TO: Chair and Members
Public Works Committee

WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 5

COMMITTEE DATE: November 21, 2011

SUBJECT/REPORT NO:
Public Delegation by Elio Borchetta - (PW11087) - (Ward 5)
(Outstanding Business List Item)

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Council Direction:

On September 6, 2011, Mr. Elio Borchetta made a public delegation at the Public Works Committee related to several issues including waste management, roads maintenance, and condition of street lights on Quigley Road. The Public Works Committee received Mr. Borchetta’s presentation and directed staff to investigate the concerns and report back to the Committee.

This Information Report is to provide the Public Works Committee with staff’s response to items raised in Mr. Borchetta’s presentation.

Information:

Mr. Borchetta presented several concerns at the Public Works Committee which included, but were not limited to the following:

1. Several street lights on Quigley Road are dim and should be replaced.
2. There is a storm sewer in front of 49 Quigley Road which requires repairs.
3. The curb at 81 Quigley Road is too low which may pose a hazard to the public.
4. People need to be encouraged to manage their recyclable materials to divert more items from landfills.
5. Mr. Borchetta’s neighbours are not using their green cart and food waste is being placed garbage bags. If the garbage bags break, it creates a mess which attracts animals and other pests.
6. People are using blue boxes for storage rather than recycling.
7. The contractor emptying the blue/gold boxes is too rough with them and causes damage by throwing them on driveways. Green carts and blue boxes should be placed back on the grass. The containers could fall on the road if they are left on the roadway or at the edge of the sidewalk.

8. Children should be better educated on how to recycle properly.

Staff reviewed the items presented by Mr. Borchetta and the following list provides a summary of staff’s response to these issues:

1. Staff conducted an analysis of the street-lighting levels on Quigley Road and determined that seven street-light fixtures were deficient. The necessary repairs were made by the end of September. Staff will follow up to ensure that lighting levels have been returned to normal levels.

2. The Operations and Waste Management Division reviewed the road conditions on Quigley Road in response to item (2) and (3). Item (2) was related to a repair required for a catch basin cover rather than a storm sewer repair as described in Mr. Borchetta’s presentation. The catch basin cover was repaired by the Operations and Waste Management Division in mid-September.

3. Staff investigated the curb in front of 81 and 83 Quigley Road and found no deficiencies; however, a repair was made to the bus stop landing pad on the north side of this location. The bus stop landing pad had a grade deficiency, which was repaired with an asphalt overlay. The repair was completed in mid-September.

4. A large portion of household waste could be diverted from landfill if residents actively participate in the City’s waste diversion programs. The City completed several waste composition studies which indicate that over 80% of household waste could be handled through the City’s recycling program, green cart program, and leaf and yard waste program. The waste diversion programs are actively promoted through the waste collection calendar and a detailed information book was distributed in 2011. Newspaper advertising and the City’s website is also used.

5. In 2010, the City introduced a one container limit for garbage collection per residential dwelling unit. To comply with the garbage container limit, most households participate in the City’s waste diversion programs since a large portion of household garbage can be diverted from landfill. The Waste Management Customer Service staff is available to provide information to residents if they have concerns with participating in the City’s waste collection programs.

The City’s Solid Waste Management By-law 09-067 specifies conditions for the placement of waste at the curb. Municipal Law Enforcement staff is available to speak with residents if there are ongoing concerns with placement of waste.

6. The City currently provides recycling containers and green carts at no charge to residents to encourage participation in the City’s waste diversion programs. Having appropriate waste containers provides residents with the necessary tools to meet the City’s garbage container limit. As part of the City’s ongoing budget
review, the City may consider other alternatives for the supply of waste diversion containers to residents, which may include a cost recovery system for the containers or directing the public to purchase their containers at a retail location.

7. Waste collection operators receive continual reminders of the proper placement of empty waste containers and a procedure is in place. Operators are instructed that containers should not be placed in areas which would block pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

8. The Operations and Waste Management Division has an active Community Outreach program with an educational component for schools to teach students about waste reduction, recycling and composting. Between early 2009 to June 2011, staff made 363 presentations to educate over 25,000 students. Community Outreach events include classroom presentations, school assemblies, class visits to the City’s Central Composting Facility, and participation in the annual Children’s Water Festival.