

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

Date: 2/15/2016 9:32:10 AM

Subject: Request to Staff - RTS 11134 - Garbage Container Licence Program

Attachments: [Memo to Mayor and Council - Garbage Container License Program RTS #01113....pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny, GM - Engineering Services, which responds to Council's questions regarding how Engineering deals with the licensing of Commercial waste containers located on public property.

A short summary of the Memo is as follows:

All commercial waste containers located on public property must be licensed by the City. License holders are required to:

- register the container;
- pay the fee;
- keep the container labelled, locked and in good repair.

City staff work to address container issues and respond to complaints in a timely fashion. the City has the authority to issue compliance notices, remove and impound containers, change the container location, or with recent bylaw changes fine by issuing tickets.

Other municipalities do not have a permit or fee system in place to make the users responsible for the program costs.

Best,
Sadhu Johnston
Acting City Manager

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ENGINEERING SERVICES
Jerry Dobrovolny, P.Eng.
City Engineer/General Manager

MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2016

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, Acting City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Acting Deputy City Manager
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications
Mike Magee, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Kevin Quinlan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Braeden Caley, Director, Policy and Communications, Mayor's Office
Albert Shames, Director, Waste Management & Resource Recovery

FROM: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Garbage Container Licence Program RTS#011134

This memorandum is in response to Council's request for additional information on the Garbage Container Licence Program.

The City enters into Container Licence Agreements ("CLA") with commercial waste hauling companies that place commercial garbage, recycling and organics containers on city streets and lanes. Under the CLA, companies are regulated and charged a licence fee which is set to recover City costs for managing the container program and associated waste issues. There are currently 1,758 licenced commercial waste containers on City streets and lanes.

Vancouver is unique in the lower mainland in terms of permitting containers on lanes due to the age and heritage nature of numerous buildings that are not able to accommodate containers on site. There are no comparative numbers for other municipalities.

Responsibilities

- Engineering Services is responsible, through the Clean Streets Program, for administering the terms of the CLA which includes:
 - Reviewing and approving of container locations;
 - Providing education on how to properly manage containers; and
 - Ensuring compliance with the CLA and applicable bylaws.

City of Vancouver, Engineering Services
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- Commercial waste hauling companies are responsible for:
 - Paying the annual license fee; and
 - Maintaining the containers in accordance with the CLA which includes labelling requirements, providing adequate servicing frequency, and providing a working lock on the container.

- Businesses using the containers are responsible for:
 - Ensuring the containers are locked as instructed;
 - Ensuring containers are emptied regularly by their hauler; and
 - Cleaning any waste around the container.

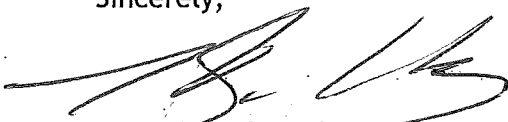
Common non-compliance issues related to commercial containers include overflowing containers, general messiness, unlocked lids, graffiti, inadequate labelling and unpermitted containers. Many of these issues are found by City Street Use Inspectors proactively during random site visits but most are Service Requests resulting from a call to 3-1-1. Service Requests typically involve site visits by an inspector to assess the concerns and to discuss concerns with the businesses and their waste hauler.

The goal is to cooperatively seek compliance; however, frequently problems are not addressed or are recurring resulting in multiple visits and escalating enforcement. The number of commercial container complaint cases is increasing in recent years and the 2016 fee increase is to provide additional staff resources to address the increased complaints and to proactively address non-compliance with the Container Licence Agreements. CLA fees for 2016 are \$270.97 for large containers (dumpster size) and \$89.78 for small containers (carts). These fees are for the full year. Other municipalities do not have a permit or fee system in place to make the users responsible for the program costs.

Ideally all containers are located on the private site which provides for better control of containers, cleaner laneways and less congestion for other lane uses. Staff review all requests for containers on city property and work with the applicants to seek other options before issuing a permit.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Albert Shames, Director of Waste Management and Resource Recovery at 604-873-7300.

Sincerely,



Jerry W. Dobrovolny, P. Eng., MBA
General Manager of Engineering Services