

Item No. 15.3.1

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item (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
Date of Council Meeting: Tuesday January 23 2024		
Subject: Amendments to By-law M-400 Respecting Marketing Levy		
<p>Motion: Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare a staff report on potential amendments to the By-law M-400, the Marketing Levy By-Law, on options to forgive fines charged under section 14 for non-remittance for operators who had \$0 to remit under the levy. The report should include options to retroactively forgive and refund fines already issued and paid</p> <p>Reason: Thanks to amendments to Provincial legislation, HRM's marketing levy now applies to all tourist operators, including short-term rentals. Changes to the By-Law came into effect on October 1, 2023. Unfortunately, communication on the need to submit a report, even if a short-term operator had \$0 in rentals for the month, wasn't clear to everyone. The result is a lot of small operators facing disproportionate fines. Whereas this is a new bylaw requirement, there seems to have been gaps in communicating the requirement to submit a report even if \$0 was owing, and whereas there was no intent by folks to deliberately not pay the marketing levy, HRM should adopt a less punitive approach to forgive and refund fines.</p> <p>Outcome Sought: Staff recommendation report</p>		
<i>Councillor Sam Austin</i>	<i>District 5</i>	