



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 14.4.3

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: April 12, 2016

Subject: Request that the staff report request approved by Halifax & West Community Council and by Regional Council on changes to the resident notification area for variances be provided directly to Regional Council without review by the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1) request a staff report regarding the implications of increasing the notification distance for variance appeals from the current thirty (30) meter radius to fifty (50) and up to one hundred (100) meters, including potential amendments to the Halifax Municipal Charter;

and

2) that the report be provided directly to Regional Council without review by the Community Planning and Economic Development standing committee.

Reason: Regional Council adopted a motion as reflected in the wording in part 1. The request was made to Regional Council with the intent to have the report come back to Regional Council. As per our new Charter amendments, the subject matter of the report falls within the terms of reference for the Community Planning and Economic Development standing committee (CPED). As per Administrative Order 1 (A.O.1), the report is scheduled to be reviewed by CPED prior to referral to Regional Council. In accordance with A.O.1, Council can choose to depart from this process based on a 2/3 majority vote.

It is requested that Regional Council consider amending the existing approved motion by adding a section allowing a departure from Administrative Order 1 to permit this report to be delivered directly to Regional Council without review by CPED. This would allow the report to be delivered sooner and provide for an earlier review at the Regional Council table.

Variance requests are made throughout Halifax Regional Municipality. Variances can affect numerous residents residing in any district. The current 30 m radius for notification area is very limited and a variance application can affect significantly more people. There are also circumstances such as areas having multi-lane roadways which can take up the entire 30 m radius and thus residents living across the street may not be afforded input into local planning decisions.

As this is a regional issue I respectfully request that the report be sent directly to regional council. The majority of a standing committee can vote against a report. There are a significant amount of variances coming before Community Councils and it is important that all members of Council are given the opportunity to discuss the report.

Outcome Sought: A 2/3 majority vote of Council supporting departure from Administrative Order 1 in favour of delivering the above referenced staff report directly to Regional Council without review by the CPED.

Councillor Linda Mosher

District 9