

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE Meeting on September 22, 2015</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>G. KOTSIFAS, P. ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT &amp; COMPLIANCE SERVICES AND CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT - CATEGORY 7 REFRESHMENT VEHICLES (FOOD TRUCKS)</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Development & Compliance Services and the Chief Building Official, Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back on the following issues related to food truck regulations: cap on licences; parking fee; locational regulations pertaining to restaurants and schools; and a public participation meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee be held if the review recommends any by-law amendments.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS</b>
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A total of six reports were presented to the Community and Protective Services Committee dating back to February 2013. The Committee also held three public participation meetings.

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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On February 8, 2015 Municipal Council resolved that Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back in the fall of 2015 with respect to the number Category 7 refreshment vehicles (food truck) licences issued during 2015 and on any other associated matters.

**What is the status of the food truck licences issued in 2015?**

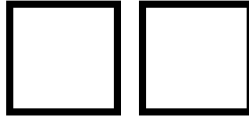
There were five food truck applications in 2015. Three licences were issued and two applications are pending (at the time of writing of this report). The two applications pending approval are non-compliant due to vehicle issues at the time of inspections. For the three operating food trucks, there were no complaints received.

**What issues were identified during the initial year of operation?**

The following summary is based on discussions with approved and potential licensees as well as patrons.

Number of Applications

- “Pilot Project” label: Few entrepreneurs wanted to make such a large investment into a vehicle/opportunity that may not exist beyond a year.
- Cap on licences: Council approved a cap of eight licences during the initial year of the program. The limited number of licenses available was a deterrent to investors since the application process required a commitment of having an operational vehicle and business plan as part of the application process. The uncertainty of availability of a licence kept some from submitting an application. It was suggested that the maximum cap of eight licenses be removed.



Application Process

- Across the board, licensees felt that the fees, the intake and inspection process, and the requirements placed on them were reasonable and they did not represent a roadblock or 'red tape' with regard to getting licensed.

Application Fees

- Licensees felt fees were fair and did not represent an impediment to getting into the food truck business.
- It was suggested food trucks have a "parking pass" included in their licensing fee that would set a flat fee for parking exempting them from "feeding the meter" during their curbside time. This would potentially increase the licensing fee.

Locational Regulations

- It was suggested that food trucks be permitted to park in front of restaurants, after the restaurant had closed. It was also suggested that food trucks be permitted to park in front of their restaurant which acts as their "home base" of operations.
- Consider designated truck parking spaces on City streets, or parking pads in key parks. This would eliminate vying for parking spaces early in the morning and allows trucks to locate in common parking areas.
- Reconsider the 100m setback from secondary schools; food truck operators do not understand the rationale of this regulation.

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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Over the past two years, the food truck issue has seen a lot of public debate which culminated in Council approving a by-law amendment resulting in food truck regulations. A total of five applications were submitted and three were approved. Two applicants are pending vehicle inspections. Staff interviewed approved and potential licensees and the following issues were raised:

- Cap on licenses;
- Parking pass as a fee;
- Permitting food trucks to park in front of restaurants (closed and partner restaurants);
- Rationale of separation distance from schools.

Staff recommends these matters be reviewed and a public participation meeting be held to discuss any possible by-law amendments.

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>REVIEWED AND CONCURRED BY:</b>
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