



## REQUEST FOR DECISION

**MEETING DATE:** February 21, 2023

**TITLE:** Community Standards Bylaw Policy Discussion

**DIVISION:** Planning & Infrastructure

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### SUMMARY:

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To seek Committee's concurrence on the minimum standards recommended by Administration on each of the desired topics to be addressed in the Community Standards Bylaw (CSB).

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### PROPOSED MOTION:

A motion is not required.

### BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

At the January 16, 2023 Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting, Administration presented a list of the 48 most common topics found in the community standards bylaws of 18 municipalities. The Committee recommended a phased approach where the initial focus is on 25 specific topics (see Attachment A).

The list of 25 topics also included the following items:

- Ensuring utility boxes are in good condition and repair, and
- Maintenance of arterial roadway fencing.

On January 23, 2023, Council approved the motion to direct Administration to develop a CSB that addresses the list of 25 topics.

## **CSB Topic Analysis**

Administration has developed a template on each of the desired topics in preparation for a robust policy discussion with the Committee on February 21, 2023 (see Attachments 1-18). A detailed analysis has been prepared on each topic which includes:

- Existing City legislation;
- Information on situating the topic in the Spruce Grove context;
- Direct comparison to what a few comparator jurisdictions are doing;
- Administration's recommendations concerning minimum standards; and
- Potential financial and operational implications.

Due to interdependencies in several of the topics, some topics have now been combined. The updated consolidated topic list, grouped by theme, is as follows:

### **Public Behaviour**

1. Liquor
2. Camping
3. Graffiti Prevention and Abatement (NEW)
4. Charity Collection Sites (NEW)
5. Panhandling and Busking (NEW)
6. Urination/Defecation/Human Waste (NEW)
7. Causing a Disturbance

### **Property Maintenance/Neighbour Relations**

8. Nuisance Property **AND** Refrigerators and Freezers/Appliances (including maintenance of business properties, maintenance of utility boxes, and pet waste clean-up)
9. Landscape Obstructions
10. Vegetation/Weeds/Trees and Grass
11. Boulevards
12. Recreational Vehicles (including parking on lawns)
13. Repair of Motor Vehicles (NEW)
14. Construction Waste/Building Materials
15. Garbage/Waste

### **Noise Control**

16. Prohibited Noise (General) **AND** Decibel Limits/Levels **AND** Continuous Sound (NEW)  
**AND** Non-Continuous Sound (NEW)
17. Motor Vehicles/Off Highway Vehicle Noise

## Smoking and Cannabis

### 18. Smoking and Cannabis Restrictions in Public Spaces **AND** Odour

- **Red lettering** - Indicates topics that have been combined
- **(NEW)** - No existing city legislation on topic

The Committee's requests for additional information on maintenance of utility boxes and business properties, pet waste on private property and parking on lawns have been addressed in the appropriate topics above.

Administration has developed an administrative policy on arterial road fencing, and it will be brought to Council for review.

## Development of Minimum Standards

Minimum standards are objective criteria developed for each topic to inform policy discussions with this Committee. Through these policy discussions and the Committee's subsequent direction on the minimum standards, Administration can ascertain the approach the Committee would like to take on each of the topics.

Administration considered several principles during development of minimum standards:

1. Clearly defined requirements including:
  - a. Time window to address the infraction;
  - b. Geography lines to clearly delineate the land base being enforced; and
  - c. Accountability - who is accountable for the infraction.
2. Enforceability - The need for balance between transparency on enforcement standards as well as the ability to reflect other considerations that an enforcement officer might be addressing in a circumstance.
3. Proactive vs. Reactive Enforcement - The policy discussion on this approach will have substantial impact on the financial implications of operationalizing the CSB minimum standards.
4. The desired approach on municipal land vs. residential land vs. commercial lands.

The intended purpose of the February 21, 2023 COW meeting is to review the research conducted by Administration, discuss, and affirm the minimum standards on each of the topics with the Committee. These minimum standards will then be consulted upon in spring/summer (see below).

## **CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT:**

Once Committee has provided direction on the minimum standards for each of the 18 topics, Administration will develop an engagement plan and bring it back to Committee in March 2023 for consideration. The engagement plan will outline recommended timelines, methods, and levels of public engagement. It is anticipated that engagement will take place sometime between April and July 2023.

While the bylaw is in the engagement phase, work will proceed in parallel to:

- Commence drafting of the bylaw;
- Evaluate whether the City's tools for enforcement such as the range of penalties and fines for bylaw contraventions need to be updated; and
- Identify additional bylaw topics (outside of the 18 CSB 1.0 topics) that can be easily lifted and shifted to CSB from existing legislation.

During the January 16, 2023 COW meeting, members indicated they would like to review and discuss any policy implications of these additional topics (CSB 2.0). In response to this feedback, Administration will bring forward the CSB 2.0 topics for the Committee to consider in August 2023.

## **IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATION:**

Once the public consultation process has been completed, Administration will report back to the COW in August 2023 on:

- What was heard from the public engagement;
- Any additional bylaw topics that can be easily lifted from existing legislation and moved to CSB;
- Policy implications; and
- Recommended options (including enforcement penalties).

It is anticipated that a draft bylaw, implementation plan, and resourcing plan will be brought back to the COW for review in October 2023.

## **IMPACTS:**

As the implementation of a CSB affects several pieces of existing City legislation and impacts several City departments, a review will be done to ensure consistency of process, policies, and range of enforcement tools throughout.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

As noted above, Administration will present a resourcing plan to COW in October. Individual topics, on their own, may not have financial implications, however, if several topics require the enforcement of new and/or higher standards, additional enforcement measures may be required. The identification of financial and operational implications for implementation will consider the resourcing needs of the CSB as a whole.