

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2020 January 20

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 36500-00

SUBJECT: TEXTILE DIVERSION PROGRAMS AT THE CITY OF BURNABY

PURPOSE: To respond to the Committee's request to provide a report on the advisability and feasibility of embarking on new initiatives to support textile diversion.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report for information.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Environment and Social Planning Committee, at its open meeting on 2019 November 05, heard a delegation from Mr. Simon Langer, National Manager, Government and Strategic Partnerships, Diabetes Canada; and Dr. Calvin Lakhan, Co-Investigator *The Waste Wiki* Project, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, York University. The delegation sought participation in York University's National Textile Diversion Study and creation of a formal Textile Diversion Program at the City of Burnaby

POLICY SECTION

The response to Committee is aligned with the City of Burnaby Corporate Strategic Plan supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

Goals

- An Inclusive Community
 - Serve a diverse community –
Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community.

To: CHAIR AND MEMBERS ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE
From: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
Re: TEXTILE DIVERSION PROGRAMS AT THE
CITY OF BURNABY
2020 January 20..... Page 2

- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy life –
Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being
 - Healthy environment –
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
 - Community Involvement –
Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community
- A Dynamic Community
 - Community development –
Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging
- A Thriving Organization
 - Organizational culture –
Ensure that our core values are reflected in our policies, programs and service delivery

BACKGROUND

History

Access to charitable organization clothing donation bins has been provided to Burnaby residents for many years. Regretfully, the user experience and public response has not always been positive. History has shown that the area surrounding the clothing donation bins frequently attracts illegal dumping. Burnaby resident had become tired of the unsightly conditions surrounding the donation bins. In 2015, the City took action to regulate donation bins by prohibiting their placement on public lands.

Donation bins were also featured recently in the news for unfortunate reasons. Underprivileged citizens were becoming injured while trying to enter the donation bins through the donation hatch to retrieve articles from inside.

Textile Recycling Programs at the City of Burnaby

The City of Burnaby presently partners with charitable organizations by hosting clothing donation bins at the Eco-Centre. These bins are closely monitored by staff during business hours and securely locked after hours to prevent access.

To: CHAIR AND MEMBERS ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE
From: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
Re: TEXTILE DIVERSION PROGRAMS AT THE
CITY OF BURNABY
2020 January 20..... Page 3

In addition, five Return-It Depots in Burnaby have also recently launched a Textiles Recycling Pilot Program. This initiative accepts household textiles items including footwear and damaged clothing.

2018 waste stream audits for the City of Burnaby indicated that clothing textiles composed approximately 2.2% of the single family waste stream and 3.1% of the multi-family waste stream. Although measurable, these diversion rates do not represent the significant waste stream proportions suggested by the delegation.

York University Study

The York University Study was developed with the objective of gaining a better understanding of the quantity of textiles entering the waste stream, identifying social, economic, and environmental factors which effect textile diversion rates, identifying the optimal clothing donation bin placement locations, and to create a best practices guide for local government textile diversion programs (using donation bins).

Partnering benefits to the charitable organization were primarily identified through the use of City brand recognition on the donation bins (logo sharing).

Partnering benefits to the City were identified as the opportunity to increase textile diversion and to exchange data relating to textile collection rates and composition, all in effort to create best practices.

CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby, and Metro Vancouver region as a whole, is currently well served with access to clothing donation bins on private lands. Select charitable organizations additionally offer curbside collection through telephone marketing campaigns. Current diversion rates are better than described for regions outside of Metro Vancouver. The City of Burnaby will continue to support and participate in education and outreach programs such as the Metro Vancouver "Think Thrice About Your Clothes."



Leon A. Gous, P.Eng., MBA
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

JL/ac

Copied to: City Manager