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Item No. 15.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
November 28, 2023

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

John Traves, K.C., Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: October 10, 2023

SUBJECT: **Adjustments to AO15 (Parking Permits)**

ORIGIN

This is a staff-initiated report.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Motor Vehicle Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 293, section 154, as follows:

154 A council of a city, town or municipality may make a by-law exempting persons or vehicles from parking restrictions within the city, town or municipality and providing for permits to be issued to those who are exempted.

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, 2008, c. 39, subsection 60(1), as follows:

60 (1) The Council may make policies

[...]

(c) setting and amending the fees to be paid for

[...]

(iii) permits, applications and approvals required to be obtained from the Municipality or an employee of the Municipality pursuant to a by-law of the Municipality or an enactment.

[...]

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 15, the *License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order*, as set out in Attachment A to this report.

BACKGROUND

In October 2018, Halifax Regional Council Enacted By-law P-1200 – Respecting On-street Parking Permits. This By-law combined elements of the Residential On-street Parking Policy, the Regional Parking Strategy Functional Plan, and the Integrated Mobility Plan, and aimed in part to improve the experience of those requiring on-street parking in residential areas.

The commuter permit program has undergone significant expansion in the past 12 months, increasing the

areas where commuter parking is available as well as the number of spaces within each area. Particular attention was paid to the area around Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities, as well as near the hospitals.

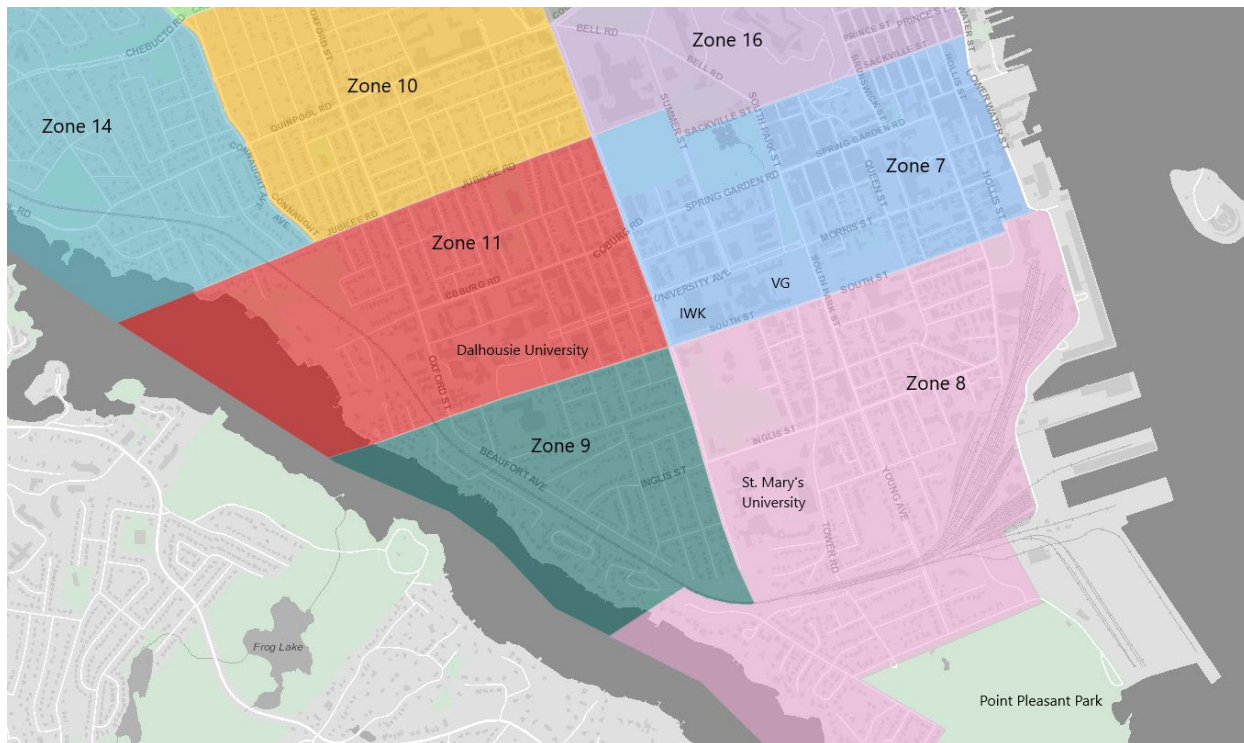
Permit prices are typically reviewed annually. A significant amendment to By-law P1200 was passed by Halifax Regional Council in January of 2023 which included price adjustments within AO15. After these changes, permit sales were monitored via the Parking Technology Solution, and feedback was received from residents. Based on this information, staff identified areas that required attention before the next periodic pricing review to ensure permit costs reflect the demand from the perspective of cost recovery of fees, including both programming costs, and costs related to the construction and maintenance of the on-street parking lane.

