



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Parking and By-law Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 31, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Addition of Ants to the Definition of Pests in the Property Standards By-law (PED16109) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Kelly Barnett (905) 546-2424 Ext.1344
SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the proposed amending By-law, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED16109, which amends the Property Standards By-law No. 10-221 to add ants to the definition of “pests”, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, be approved;
- (b) That the item respecting Definition of Pest in the Property Standards By-law be identified as complete and removed from the Planning Committee’s Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City Council, at its meeting held on November 11, 2015, directed staff to review the feasibility of including ants in the definition of “pests” in the Property Standards By-law and report back to the Planning Committee.

Staff is recommending an amendment to the Property Standards By-law to include ants in the definition of “pests” because an ant infestation may be caused by property standard deficiencies such as lack of fitted window screens, cracks in walls and floors, etc.

Alternatives for Consideration – N/A

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial/Legal: N/A

Staffing: While the added workload associated with investigating ant complaints is unknown at this time, staff do not anticipate any additional staffing requirements.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On November 11, 2015 Council approved the following motion by Councillor Collins:

“Definition of “Pests” in the Property Standards By-law

That staff be directed to investigate the feasibility of including ants in the definition of “pests” in the Property Standards By-law and report back to Committee.”

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Legal Services, Public Health Services and staff at the City of Toronto were consulted.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Currently the Property Standards By-law does not include ants in the definition of “pests” and, therefore, staff does not currently respond to complaints specific to ants. An ant infestation in a dwelling unit may be caused by property standard deficiencies such as lack of fitted window screens, cracks in walls and floors, etc., and therefore could be the root cause of an ant infestation. Informal research of other Ontario municipalities indicates that many include ants and / or insects in their definition of pests under Property Standards.

Public Health Services is currently responsible for enforcement of all pests under the Property Standards By-law, and is in the initial stages of drafting a separate by-law specific to certain pests. However, if ants are added to the Property Standards Bylaw, as per the recommendation in this report, investigations pertaining to ants would continue to be done by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community: *WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

Strategic Objective

1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A”: Draft By-law to Amend By-law No. 10-221

KB:lm