

Corporate Report

NO: R034

COUNCIL DATE: March 10, 2008

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: February 26, 2008

FROM: Manager, Economic Development FILE: 6930-20

SUBJECT: Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area – Renewal with an Expanded

Boundary

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council grant final adoption to By-law No. 16534, that will act to establish the renewal of the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area, with an expanded boundary.

BACKGROUND

On January 14, 2008, Council authorized staff to undertake the necessary actions to facilitate the renewal of the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area (DSBIA), with an expanded boundary. Subsequently, By-law No. 16534 was introduced and given three readings. This Bylaw establishes the area against which the BIA levy can be charged to business property owners.

Notices of the intent to designate the specified area as the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area were mailed to property owners within the specified area, giving them thirty days to indicate their opposition. In addition, notifications were placed in the January 18th and January 25th issues of the Now newspaper.

The deadline for receiving petitions against the proposed BIA passed at 4:30 p.m. on February 25th, 2008. Attached as Appendix A is a map showing the location of the properties, whose owners advised the City of their opposition to the proposed BIA.

DISCUSSION

Within the proposed BIA, there are a total of 371 properties with an assessed value of \$707,325,845. Of that number, 42 petitions with an assessed value of \$37,403,600 were received

opposing the proposed BIA. The negative vote represents 11.32% of the total number of properties and 5.29% of the total assessed value.

Under Section 212 of the Community Charter, to halt the creation of the BIA, those petitioning against the creation of the BIA must be 50% of the owners representing at least 50% of the value of the parcels liable to be charged under the proposed BIA.

Since the petitioners against the creation of the Downtown Surrey BIA represent only 11.32% of the total number of properties and 5.29% of the assessed value, it is in order for Council to adopt By-law No. 16534 establishing the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area.

Once Council adopts By-law No. 16534, the Finance & Technology Department can include the BIA assessment on the property tax invoices within the specified area.

SUMMARY

The Council Initiative process was used as the process for the renewal of the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area, with an expanded boundary. The expanded boundary for the BIA area was requested by the BIA and is illustrated on Appendix A. Council has given three readings to the By-law that will establish the BIA with the expanded boundary and the appropriate notifications were mailed out to the owners of all of the properties within the specified area. Notifications were also placed in the January 18 and 25 issues of the Now newspaper.

Only 11.32% of the property owners representing 5.29% of the total assessed value have registered their objection to the establishment of the BIA. None of those who registered their objection were located within the newly added areas as illustrated on Appendix A.

It is therefore recommended that Council adopt By-law No. 16534 to establish the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Area.

Donna Jones Manager, Economic Development

c.c. City Clerk Attachment (1)