



January 24, 2011

## City Council Committee Report

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Fr: Richard Perchuk, Manager of Operations**

**Re: Discharge of Firearms By-Law - Amendment**

### **Recommendation:**

**That** Council uphold the intent of the Discharge of Firearms By-Law No. 148-2010 being a By-Law to Regulate the Discharge of Firearms, Air-Guns, Spring-Guns, Cross Bows, Long-Bows or Any Class or Type Thereof for the purposes of public safety; and further,

**That** the request for an exemption to By-Law No. 148-2010 to permit the discharge of a pellet gun for the purpose of recreational use in a high density residential area not be granted.

### **Background:**

A Hillside Crescent resident is requesting an exemption to the Discharge of Firearms By-Law No. 148-2010 so that he and his son can discharge a pellet gun for target practice at their residence. The target would be located in a garage 33 feet from a bench/table (point of fire) to be set up in the driveway. The activity would take place 2 or 3 times a week for 15 minutes at a time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. (daylight hours). He explained that it would be too disruptive to family life to travel out of the City for the activity.

The intent of the activity would be for recreational and educational purposes and to provide marksmanship practice.

The owner states that he will be the only one supervising his son and that his son will be the only one using the pellet gun which has a maximum velocity of 490 feet per second and is a single shot Break-Barrel spring air .177 model specifically chosen because it has an Auto-on safety that engages when the barrel is "broken" and must be reset after closing.

Comments received from the By-Law Enforcement, Building and Planning Departments express concern regarding the allowance of this activity in a high densely populated area and the potential for an incident and whether the city would be liable. Granting permission of this nature could encourage similar requests for the use of cross-bows, long bows and compound bows.

It is my recommendation to not grant an exemption for the discharge of a pellet gun at the residence located in Hillside Crescent in order to protect the safety of others living in the vicinity.

**Budget:** N/A

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

Resolution only required.

Distribution: R. Perchuk, K. Robertson, T. Rickaby, J. Simpson