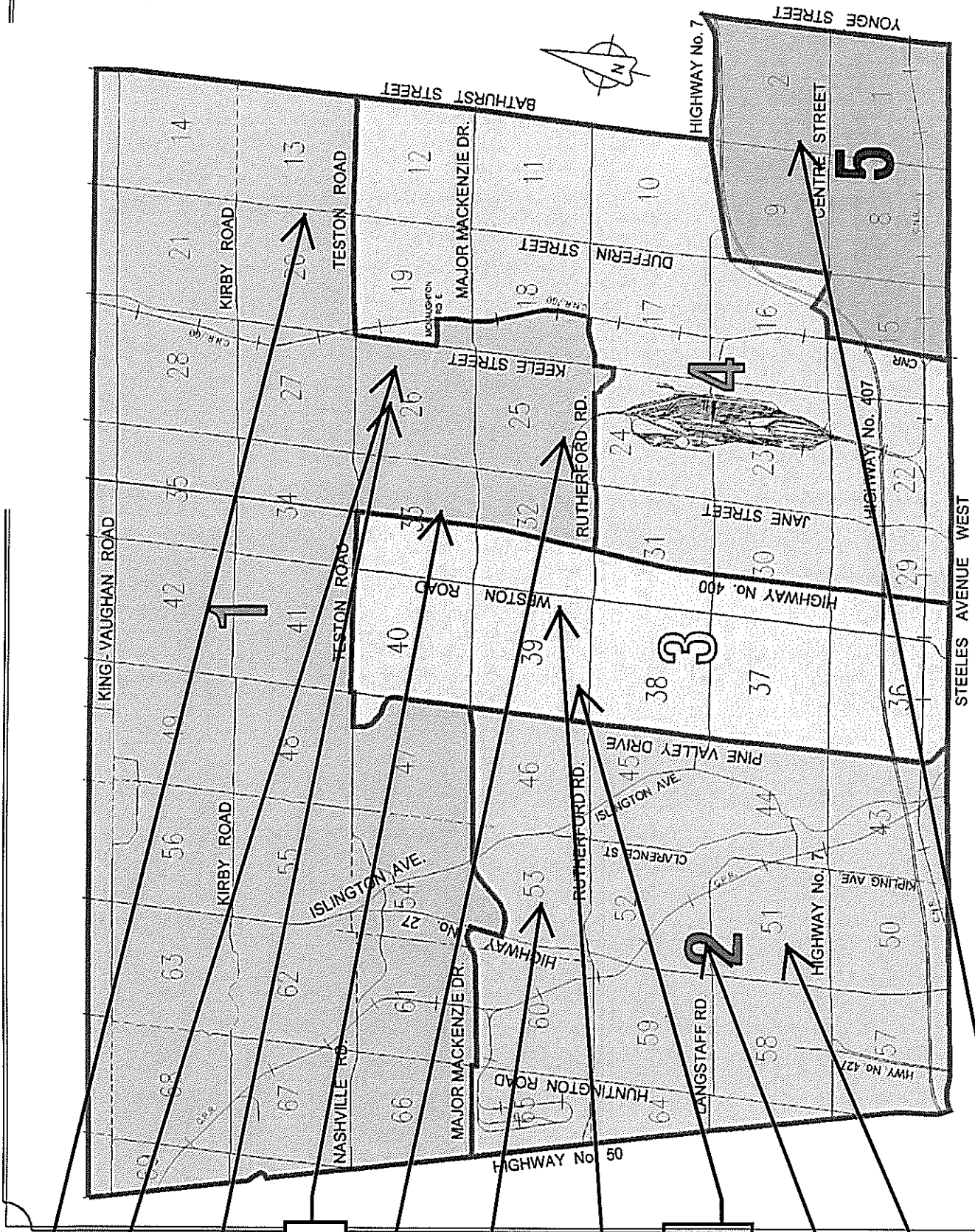
Copy to: Barbara Cribbett
 Interim City Manager

 Rick Girard
 Acting Director of Enforcement

 Susan Kelly
 Animal Services Supervisor

SCHEDULE 'A'

- Dufferin St.
(Member)
No. 1
- Blackthorn Dr.
No. 2
- Fermar Dr.
(Member)
No. 3
- Queen Isabella Cres.
No. 4
- Hawker Rd.
No. 5
- Toscana Rd.
(Member)
No. 6
- Neuchatel Ave.
(Member)
No. 7
- Saint Nicholas Cres.
(Member)
No. 8
- Condotti Dr..
(Member)
No. 9
- Arran Cres. X 2
No. 10
- Chilmar Cres.
(Member)
No. 11



SCHEDULE "B"

SETBACK REQUIREMENTS FOR PIGEON COOPS

Municipality	Vaughan	Brampton	Hamilton	Mississauga	London	Markham
Setback from property line	4.5m	3m	3m	6.1	3m	3m
Other Setbacks	None	8m from dwelling	Rear Yard 10m from other dwellings	None	12m from other dwellings	7m from any dwelling