



Report to: General Committee

Report Date: December 10, 2012

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**SUBJECT:** Changes to User Fee By-Law and Parking By-Law  
**PREPARED BY:** Andrea Tang, Manager, Financial Planning

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the report dated December 10, 2012 entitled “Changes to User Fee By-Law and Parking By-Law” be received;
- 2) And that Legislative Services user fees and service charges (within By-law 2002-276) be amended to reflect the changes as outlined in Appendix A – Table 1;
- 3) And that parking fines (within By-law 2005-188) be amended to reflect the changes as outlined in Appendix A – Table 2;
- 4) And that monthly overnight parking permit fees (within By-law 2005-188) be amended as outlined in Appendix A – Table 3;
- 5) And that amendments to Legislative Services user fees and service charges, parking fines, and monthly overnight parking permit fees will be effective January 1, 2013;
- 6) And that total additional revenues of \$502,000 from the amendments to Legislative Services user fees and service charges, and parking fines be included in the 2013 Operating Budget;
- 7) And that By-law 2002-276, a by-law to impose fees and charges for services or activities provided by the City of Markham, be amended to reflect the changes in rates;
- 8) And that By-law 2005-188, a by-law to govern and control the parking of vehicles in the City of Markham, be amended to reflect the changes in rates;
- 9) And that notice to the public will be provided in accordance with By-law 2002-275, a by-law to prescribe the form, manner and times for the provision of reasonable notice.
- 10) And further that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the report is to obtain authority from Council to amend Legislative Services user fees and service charges, and parking fines as outlined in Appendix A.

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Respectively, additional revenues of \$28,000 and \$474,000 are included in the proposed 2013 Operating Budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

Staff brought forward a report entitled “2013 Operating Budget” to the November 19, 2012 General Committee meeting with a proposed operating tax rate increase of 1% and a 0.5% tax rate increase for infrastructure.

To achieve the operating tax rate increase of 1%, Staff brought forward the following revenue enhancement initiatives to the Budget Sub-Committee for consideration:

1. Amendments to Legislative Services user fees and service charges
2. Amendments to parking fines

The Budget Sub-Committee reviewed and approved the above initiatives which are included in the proposed 2013 Operating Budget. Council decision on the 2013 Operating Budget will be made in January/February 2013.

**OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:**

The following revenue enhancement initiatives were discussed and reviewed by the Budget Sub-Committee, and the changes will be effective January 1, 2013:

1. Amendments to Legislative Services user fees and service charges

The Legislative Services department performed a benchmark review with other municipalities and identified an opportunity to increase user fees on civil marriage services and facility rentals (refer to Appendix A – Table 1). The proposed increase in user fees and service charges is comparable with other municipalities.

It is worth noting that Markham provides enhanced services such as offering civil marriage ceremonies and facilities seven days per week as compared to most municipalities offering these services one day per week. Further, some municipalities offer commissioning services to local residents only while Markham offers the service to local residents and non-residents.

In addition, a new fee “Appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board” in the amount of \$200 will be introduced in 2013 for the administrative costs associated with the receipt and processing of Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) appeals.

Additional revenues of \$28,000 are included in the 2013 Operating Budget result from the fee increases and the implementation of the new fee “Appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board”.

2. Amendments to parking fines and monthly overnight parking permits

The By-law Enforcement & Licensing department also conducted a benchmark review on parking fines and proposed increases to specific parking fines in the life safety category (refer to Appendix A – Table 2). The proposed increase in fines is

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comparable with the fines of other large municipalities. Currently, the City's request to increase the fines has been submitted to the Regional Senior Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice for approval.

The 2013 Operating Budget includes additional revenues of \$474,000 from increases in selected parking fines in the life safety category.

Starting in 2013, residents will have the ability to purchase monthly overnight permits online for Cornell, Angus Glen and Cathedraltown areas through Markham's Portal. Presently, the fee is \$30 per permit for Angus Glen and Cathedraltown, and the fee in Cornell is \$20 and \$35 for the first and second permit respectively, and \$50 for subsequent permits. Staff recommends standardizing the fee at \$30 per permit for all areas across the City. This change does not have an impact on the 2013 Operating Budget (refer to Appendix A – Table 3).

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The 2013 Operating Budget includes additional revenues of \$502,000 from the amendments to the Legislative Services user fees and service charges of \$28,000, and parking fines of \$474,000.

The Budget Sub-Committee reviewed and approved the above initiatives which are included in the proposed 2013 Operating Budget. Council decision on the 2013 Operating Budget will be made in January/February 2013.

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Not applicable.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Legislative Services.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

03/12/2012

04/12/2012

X 

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Joel Lustig  
Treasurer

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Trinela Cane  
Commissioner, Corporate Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Appendix A – Summary of Changes to User Fee By-Law and Parking By-Law](#)