

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

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Dobrovolny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca>

Date: 8/8/2018 10:03:07 AM

Subject: Memo - Donation Bins on Street Rights-of-Way

Attachments: Memo - Donation Bins on Street Rights-of-Way.pdf

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny about donation bins on street rights-of-way. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- This memo provides information on donation bins stored on street rights-of-way (SROW) and actions being taken in light of the July 23 death that occurred when a member of the public tried to access a used-clothing donation bin.
- The bin in question has since been removed by the bin owners at the request of the Park Board, along with similar containers at Kensington Community Centre and Vancouver Aquatic Centre.
- The death highlights public life safety risks with donation bins stored on SROW.
- Staff are reaching out to the approximately 12 donations bin owners/operators with bins situated on SROW to express our concern and request their cooperation and urgent response to this matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space & Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

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MEMORANDUM

August 8, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girn, Community Relations Director, Mayor's Office
Albert Shames, Director, Zero Waste & Resource Recovery, Engineering Services

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Donation Bins on Street Rights-of-Way

This memo provides information on donation bins stored on street rights-of-way (SROW) and actions being taken in light of the recent death that occurred when a member of the public tried to access a used-clothing donation bin in the parking lot of the West Point Grey Community Centre.

On July 23, a woman became trapped in the hinged, self-closing door mechanism in a clothing donation bin at the West Point Grey Community Centre parking lot and succumbed to her injuries. First responders attended and removed the woman who was deceased. The female who was experiencing homelessness, was local to the area and had been seen removing items from the bin daily. The bin has since been removed by the bin owners at the request of the Park Board, along with similar containers at Kensington Community Centre and Vancouver Aquatic Centre.

There is currently no formalized policy in place for donation bins on SROW; they have historically been allowed because they provide a charitable benefit and a convenient means of diverting used clothing and other materials (e.g. books) for the public. It is estimated there are over 105 donation bins situated on Vancouver SROW. Since the last count was conducted (2014), staff have observed an increase in the number of bins, due partly to other municipalities banning donation bin placement on SROW. In light of rising complaints, Engineering Services was planning to initiate a review of the policy for donation bins situated on SROW, starting in 2019.

In addition to the bins located on SROW, some donation bins are also located on other City lands and have been allowed on a case-by-case basis by the building or property owner/operator (e.g. Firehalls). Donation bins are located in supervised areas of the City's Zero Waste Centre and Landfill Residential Drop-off Area under a partnership agreement with Diabetes Canada. Throughout the year as part of the City's Zero Waste Drop-off Event program, the City hosts used clothing collections in partnership with the Salvation Army. Donations of clothing, books and other household items can also be made by dropping them off at consignment stores, homeless shelters as well as by calling charities that provide home pick-ups.

The recent death now highlights public life safety and organizational risks with donation bins stored on SROW. Unless the bin owners/operators can demonstrate they will immediately address this public safety issue, they will need to be removed.

Accordingly, staff are reaching out to the approximately 12 donations bin owners/operators with bins situated on SROW to express our concern and request their cooperation and urgent response to this matter.

We recognize the value used clothing donations provide to those in need and to local charities, and will be working closely with organisations to manage impacts during this response period. Staff will also be informing the public of the various alternative options that currently exist to donate used clothing and related items.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Dobrovolny', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

604.873.7331 | jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca