



# **Corporate** NO: R088

# **Report** COUNCIL DATE: April 17, 2000\_

## **REGULAR**

**TO: Mayor & Council**    **DATE: April 13, 2000**

**FROM: City Solicitor**    **FILE: 0023-13680**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Business License By-law, 1999, No. 13680 (the "By-law")**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council:

1. Approve the proposed amendments to the By-law attached as Appendix "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", and "F" to this report (the "Proposed Amendments"); and
2. Instruct the City Clerk to prepare and introduce the appropriate amending by-law incorporating the Proposed Amendments.

## **INTENT**

The intent of this report is to identify a need to amend various provisions of the By-law as follows:

1. Amend, by a fee reduction, the per taxi business license fee.
2. Allow Secondhand Dealers operating primarily a retail store with a limited amount of secondhand goods to obtain only one business license.
3. Amend the homeless shelter provisions to agree with dates set by the Province.
4. Provide that all business licenses granted by the City will be issued annually so as to terminate one calendar year from date of application or renewal.
5. Amend the secondary suite and rooming house provisions as required by Bill 88.

6. Ensure that Employment Agencies, Recruiting Services and Talent Agencies hold the licenses required under the Employment Standards Act.

## DISCUSSION

### **Amendment of the Per Taxi Business License Fee**

Under the old Business License By-law, 1976, No. 4747 the basic fee for a taxi service was \$94.50 plus \$19.00 for each additional taxi. The current By-law raised the basic fee to \$100.00 plus \$50.00 for each additional taxi. In addition, Surrey Vehicle For Hire By-law, 1998, No. 13610 requires a fee of \$110 for each taxi. In a meeting with By-law & Licensing Services, the taxi industry identified the per taxi fees as excessive, given the increase in the business license fee from \$19.00 to \$50.00 together with the additional \$110.00 charged for each taxi. Therefore, it is proposed that the business license fee for each taxi be reduced from \$50.00 to \$25.00. The \$110.00 vehicle for hire fee will remain.

### **Amendment for Secondhand Dealers**

Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No. 12000 defines a Secondhand Store as follows:

means a place of business using more than 2.5 square metres (27 square feet) of floor area of a *building* for the *purchase* and sale of the following secondhand goods or merchandise...

Inspection of some secondhand stores has revealed that many keep or are able to keep the amount of secondhand goods under 2.5 square metres, with the balance of the area used for retail sale of new goods or goods not included in the definition of secondhand store for zoning purposes. Providing the secondhand dealer maintains the area at less than 2.5 square metres, the Proposed Amendment would allow the dealer to operate under a retail business license only rather than requiring a separate license for a secondhand dealer. The requirements of Surrey Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers By-law, 1997, No. 13183 would still apply to the dealer.

### **Homeless Shelters**

The Province of British Columbia allows for the establishment of homeless shelters for a five month period from November 1 to March 31. The By-law currently restricts the operation of homeless shelters to the period between November 15 and March 1.

With the proposed amendment, Surrey would mirror the dates of the Provincial legislation.

### **Business Licenses - Period of License**

All business licenses within the City of Surrey now terminate on April 30th each year regardless of the date of application. The Bill 88 amendments to the *Municipal Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.323 (the "*Municipal Act*") allow the City to determine the period of a business license. Those licenses presently issued would continue to terminate on April 30th, however, the business licenses of any new applicants would terminate from the date of issuance. This would accomplish two benefits.

- 1) Over the next 2-3 years the volume of licenses would fluctuate from month to month rather than a surge each May 1st, allowing staff to address each client on a separate renewal basis.
- 2) The reduction in fees for 3/4 year or 1/2 year would be eliminated and would benefit those business applying for only part of the year and having their license terminate 2-3 months after being initially issued. The result is less expense to the business community in Surrey.

## **Secondary Suites**

The Bill 88 amendments to the *Municipal Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.323 (the "*Municipal Act*") prevent a municipality from requiring business licenses for secondary suites and rooming houses for homes in which two or fewer rooms or suites are rented out if the home is owner occupied.

## **Employment and Talent Agencies**

The Employment Standards Act of British Columbia requires that all employment agencies and talent agencies be licensed. The purpose is two-fold:

- 1) To ensure that the Act and Regulations are complied with by the owners of the agencies and clients for whom they provide placements.
- 2) To ensure that employees in British Columbia receive at least the basic standards of compensation and conditions of employment and to promote the fair treatment of employees and employers.

The requirement within our By-law to have every Employment Agency, Talent Agency and Recruitment Service licensed through the Employment Standards Branch will ensure that operators are conducting their agencies within the guidelines of the Employment Standards Act.

## **CONCLUSION**

We recommend that Council approve the Proposed Amendments to the By-law for the reasons presented in the discussion.

CRAIG MacFARLANE

City Solicitor

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Attach.

cc: Manager, Administration & By-law Enforcement

City Clerk

General Manager, Planning & Development

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