

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

To: CHAIR AND MEMBERS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE
From: GEORGE KOTSIFAS MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE SERVICES & CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL
Subject: MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS BY-LAW STATUS UPDATE
Date: DECEMBER 16, 2020

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Development and Compliance Services and Chief Building Official, and with the concurrence of the Medical Officer of Health, Middlesex London, and the City Manager,

- a) this report **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes; and
- b) Bylaw PH-20 **BE REDCINDED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on January 12, 2021.

Executive Summary

After conferring with the Medical Officer of Health, given current provincial regulations enforced by City enforcement officers and Police Services officers, the need for the By-law to be extended is unnecessary.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Strengthening our community - deliver health protection and promotion programs guided by population health surveillance.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

On July 21, 2020, on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health, Municipal Council enacted By-law PH-20 to require the wearing of face masks in certain listed situations. The By-law was intended as a temporary measure in response to the pandemic. Council also directed Civic Administration to report back to the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee (SPPC) in sixty day increments with respect to the By-law.

The enforcement protocol was outlined in the July 20, 2020 SPPC report. The compliance approach was focused on education, voluntary compliance and enforcement actions. The fine for non-compliance is \$500.

City officers began a program of educating the public proactively in the field on July 23, 2020. By the end of November 2020, 3,434 premises were attended and officers spoke with 149 individuals who were observed not wearing a mask. Many of the individuals noted a pre-existing medical condition. Numerous signs were also distributed to businesses (614). Twelve individuals were charged under the By-law for not wearing a mask.

Since the by-law was enacted, the province has continued to review and revise provincial regulations concerning the appropriateness of numerous restrictions and precautions. These regulations address matters such as retail premises, the serving of alcohol, gatherings and the requirement of wearing masks. City officers have issued

four charges under provincial orders to premise operators for not ensuring occupants of the premise wear masks. London Police Services have issued several charges to individuals for hosting and attending gatherings (house parties and events).

The By-law is in effect until December 31,2020 or until the provincial regulation made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act is revoked. The province continues to review and revise provincial regulations concerning the appropriateness of numerous restrictions and precautions. These measures, together with growing public acceptance of the need for social distancing and other preventative measures have overtaken the By-law. After conferring with the Medical Officer of Health, staff have determined that the provincial regulations, which are being enforced by City enforcement officers and London Police Services, have obviated the need for the by-law to be extended

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Concurred by: LYNNE LIVINGSTONE, CITY MANAGER