



# **Corporate** NO: R257

# **Report** COUNCIL DATE: November 28, 2000

## **REGULAR COUNCIL**

**TO: Mayor & Council**    **DATE: November 23, 2000**

**FROM: General Manager, Engineering**    **FILE: 0560-001, 4552-003**

**SUBJECT: Secondary Suite Garbage & Recycling Utility Rate**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve a reduction in secondary suite garbage and recycling fees to 50% of the current single-family rate for 2001.

## **INTENT**

The intent of this report is to appraise Council of the proposed adjustment to the current secondary suites garbage and recycling fee.

## **BACKGROUND**

Further to the Regular Council meeting of July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the Engineering Department has been directed to review the current fee system related to secondary suite garbage and recycling services.

Presently, the annual fees for curbside garbage and recycling pick-up services in 2000 are \$165/year for single-family dwellings. An additional \$132/year fee (or 80% of the \$165 fee) is charged in the event that a secondary suite has been identified, or is suspected to exist, within the single-family dwelling. As of October 2000, approximately 12,000 homes have been identified as containing secondary suites, all of which are required to pay the noted additional fee for curbside collection service.

It was expressed that since a component of the identified homes containing secondary suites may not actually be occupied by tenants, the 80% secondary suite fee for the curbside garbage and recycling services should be either reduced or eliminated in those instances.

## **DISCUSSION**

To ensure an impartial approach to identifying secondary suites, a process as outlined in Appendix A, was endorsed by Council as a

means of linking secondary suite utility fees to the physical attributes of the dwelling, rather than to the personal circumstance related to the inhabitants of these homes. In other words, the onus of eliminating the payment of secondary suite utility fees rests entirely with the home owner (i.e. eliminating the attributes that identify their home as containing a secondary suite).

Notwithstanding the above, the Engineering Department has offered alternative approaches to secondary suite utility fees in the area of the water and sewer use. In this instance, property owners with secondary suites can, on a voluntary basis, eliminate having to pay the established (80%) water and sewer utility fee by installing a water meter to their home. The water and sewer charge is then generated on a user pay basis in place of an existing flat rate structure:

### **Proposed Garbage Rate Structure for Secondary Suites**

The current weekly single-family dwelling service for curbside garbage and recycling includes:

- 2 garbage can limit
- recyclables (blue box/bag, yellow bag)
- yardwaste (unlimited)
- annual clean-up week

As noted earlier in this report the cost for this service as per the 2000 rate is \$165 per household per year.

We are proposing that the fee associated with the secondary suite be reduced to \$84.50/year (or approximately 50% of the 2001 - \$170. /year single family rate).

In terms of the weekly refuse pick-up service itself; the 50% reduction in fees option will include the following:

- 1 garbage can limit\*
- recyclables (blue box/bag, yellow bag)
- participation in the annual clean-up week

\*argument most often provided by secondary suite home owners is that their tenants rarely generate more than one can of garbage per week and should be regarded a base level of service similar to the two can limit for single family dwellings.

Since the above noted service limits refuse pick-up to only one can of garbage per secondary suite per week, occupants requiring to place additional garbage cans at curbside (over and above their weekly one can limit) would do so through the purchase of extra garbage stickers on an “as required” basis.

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001, extra garbage sticker costs will be increased to \$1.25 per sticker (up from the current \$1.00 per sticker rate established in 1993) which is reflective the extra garbage sticker costs in most of the lower mainland municipalities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Engineering staff have recently been directed by Council to review the current fee system related to secondary suite garbage and recycling.

The Engineering Department proposes a reduction in secondary suite garbage and recycling fees to 50% of the current single family rate in the amount of \$84.50 per suite based on a 1 can / bag limit. Suite occupants may purchase extra garbage stickers at the rate of \$1.25 each should they exceed their limit.

Jorgen Johansen, P. Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering

**Attachment**

c.c. Acting General Manager, Finance, Technology & Human Resources  
Manager, Operations  
Manager, By-Law & Licensing Services

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