

From: Dawthorne, Michael
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 11:52 AM
To: Brown, Matt; Branscombe, Nancy; Bryant, Judy; Armstrong, Bill; Brown, Denise
Cc: Westlake-Power, Barb; Martin, Jackie; Bonnie Quesnel
Subject: Community and Protective Services Committee - May 26, 2014 - By-law Amendments for Expanding Animal Welfare Initiatives

Chair, and Councillors Armstrong, Branscombe, Brown, and Bryant,

As Chair of The Accessibility Advisory Committee I received and reviewed the agenda for tonight's Community and Protective Services Committee meeting. I hope to be able to attend tonight, but am not certain yet if that will be possible. As such, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide feedback on wording around service animals prior to your public review of the proposed By-law amendment relating to animal welfare initiatives. The continued exemption of registration fees for Guide Dogs and other service animals is certainly something ACCAC would support. However, some of the language in the current – and proposed – by-laws are not consistent with existing Provincial legislation or current Respectful or Inclusive Language Guidelines.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) uses the term Service Animal, not working dog. The Accessible Customer Service Standard also provides a definition of such. I encourage the City to utilize existing Provincially legislated definitions rather than attempting to redefine them. This minimizes confusion, avoids potential legal challenges, and ensures the revised by-law will not need to be amended to remain current should the Provincial legislation change. The differentiation between Guide Dog and all other service animals is warranted as Guide Dogs are governed by a separate piece of legislation in Ontario, the *Blind Persons' Rights Act*. The proposed and existing by-laws already reference this legislation when defining guide dogs, in a manner similar to the recommendation above in regards to service animals and the AODA.

The proposed amendments below also eliminate the term 'disabled person(s)' and utilizes 'a person with a disability'. This is consistent with practices laid out in most current Canadian and European Respectful or Inclusive Language Guidelines.

Lastly, I recommend a re-ordering of section 7 to ensure information on service animals and guide dogs are kept together within the new by-law.

Again I want to reiterate that ACCAC is not encouraging any changes to the intent of the bylaw, only trying to ensure the language is consistent with current legislation and language guidelines.

Proposed changes for Agenda Item 7 - Appendix E [removed language is shown with ~~strikethrough~~, proposed replacement or new language is in **highlight**].

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~~7.2 Guide dogs –hearing ear dogs - exempted~~

7.3 Service Animals for a Person with a Disability - exempted

~~7.3 7.4 Pound fees - payment - proof of ownership – required~~

~~7.4 7.5 Fees - unpaid - recovery - method~~

~~7.5 Working dogs for disabled persons—exempted~~

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~~7.2 Guide dogs –hearing ear dogs - exempted~~

~~Guide dogs within the meaning of the *Blind Persons' Rights Act*, and hearing ear dogs, where a certificate is produced from a recognized training establishment stating the dog is being used as a hearing assistance dog, are exempt from the payment of all licence fees applicable pursuant to this by-law.~~

~~7.5 Working dogs for disabled persons~~ **7.3 Service Animals for a Person with a disability– exempted**

~~Working dogs, where a certificate is produced from a recognized training establishment stating that the dog is being used as a working dog to assist a disabled person Service~~

Animals as defined by Section 4 (9) of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Accessible Customer Service Standard, shall be exempt from all licence fees applicable pursuant to this by-law.

7.3 7.4 Pound fees - payment - proof of ownership - required

Where a dog is claimed from the Poundkeeper, the owner shall provide proof of ownership of the dog, as well as proof of payment for a current dog licence, and compensate the Poundkeeper according to the Public Pound By-law, as amended.

7.4 7.5 Fees - unpaid - recovery - method

Every pound fee and board fee that is unpaid in whole or in part is a debt due the Poundkeeper and is recoverable in any court of competent jurisdiction in which a debt or money demand may be recovered.

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Guide Dogs and Service Animals for a Person with a Disability

(h) Guide dogs and Service Animals for a Person with a Disability January 1st to December 31st

i ~~Seeing-eye~~ Guide dog \$0.00

ii ~~Hearing-ear-dog~~ Service Animal for a Person with a Disability \$0.00

Thank you

Michael Dawthorne
Accessibility Advisory Committee;
City Of London
Chair