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**MEMORANDUM**

PWC-C 30-2020

**Subject:** Illegal Dumping Enforcement Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020  
**To:** Public Works Committee  
**From:** Katelyn Avella, Contract Supervisor, Waste Management Services

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This memorandum is intended to provide Committee members with a response to the Councillor Information Request, from the March 10, 2020 Public Works Committee meeting, for a plan to deal with possible increased events of illegal dumping that may arise as a result of transitioning to every-other-week (EOW) garbage collection, commencing on October 19, 2020.

In preparation for EOW garbage collection, Niagara Region surveyed municipal comparators to gain insight on how this service change influenced illegal dumping. Staff contacted comparator municipalities such as Barrie, Durham, Halton, Markham, Ottawa, Toronto, Vaughan, Peel and Waterloo. These municipalities currently provide EOW garbage collection. All nine (9) municipalities did not track before and after statistical data specifically on illegal dumping. However, Niagara Region did receive anecdotal comments from these municipalities. The overall response to how EOW garbage collection influenced illegal dumping was that it did not create a significant long-term issue, but rather it was observed that there was a short-term increase in the number of illegal dumping issues during the transition period to EOW garbage collection. Municipal comparators also noted that common items that were illegally dumped during this transition period included items that are not collected curbside (i.e. construction and renovation waste and shingles) from non-residential sources.

In order to combat the influence of service level changes on illegal dumping, Niagara Region has developed an Illegal Dumping Enforcement Plan (the Plan) that outlines the current approach to enforcing illegal dumping and also outlines an enhanced strategy Niagara Region has committed to in order to deal with a potential increase of illegal dumping events. The full Illegal Dumping Enforcement Plan (the Plan) is attached as Appendix A.

In summary, the Plan details the following:

- Background information on every-other-week garbage collection and the progress of the Illegal Dumping Working Group (IDWG). The IDWG is a Region-lead committee that began in 2012 and consists of Niagara Region staff, members from each Local Area Municipality (LAMs) and partnerships with Crime Stoppers and the St. Lawrence Seaway. The purpose of the IDWG is to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach when dealing with illegal dumping and educate the public on illegal dumping through awareness campaigns. To date, the IDWG has collaborated and put forth various deliverables that have made improvements to the way in which illegal dumping is reported, managed and monitored in Niagara region.
- The personnel responsible for investigating, enforcing and cleaning up illegal dumping events.
- How information pertaining to illegal dumping is managed at Niagara Region.
- Niagara Region's current process to address illegal dumping events. This section details how illegal dumping reports are currently received, dispatched, investigated, cleaned, and enforced. Further, it also discusses how residents are incentivised to report non-compliant acts through a rewards program, where residents who report acts of illegal dumping may be entitled to a reward up to \$200 if the report leads to a conviction, or \$50 if the report leads to compliance. This rewards program is a tactic to encourage residents to report non-compliant acts and assists by-law officers with their investigation and enforcement.
- Niagara Region's plan to enhance the current approach to illegal dumping and enforcement methods. This section outlines plans to:
  - Refresh the illegal dumping campaign, incorporate illegal dumping messaging into the communication plan for the new waste collection contract and the introduction of a new anti-litter campaign that helps to educate and spread awareness on decreasing the amount of street litter in our communities.
  - Improve illegal dumping data tracking through the creation of a mobile app to track and analyze illegal dumping data.
  - Create by-law amendments to improve and clarify illegal dumping wording and other non-compliant acts that will allow by-law staff to enforce these issues more effectively and efficiently.
  - Improve the functionality of the IDWG by updating membership, defining more structure to attendance, generating more member participation and evaluate the effectiveness of the group's operations as a whole.
  - Dispatch staff to conduct more proactive monitoring at locations such as hot spots and litter bins. Beginning October 2020, Niagara Region plans to use

existing intern resources as additional resources to help monitor illegal dumping issues.

- Work with local area municipalities to ensure street litter bins are designed to prevent these bins from being used for illegal dumping.
- Request assistance from the new collection contractors with regards to reporting illegal dumping issues and assisting with illegal dumping cleanup if needed.

Overall, illegal dumping continues to be an environmental, aesthetic and financial concern throughout the Niagara region. Illegal dumping is not unique to Niagara, but rather all Ontario municipalities have similar challenges. Appendix B provides an overview of illegal dumping statistics. Addressing illegal dumping takes time and there is no one quick fix in completely resolving the issue. Therefore, Niagara Region staff will continue to work with their counterparts at the LAMs to promote reporting of illegal dumping, educate residents that illegal dumping is a crime and cooperatively enforce and clean-up these dumped items.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Katelyn Avella  
Contract Supervisor, Waste Management Services

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Illegal Dumping Enforcement Plan

Appendix B – Illegal Dumping Statistics and Trends