DISCUSSION

ZONES 8, 9, AND 11 - UNIVERSITY DISTRICTS

On-street parking permits are an effective tool to control parking demand in residential areas, including those in the South End of Halifax. These neighborhoods are near major destinations, including hospitals and universities. Without permit parking, many of these local streets would be overrun with parked cars. High occupancy causes many problems. Drivers have trouble finding available spots and may circle the neighbourhood to find one, causing congestion and pollution. Drivers who cannot find a legal spot may park illegally, blocking fire hydrants, driveways, or loading zones.

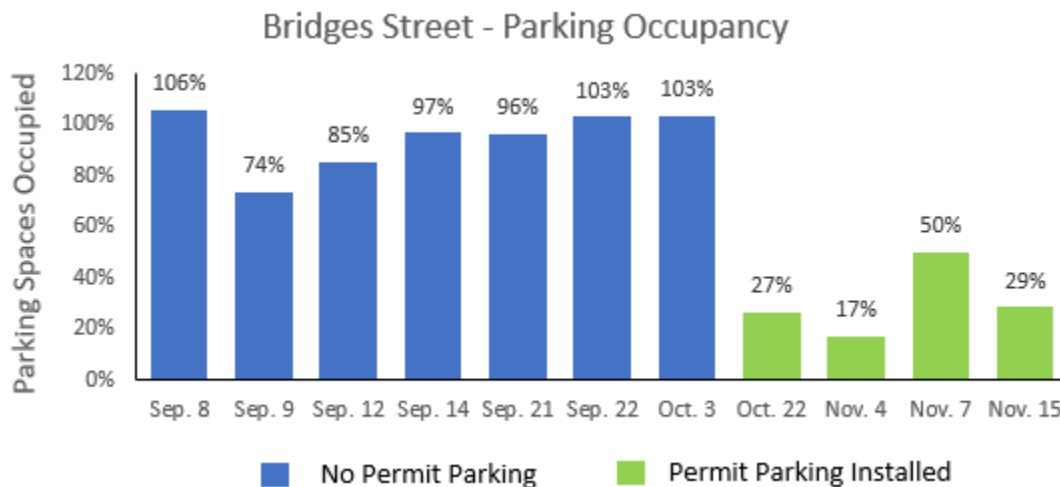
Before permit parking was installed, most parking in these neighborhoods had a 2-hr. time-limit. Enforcing these restrictions was challenging since two visits were required. Some streets had no parking restrictions at all. As a result, on-street occupancy was often very high, over 95%. Some counts on some streets had occupancies above 100%, meaning more cars parked than legal parking spaces. This means cars were blocking driveways, parked in no-parking areas, parked in no-stopping areas, or parked illegally in accessible parking spaces.



Permit Zones and major destinations in the South End of Halifax.

Between the summer of 2022 and the winter of 2023, staff installed permit parking on many streets in Zones

8 and in the area surrounding Saint Mary's University. The occupancy issues around Saint Mary's were immediately solved (see chart below: Bridges Street Parking Occupancy), however permit sales were slow, and drivers who previously used those spaces said they weren't opposed to paying, but that the monthly fee of \$70+ HST was too high.

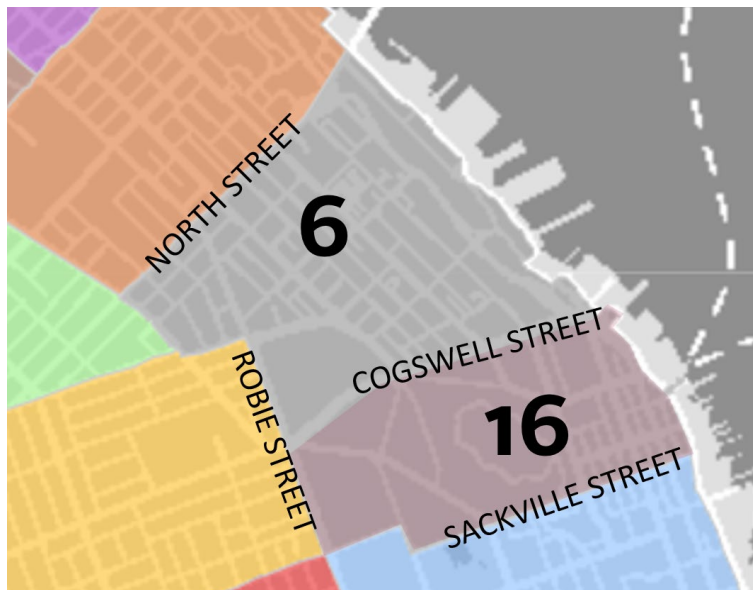


Similarly, permit parking was added to streets in Zone 11 near Dalhousie. Monthly permits in this area are \$35, despite serving similar destinations as zones 8 and 9. As a result of this pricing, Zone 11 permits were much more popular, with some streets selling out consistently.

