



**Subject: Laneway Stop up and Close Between Jefferson Avenue and Homewood Avenue**

**To: Council - Public Meeting**

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

Report Number: 2023-199

Meeting Date: October 3, 2023

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### **Recommendation:**

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2023-199 be received; and

That the Economic Development and Tourism Services Division be directed to bring a Stop Up and Close By-law for the property shown on Appendix A to the October 24, 2023, Council meeting for City consideration.

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### **Purpose:**

This report has been written to bring forth 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 has undertaken a review of City-owned property to identify potential surplus lands that could be made available to support development opportunities, expand the City tax base, and save the City maintenance cost 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 South and 459, 451 Sugarloaf Street and 2 Homewood Avenue to the north.

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

**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 private ownership. The EDTS team has determined that the Stop-up and Close process is the next necessary step after the property was declared surplus to move to divest the property in the future.

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**Internal Consultations:**

Other City departments were consulted on this report and no 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.

No comments have been received as of September 25, 2023.

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**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

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

- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community
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**Conclusion:**

The Economic Development and Tourism Services Division has undertaken a review of City-owned property 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 South and

459, 451 Sugarloaf Street and 2 Homewood Avenue to the north was identified as part of this project.

The laneway was declared surplus at the April 11, 2023 (Report 2023-56) Council meeting and the next step is to prepare for a potential future property sale.

It is recommended that Council direct staff to bring forward a Stop up and Close By-law to the October 24, 2023, Council meeting.

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## **Appendices:**

- a. Laneway Property Map

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.