January 7, 2009

TO: all municipalities in Ontario with a population over 50,000

Dear Sirs:

RE: MOTION (3), JANUARY 6, 2009 – CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER

I would confirm that at the regular meeting of Kingston City Council held on January 6, 2009, the attached Motion (3), was approved.

Yours truly,

Carolyn Downs
City Clerk

/kis
Cc:  Councillor S. Garrison

Our File No.
MOTION (3), APPROVED BY KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 6, 2009:

(1) Moved by Councillor Garrison
Seconded by Councillor Matheson

WHEREAS the City of Kingston has established a goal to increase its waste diversion rate to 65% by 2012;
AND WHEREAS, despite the fact that the Christmas holidays are supposed to be a time of peace and goodwill, the waste sent to landfill as a result of our actions over the Christmas holidays increases due to the excessive packaging of gifts and the fact that most wrapping paper is not recyclable. As a result, it could be argued that our actions in this regard are not in keeping with the spirit of the holidays;
AND WHEREAS, in December 2008, the City of Toronto approved report PW20.1 entitled “Proposed Measures to Reduce In-Store Packaging Waste and Litter, Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste and Plastic Water Bottles”, which includes the establishment of a working group to explore options available to reduce excessive packaging.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Kingston requests that the federal and provincial governments develop legislation requiring that all wrapping paper sold and manufactured within their respective jurisdictions be recyclable, with a goal to establishing an eventual ban on the sale and use of non-recyclable wrapping paper within their respective jurisdictions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff develop a communications strategy to be implemented prior to Christmas 2009, encouraging Kingstonians to adopt more environmentally-friendly practices regarding gifts including but not limited to:

a. Using recyclable paper to wrap gifts, or reusable gift bags, instead of non-recyclable wrapping paper
b. Reusing reusable gift bags before purchasing new ones
c. Encouraging citizens to purchase gifts from manufacturers, companies and retailers who sell products that do not use excessive packaging
d. Encouraging local retailers, suppliers and businesses to use their influence to encourage manufacturers and companies to reduce excessive packaging in their products
e. Encouraging local retailers and suppliers of non-recyclable wrapping paper to use their influence to encourage manufacturers of non-recyclable wrapping paper to develop and sell only recyclable wrapping paper;

AND FURTHER THAT such strategies including financial considerations be referred to Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee (EITP) for consideration and recommendation to Council;

AND FURTHER THAT staff monitor the work of the Packaging Reduction Working Group of the City of Toronto and the work of other municipalities in regards to packaging reduction in order to develop recommendations for action that could be taken by the City of Kingston in the future to reduce excessive packaging in the City of Kingston;

AND FURTHER THAT the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (K.E.A.F.) be requested to consider this resolution and provide input to staff and the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee on the matters outlined herein;


CARRIED AS AMENDED

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