In order to promote sales on underperforming streets, manage sales on more popular streets, and apply consistent pricing to zones with similar demand and destinations, staff recommend changing the price on Zones 8,9 and 11 to \$50/month, plus HST, effective November 1, 2023. Student Commuter Permits in these zones would continue to be available at a \$10 discount on standard commuter permits: \$40/month, plus HST.

ZONE 16 – DOWNTOWN HALIFAX

In Spring of 2023, changes were made to HRM By-law P-1200 respecting On Street Parking Permits to divide Zone 6, which covered the primarily residential area bound by North/Robie/Cogswell Streets as well as the mostly commercial downtown Halifax area into two separate zones.



Permit Zones 6 and 16. Prior to May 2023, both areas were part of Zone 6.

Zone 16 was created, encompassing the commercial area of the previous Zone 6. The intention was to set commuter pricing to be lower in the primarily residential areas in Zone 6, and to price Zone 16 at a higher rate, in line with other similar commercial/institutional areas. An oversight in the previous pricing table change led to commuter pricing not being amended at that time for the streets now in Zone 16. To correct the oversight from the previous change, staff recommend increasing the cost of commuter permits in Zone 16 from \$55 to \$70 per month (plus HST) to better reflect the demand in the zone.

HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS

On August 22, 2023, Regional Council approved amendments to Administrative Order 15 as part of the amendments to the *Temporary Sign By-law*. It has been noted that the Business License Fee should be clarified that it is \$75 **per sign** per year as noted in the staff report. Amendments to AO-15 within this report will clarify that section.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Forecasting sales after the price changes is a difficult exercise.

The net effect to permit revenue due to the changes in zones 8,9, and 11 is anticipated to be negligible. Increased sales in Zones 8 and 9 due to the price decrease will offset the loss of revenue for permits that would have sold at the higher price. Similarly, demand may be slightly decreased in Zones 8 and 9 due to increases in Zone 11, but the increased monthly cost should offset the lighter demand.

Zone 16 consistently sells out all 94 permits available, and the \$15/month price change proposed is not anticipated to have any impact on demand. This change should add approximately \$15,000 to annual permit revenue.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations in the report were informed by citizen contact via 311, or direct inquiry with HRM staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Halifax Regional Council could choose to:

1. Adopt the proposed amendments subject to modifications. This may require a supplementary report.
2. Refuse to adopt the proposed amendments, thereby not achieving the benefits or revenue opportunities identified within this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Amendments to Administrative Order 15

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Jeff Nephew, P.Eng., Senior Advisor, Parking Services 902.222.4180

Amending Administrative Order
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 15
Respecting License, Permit and Processing Fees

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality that Schedule A of Administrative Order 15, the License, Permits and Processing Fees Administrative Order, is amended as follows:

1. Section 9A is amended by:

(a) The sixth row is repealed and replaced as follows:

		5(e)	Commuter Parking Permit:	
			Zone 7, 10, 16	\$70.00/month
			Zone 2, 5, 6	\$55.00/month
			Zone 8, 9, 11	\$50.00/month
			Zone 1, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15	\$35.00/month

(b) The seventh row is repealed and replaced as follows:

		5(ea)	Student Commuter Parking Permit:	
			Zone 7, 10, 16	\$60.00/month
			Zone 2, 5, 6	\$45.00/month
			Zone 8, 9, 11	\$40.00/month
			Zone 1, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15	\$25.00/month

2. Section 15A is amended by inserting the words “per sign” following the numbers “\$75.00” and before the words “per year” in the third column of the last row for “Annual Business License” as shown in bold:

Annual Business License	5A	\$75.00 per sign per year
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3. Section 1 of this Amending Administrative Order shall come into effect December 1, 2023.

4. Section 2 of this Amending Administrative Order shall come into effect November 28, 2023.

Done and passed in Council this ____ day of _____, 2023.

MAYOR

MUNICIPAL CLERK

I, Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk of the Halifax Regional Municipality, hereby certify that the above noted amendments were passed at a meeting of the Halifax Regional Council held on November 28, 2023.

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk