

Meeting Date: September 3, 2019
Department: Fire and Emergency Services
Prepared By: Brian George, Director of Fire Services / Fire Chief
Reviewed By: Greg McClinchey, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: **Fire Prevention Progress – Fire Inspector**

RECOMMENDATION:

For information purposes only.

BACKGROUND:

Commencing on July 2, 2019, David Lambert assumed the duties of Fire Prevention Inspector for the Municipality on a short-term basis. Inspector Lambert is a retired Fire Prevention Officer with the City of London. Inspector Lambert will complete his temporary position at the end of December of 2019. The intent of the temporary contract was to meet the Municipality's responsibilities under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), following the County's decision to end upper tier fire inspection services, while contemplating a longer term solution for Council to consider.

The Municipality must offer fire prevention services such as requests for inspections or complaints about any occupancies, as part of our obligations under the FPPA.

COMMENTS:

Inspector Lambert spent his first week familiarizing himself with the newest updates to the Fire Code and with the inspection priorities of the Chief. Inspector Lambert also spent time reviewing files and working to ensure any service gaps and outstanding matters were compiled, considered and fully addressed in his work plan. Inspector Lambert is a diligent and meticulous individual who has already made considerable progress on the numerous fire inspection related tasks requiring attention.

Since the beginning of July, Inspector Lambert has completed 29 inspections on multiple types of occupancies. Of the 29 occupancies, two of them required Inspection Orders to be written. No unresolved issues or public complaints were received from the owners/occupants of these properties.

As part of his assigned duties, Inspector Lambert reviewed twenty fire safety plans for compliance and effectiveness. In general, each of these plans required certain updates to call procedures and minor corrections to ensure compliance with the updated Fire Code. In instances such as these, Inspector Lambert's extensive career experience with the fire service was found to be a tremendous asset and assisted greatly in providing both clarity and guidance to those involved with the process.

A further recall to a property was also required to a Rooming/Lodging and Boarding house to ensure that the landlord had complied with an Order issued last year. The landlord initially appealed the Order to the Fire Safety Commission and the Inspection Order was upheld and stipulated a completion date. The owner has now reduced the number of tenants and is in compliance with the Fire Code. A formal Letter of Compliance was issued subsequent to Inspector Lambert's inspection of the location.

As part of the Municipality's commitment to resident and visitor safety, we have arranged for the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office to directly assist with the inspection of our Vulnerable Occupancies in September. The Fire Marshal's Office has agreed to provide us with their expertise and further assistance in conducting the inspections and assisting with the Fire Drills for several of these high-risk occupancies. This is a mandated process that will now be completed in a manner that fully complies with all Municipal obligations as articulated by the FPPA and the relevant Fire Marshal's Directives. These Vulnerable Occupancies must be completed properly as they house some the most vulnerable members of our community and their safety must be protected and promoted.

Inspector Lambert will continue to work to modernize and update the Municipal inspections regime in anticipation of a longer-term solution prior to year end.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- None

ATTACHMENTS:

- None