



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

## Corporate Report

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**Report from** Transportation & Environmental Services, Operations

**Date of Report:** June 10, 2013

**Date of Meeting:** June 24, 2013

**Report Number:** TES-168-2013

**File:** 77.34.99

**Subject:** Parking on Queenston Street at the Niagara Health System Site

### Recommendation

That Council receive the report for information purposes. FORTHWITH

### Background

With services at the former General Hospital site on Queenston Street winding down, parking demand within the area has decreased and has resulted in a few requests from the public for parking reforms. In response to these inquiries, Councillor Burch, at the General Committee meeting of May 27, 2013, put forward the following motion;

*“That Council direct staff to prepare a report for June 24, 2013, on the current status of parking on Queenston Street, St. Catharines General Hospital site, providing future plans and options for elimination of parking, 2 Hour Limit or 15 minutes parking.”*

The following report will address this request.

### Report

As noted, the closure of the General Hospital site in late March has significantly decreased the demand for both on-street (public) and off-street (private) parking in the area. Currently the City manages most of the on-street parking supply through a combination of parking meters (primarily Queenston Street) and two hour time limits (surrounding residential streets). Field reviews undertaken by staff combined with anecdotal information from the public have confirmed that the existing parking controls are not in keeping with the demands being generated.

With this in mind, staff have commenced a parking review of the General Hospital neighbourhood in an effort to determine the most appropriate parking controls for the affected streets. These controls will most likely involve the removal of the two hour time limits on the residential roads as well as the removal of parking meters on Queenston Street. The metered parking would most likely be replaced with two-hour restrictions. As the area is still settling out, staff do not anticipate making any

significant changes for a few months (end of the summer). This will give staff ample time to review the situation and provide a comprehensive report for Council's consideration.

It is also important to note that the look and feel of Queenston Street will most likely evolve with the redevelopment of the General Hospital site. To this end, staff have included funds in the Capital Budget to undertake a planning and design exercise for Queenston Street this year. Parking along Queenston Street will undoubtedly play a major role in determining how this stretch of road functions in the future.

This report is in response to a request from Councillor Burch. Councillor Burch's request was specific in terms of timing for response. Council should note that the Mayor, Ward Councillors and staff will be meeting in the near future with potential developers of the former Hospital site. These discussions could have an impact on both parking demand and supply in this area of the City. Council should expect further information to be forthcoming as these discussions progress.

### **Financial Implications**

Not applicable

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