

NO: R176

COUNCIL DATE: September 12, 2011

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

**TO: Mayor & Council** **DATE: September 12, 2011**  
**FROM: General Manager, Planning and Development** **FILE: 3900-20-16100**  
**SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Surrey Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006 No. 16100**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve amendments to Surrey Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006, No. 16100 as documented in Appendix 1 to this report; and
3. Authorize the City Clerk to bring forward the related amendment bylaw for the required readings by Council.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval of amendments to Surrey Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006, No. 16100 (the "Bylaw") that will simplify the administration of the Bylaw and reduce red tape.

## BACKGROUND

On September 25, 2006, Council adopted the Bylaw. This was the result of extensive consultation with various committees, interest groups and the public. The Bylaw was intended to:

- encourage and provide incentives for tree retention and replacement;
- provide reasonable flexibility in tree retention and replacement;
- clarify trees to be protected and for replacement;
- provide for efficient administration and enforcement of the Bylaw; and
- prescribe standards of practice.

## DISCUSSION

From time to time, staff forwards for Council consideration, proposed amendments to the Bylaw based on the experience gained through the administration of the Bylaw. The amendments generally eliminate or improve cumbersome aspects of the Bylaw that are viewed as creating "red tape" (i.e., a process that provides little value) or act to improve aspects of the Bylaw that are viewed as deficient in context of achieving the objectives of the Bylaw.

## **Proposed Amendment**

The amendments as recommended in this report are intended to simplify the permitting process for private homeowners in relation to the removal of dead trees from their property by adjusting the related fee structure to reflect circumstances where an arborist report is determined by City staff not to be required. In support of this amendment, staff in the Trees and Landscape Section has developed a simple inspection process to assist private homeowners in addressing dead trees without the need to involve a private arborist.

Legal Services has reviewed the amendments recommended in this report and has no concerns.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- approve amendments to the Bylaw, as documented in Appendix 1 to this report; and
- authorize the City Clerk to bring forward the related amendment bylaw for the required readings by Council.

*Original signed by*  
Jean Lamontagne  
General Manager,  
Planning and Development

**Proposed Amendments to  
Surrey Tree Protection Bylaw, 2006, No. 16100 (the "Bylaw")**

That the Bylaw be further amended as follows:

1. By deleting clauses (a) and (b) in their entirety from Section 28 and reformatting the clause as follows:
  28. The fee for the tree cutting permit shall be determined as set out in Part 8 and shall be paid upon application for the permit. No fee is required for a tree cutting permit issued pursuant to Part 7, Section 31.