

## Enforcement of Restricted (Blue Zone) Parking Bylaw

### Background:

Late in 2009, Lloydminster City Council reviewed a 33 year old by law for Restricted handicap Parking. The fine was raised from the outdated 7.00 to the current 100.00. It was recognized that the general public abused the allotted spaces that required only a vehicle with a registered permit could park in.

While City council has acknowledged this is a problem, it is now necessary to follow through with an action plan to address the problem of the public that continue to abuse and break the bylaw. To simply place it on paper and pass the bylaw through council and announce it in the papers will not curb the abuse. This is observed daily by those who need to access these parking spots for their daily duties in the community.

This outrageous abuse also continues at our school zones. Apparently, the by law officer does not come on duty until 9 am, therefore he is not available to perform by law duty at the various schools that have blue zone handicap signs already posted. This is extremely frustrating and disillusioning to parents needing these spaces to park and unload a wheel chair and student for their day at school.

The public abuses these parking spaces by using the following means:

Some are using a family member's permit; Either the member has passed away or the permit is outdated; or the person requiring the permit is not in the vehicle at the time of parking, therefore they are using the permit in an illegal manner.

All permits are numbered and purchased by the users. They are registered along with a year clearly displayed and should be placed where it can be viewed, without obstruction, by the bylaw officer.

**Issue:** Our mayor has made the statement in the paper, that many of these designated parking spaces are on 'private property'. This is a reference to malls and business' in the community. This statement is true, with acceptance that building and parking Lot bylaws for all business' fall under 'building code' guidelines set out by the city of Lloydminster and that all 'traffic fines' are remitted to our cities general income. The final outcome rests solely in the cities jurisdiction to enforce 'all bylaws' passed by council. There is little reason to pass a bylaw if it is not upheld, reviewed or enforced. It is necessary to have bylaws as community boundaries. It is within reason to expect all bylaws will be enforced by the city.

**Issue:** There is a real need to address the fact our community has expanded and grown to warrant a third 'by law officer' or at best a 'city commissioner' to enforce bylaw duties. It should also be recognized the simple 'wheelchair' sign is not getting the

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message across to those that abuse the parking spaces. The current abuse observed daily warrants a tougher action to enforce the now legal written bylaw.

## **Recommendation:**

The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce recommends that the city proceed with the action to hire a third bylaw officer or city commissionaire. It is the understanding the current two bylaw officers are insufficient for the duties already on their schedules. Effective immediately, engage all community partners to upgrade or add to the already posted signs. The painted blue signs are invisible during the 6 months of winter and snow in our climate. It is necessary to have visual signs. It is highly recommend a visual sign depicting a tow-a-way zone for illegally parked vehicles without a permit along with the posting of \$100.00 be placed on the added sign. The additional sign can be made and bolted onto the already posted sign on properties. In addition, to insure the city collects the fines, a point demerit be applied to the registration/plates of the said illegally parked vehicle. This application is known to be a deterrent in other Canadian cities, and works extremely well. On the financial calculation, as some relief to the tax payer, the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce recommends funds from the traffic enforcement camera program be allocated to the expense of the third bylaw officer to compensate the wage expense. The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce recommends that city council implement these changes immediately in this new year as the public is anxious for the problem to be resolved.