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BUDGET COMMITTEE
JAN 17 2011

DATE: January 4, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of Budget Committee
Meeting Date: January 17, 2011

FROM: Paul A. Mitcham, P.Eng., MBA
Commissioner of Community Services

SUBJECT: **Invoicing Residents for Fire and Emergency Services Attendance
at Motor Vehicle Collisions**

RECOMMENDATION: That the report dated January 4, 2011 from the Commissioner of Community Services regarding invoicing residents for Fire and Emergency Services attendance at motor vehicle collisions be received for information.

BACKGROUND: As part of the December 13, 2010 Budget Committee meeting, it was requested that Fire and Emergency Services staff report back to the members of Budget Committee on the feasibility of charging a fee to residents for attendance at motor vehicle collisions.

PRESENT STATUS: The current by-law (0350-2010) authorizes the City of Mississauga to invoice non-resident drivers and/or owners for the provision of emergency services at the scene of a motor vehicle collision. The charge is based on a schedule of acceptable fee rates established by the Ministry of Transportation. As of January 1, 2011, the fee for non-residents is \$410.00 per truck per hour. In the event that there is more than one vehicle involved in the collision, the cost is divided equally between each vehicle where the driver/owner is not a resident of the City of Mississauga.

COMMENTS:

Fire and Emergency Services charges fees for services which are either considered to be outside of the mandate of the fire service or as a deterrent for practices which have a negative impact on life safety. The fees charged for services outside of the mandate are intended to reflect a cost recovery for providing that service.

In the City of Mississauga, when a fire crew responds to a motor vehicle collision the non-resident driver/owner is subsequently charged for the use of equipment and supplies required to control or eliminate any further impact to life safety. Should the crew be required to provide medical assistance to a patient the supplies used for this service are not part of the fee as medical response is currently considered to be part of the mandate of Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services (MFES).

Charging fees for services outside of the mandate of the fire service such as motor vehicle collisions is not an uncommon practice. In reviewing existing by-laws relating to fire attendance at motor vehicle collisions from surrounding municipalities most (including Toronto, Brampton, Oakville and Hamilton) apply a fee to non-resident drivers/owners only.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

A review of 2010 data related to motor vehicle collisions indicated there were approximately 880 motor vehicle collisions where City residents were involved. Based on this data the resulting cost recovery at \$410.00 per truck would be approximately \$360,000 annually.

CONCLUSION:

The existing MFES cost recovery program includes motor vehicle collisions, non emergency elevator incident response, natural gas incidents and other administrative costs. The program has been successful in offsetting most of the costs associated with delivering these services to the community. A change to the existing by-law that considers billing both residents and non-residents for attendance at motor vehicle collisions would **not** be in line with cost recovery

programs in surrounding municipalities. It would, however, take additional burden off of the MFES operating budget.



Paul A. Mitcham, P. Eng., MBA
Commissioner of Community Services

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