

NOTICE OF MOTION

July 21, 2020

City Clerk
City Hall
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that we will submit the following NOTICE of MOTION at the July 29, 2020 meeting of City Council and that we will seek unanimous consent that this Motion be heard as a matter of urgent business at the same meeting:

Re: Enforcement Plan – Noxious Weed Control

WHEREAS noxious weeds, including thistle and foxtail, have posed significant problems over the past several years in many areas of Regina including along boulevards, in vacant lots, in unkept homeowner and developer properties and on school lands, especially in new subdivisions such as Harbour Landing;

WHEREAS noxious weeds pose a health hazard to residents with allergies, to pets who ingest those weeds, and generally because of increased rodent and insect populations that live in weed beds;

WHEREAS noxious weeds destroy the appearance of neighbourhoods and undermine the efforts of civic minded residents who maintain attractive properties;

WHEREAS weed complaints have proven a serious, ongoing problem as evidenced by the number of complaints received by Service Regina (832 to date this year; over 5,900 from 2017) and by complaints to City Councillors and Administration;

WHEREAS despite Regina City Council's action in 2018 to strengthen *The Regina Community Standards Bylaw, Bylaw No. 2016-2*, it has become apparent that there is a need to further improve the bylaw to better define offences and to reinforce measures meant to deter offenders and deal with repeat offenders;

WHEREAS some offenders are treating low fines and weak enforcement as a license to continue to allow weeds to grow on their properties;

WHEREAS bylaw enforcement dealing with weed control has proven inadequate in particular due to an overreliance on reactive as opposed to proactive enforcement and to overly long warning periods, inadequate fine provisions, a failure to use all avenues of enforcement available, a reluctance to prosecute offenders and a general failure to enforce seasonal violations in a timely manner;

WHEREAS enforcement measures such as summary offence ticketing, provincial court summonses, and charging property tax bills with the full cost of property clean-up, are not being used or are being used ineffectively or with lengthy delay;

WHEREAS better and more timely communication is necessary so that city residents can clearly understand their legal responsibilities with respect to yard maintenance and the consequences of violating those obligations;

WHEREAS the need for effective bylaw enforcement arises in the context of noxious weed control, it is also of concern for the enforcement of other property maintenance bylaw provisions as in the cases of snow removal and the removal of junk vehicles and litter; and

WHEREAS this motion is a matter of urgency given that the weed problem is causing immediate anguish for residents, that summer of 2020 is well advanced, and that there is a pressing need for enforcement to prevent weeds going to seed and creating greater problems next spring;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Regina City Council:

1. Direct the City Administration to prepare an aggressive weed control enforcement plan for consideration by Regina City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 26, 2020;
2. That the said plan includes the necessary bylaw amendment provisions and strengthened enforcement measures and protocols including, but not limited to, summary conviction ticketing, summary conviction summonses, city-initiated clean-up charges on property tax bills and tightened timelines; and
3. That the said plan make provision for a timely, robust public education campaign to inform Regina residents of their obligations under yard maintenance and weed control bylaws and the legal consequences of violation.

Respectfully submitted,



Bob Hawkins
Councillor - Ward 2



Barbara Young
Councillor – Ward 1



Andrew Stevens
Councillor – Ward 3



Lori Bresciani
Councillor – Ward 4



John Findura
Councillor – Ward 5



Joel Murray
Councillor – Ward 6