



**Subject: Stop and Close By-law – Laneway between Jefferson Avenue and Homewood Avenue**

**To: Council**

**From: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

Report Number: 2023-210

Meeting Date: November 14, 2023

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### **Recommendation:**

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2023-210 be received; and

That the Stop-Up and Close By-law, being a By-law to stop-up and close the laneway between Jefferson Avenue and Homewood Avenue described as the public highway lying between Jefferson Avenue (west) and Homewood Avenue (east) north of Sugarloaf Street be approved; and

That the Mayor and Acting City Clerk authorized to execute any documents that may be required for the purpose of carrying out the intent of this by-law.

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### **Purpose:**

This report is regarding a Stop-up and Close By-law for the property shown in Appendix A. The decision to sell this property is not the subject of this report.

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### **Background:**

The Economic Development and Tourism Services Division (EDTS) has undertaken a review of City-owned properties to identify potential surplus lands that could be made available to support development opportunities, expand the City tax base, and save the City maintenance costs and potential liability.

One such property is the unimproved laneway lying between Jefferson Avenue and Homewood Avenue, abutting 17 Jefferson Avenue and 16 Homewood Avenue to the North and 459, 451 Sugarloaf Street, and 2 Homewood Avenue to the south.

This property was declared surplus at the April 11, 2023, Council meeting via Report 2023-56. Council will be in a position to consider the sale of this parcel at a future date. To make that decision, the laneway must be closed first through a stop-up and close process and by-law.

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### **Discussion:**

The subject parcel is currently generating no tax revenue for the City and serves no operational purposes. Additionally, the property could be a liability for the City. Staff feel that the better use of the property would be achieved by selling parts of the laneway to adjoining landowners. The property is 238.9 feet (72.8 metres) long by 15.2 feet (4.6 metres) wide and has an additional piece in the middle from the northern boundary that is 38 feet (11.6 metres) long by 7.8 feet (2.4 metres) wide. Because the laneway is registered on title as a public highway, it must be formally closed through a Stop-up and Close by-law. Once this has been completed, staff will bring forward a land disposition recommendation.

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### **Internal Consultations:**

Other City departments were consulted on this report and no additional comments were forthcoming.

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### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications to this report.

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### **Public Engagement:**

Public Notice was provided through ads in the Port Colborne Leader on August 24, 31, September 7, and September 14, 2023, and a Public Meeting was held October 3, 2023, with one resident providing comment.

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### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community

## **Conclusion:**

The Economic Development and Tourism Services Division has undertaken a review of City-owned properties to identify potential surplus lands as part of the City Real Estate project. The unimproved laneway lying between Jefferson Avenue and Homewood Avenue, abutting 17 Jefferson Avenue and 16 Homewood Avenue to the north and 459, 451 Sugarloaf Street, and 2 Homewood Avenue to the south was identified as part of this project.

The laneway was declared surplus via Report 2023-56 at the April 11, 2023, Council meeting and a Public Meeting was held October 3, 2023, regarding a Stop-up and Close By-Law. Staff recommend that a Stop-up and Close By-Law be approved for this surplus City laneway as this step is required prior to conveying parcels in any future Agreements of Purchase and Sale.

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## **Appendices:**

- a. Appendix A: Subject Property
- b. Appendix B: Stop-up and Close By-Law

Respectfully submitted,

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## **Report Approval:**

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.