



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of September 19, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Councillors Thornton-Joe and Alto
Subject: Enforcement of the CRD Clean Air Bylaw

Date: September 13, 2019

BACKGROUND

The first Clean Air Bylaw for the Capital Regional District was implemented on January 1, 1999. This Bylaw made all indoor public spaces 100% smoke-free. On July 1, 2007 the Bylaw was amended and all businesses were required to make patios where food and beverages are served and/or consumed 100% smoke-free.

On September 10, 2014 the Capital Regional District Board adopted Clean Air Bylaw No. 3962, increasing the scope of the ban on tobacco smoking within the Capital Regional District. Clean Air Bylaw No. 3962 made all parks, playgrounds, playing fields, public squares and bus stops smoke-free and extended the smoke-free buffer zone outside of doorways, windows and air intakes from three metres to seven metres.

The CRD Board adopted an amendment to Clean Air Bylaw No. 3962 at its May 9, 2018 meeting. The amendment allows the bylaw to prohibit the burning or vaping of any substances, including cannabis (when legalized), in any public space as identified in the existing bylaw, which includes: playing fields, playgrounds, and public squares. Education and awareness was to be provided by Island Health enforcement officers, along with written warnings and municipal fine tickets (including cannabis).

Encouraging compliance with the bylaw continues to include:

- Targeted education and awareness
- Sufficient and proper signage
- Voluntary compliance & peer pressure
- Rotation of physical presence and monitoring by Island Health enforcement officers
- Ticketing in specific situations

Enforcement of Clean Air Bylaw No. 3962 began April 1, 2015, following an extensive public education and awareness campaign.

The City of Victoria continuously receives comments from residents about the lack of enforcement of the Clean Air Bylaw.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Request that the City's CRD representatives ask that the CRD report to its Board on the number, distribution and capacity of its current bylaw enforcement staff, and further petition the CRD to hire additional staff necessary to adequately enforce the CRD Clean Air Bylaw

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe



Councillor Marianne Alto