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Item No. 14.2.1
Halifax Regional Council
March 28, 2017

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Councillor Steve Adams, Chair, Appeals Standing Committee

DATE: March 10, 2017

SUBJECT: **Review of By-law S-801 (Licensing of Temporary Signs) Regulations
Regarding Box Signs in the Street Right-of-Way**

ORIGIN

Motion approved at the March 9, 2017 Appeals Standing Committee meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Appeals Standing Committee – Terms of Reference (Schedule 1 of Administrative Order One – The Procedure of the Council Administrative Order.

Part VII – By-Laws – of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter

RECOMMENDATION

The HRM Appeals Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to review the prohibition of box signs located in the street right-of-way in By-law S-801, respecting Regulations & Licensing of Temporary Signs.

BACKGROUND

At the March 9, 2017 meeting of the Appeals Standing Committee, the Committee considered an appeal of a Temporary Sign License Application with regard to a Box Sign, where the license was refused by staff.

A “Box Sign” as defined by By-law S-801 (s. 2(c)) “means a sign that has a wooden box-shaped base with an enclosed weighted system, a double sided sign and a decorative header above the sign face”.

DISCUSSION

During the course of discussion at the March 9, 2017 Appeals Standing Committee meeting, the Committee heard from the Appellant and staff issues with regard to the practicality of the application of the regulation prohibiting box signs from being located within the street right-of-way (s. 4(ii)), in particular where the street right-of-way boundary location can vary widely throughout the Municipality. Under By-law S-801, a sign license for a sign in the street right-of-way is restricted to sandwich board signs.

The Appellant, which is a commercial enterprise involved in event promotion, noted concern that a sign in this particular location had been approved annually from 2009 to 2015. With the approval of By-law S801 which came into effect in April 2015, the application was refused. The Appellant indicated that no complaints had been made about the sign or its placement, and no safety issues were communicated, and also indicated that there has been a noticeable increase in the refusal of box sign applications over the past year.

The Committee approved a motion to recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to review the prohibition of box signs located in the street right-of-way in By-law S-801, respecting Regulations & Licensing of Temporary Signs. The Committee then deferred the appeal in question for a period of six months.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications were identified with the preparation of the staff report on this issue.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no risks identified with this request for a staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Appeals Standing Committee meetings are open to public attendance, with the exception of In Camera (In Private) matters. Agendas, reports, and meeting minutes of the Appeals Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications related to this request for a staff report.

ALTERNATIVES

No alternatives were identified by the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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