STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 333
Councillor Smith questioned why someone who has had their garbage cart stolen had to pay for a new cart and asked how many garbage carts were stolen last year.

Councillor Vandal advised that garbage carts cost anywhere from 60 to 85 dollars, if delivered, and about 43,000 were delivered at the onset of the program. He stated that was a huge financial liability if a significant number of carts went missing. He noted that if the cart was stolen, the administration would, through the regular routes of the garbage trucks, look for it, and, if found, it would be returned. He added that there were 20 carts that had not been found, damaged or stolen.

Councillor Swandel asked who pays for missing, stolen or damaged garbage cans at the present time or with the old program. Councillor Vandal replied that it was the responsibility of the home owner to replace garbage carts and recycling carts.

Councillor Orlikow asked what happens if someone cannot afford the $90 bin replacement. Councillor Vandal replied that it was the responsibility of the home owner to replace the garbage cart and, if they have the equity to own the home, they should have the wherewithal to provide the garbage cart.

Councillor Orlikow referred to persons who are renting and the landlord was not interested in buying a new bin and asked if there would be an opportunity to discuss the issue a little bit more at a future date.

Councillor Vandal stated that somebody owns the home and, technically, it was the home owner's responsibility. He noted that he assumed that if no garbage cart was provided there was a by-law infraction and, at that point, the City could get involved and charge the home owner.

Councillor Eadie noted that infractions of by-laws were treated in different ways and, if you do not pay the water bill, the home owner was responsible for paying it. He added that there were other by-law things where the cost was not put on the property tax bill for collection and inquired if it would be at that level that the City would go after the owner of the home to buy a new garbage cart.

Councillor Vandal stated that it was the home owner's responsibility to provide the garbage cart and, if there was a by-law infraction, there was means to redress the infraction.

Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Eadie questioned how the issue of homeowners purchasing carts for renters would be dealt with; Councillor Vandal agreed to take the question under advisement.

Councillor Steeves noted a scenario where he was a landlord in St. Vital and currently wanted the tenants to throw their garbage out, he would provide garbage cans for them to do so but if somebody steals the garbage can, he asked if he could call the City to buy new garbage cans. Councillor Vandal replied in the negative and stated it was the responsibility of the home owner.

Councillor Steeves questioned why the City would change anything if that was the way it was right now. Councillor Vandal replied that it was unlikely they would change anything but, given the cost of the new automated bin, which he hoped would be rolled out to the entire city in a few years, stated it merits further discussion.

Councillor Browaty noted that he had manual garbage pick up and does not use garbage cans at his house and, if going forward, does not choose to like the garbage cart, or his cart was stolen or vandalized, inquired if he could throw his garbage in the street or in a garbage bag on the side of his property.

Councillor Vandal stated that was a hypothetical question but, obviously, he could not just throw garbage out on the street.