

DATE OF MEETING December 5, 2019

AUTHORED BY DAVID LABERGE, MANAGER, BYLAW SERVICES

SUBJECT NUISANCE PROPERTY ABATEMENT – 217 IRWIN STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of ongoing activities at 217 Irwin Street, Nanaimo, BC, which substantially and unreasonably interfere with other persons' use and enjoyment of property, and require repeated calls for police services to abate nuisances.

Recommendation

That Council declare 217 Irwin Street a "Nuisance" pursuant to the "Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw 2019 No. 7250", and to authorize Staff to record and charge for municipal services, including police required to abate nuisance activity.

BACKGROUND

The RCMP have informed the City that police have responded to numerous nuisance activity-related calls for service at 217 Irwin Street in 2019. There have been 15 calls for police service to this property this year, 12 of which were of nuisance-related matters, including:

- People squatting/camping on the property, drug trafficking, people frequently coming and going.
- People smoking drugs in Deverill Park (adjacent) then attending the property where a disturbance ensued.
- Person shooting rats on the property with a pellet gun.
- Police investigation found numerous known offenders, drug users, and stolen property in the residence.
- Person exited the residence and found screaming on the street.

City Bylaw Services have also investigated numerous bylaw contraventions at this property, including complaints of unsightly conditions, accumulation of garbage and debris, and people living in tents and temporary accommodations in the yard.

Nuisance activity has been recurring at this property for many years. Police report 53 calls for service have been associated to 217 Irwin Street since 2010. This address was previously designated by Council as a "Nuisance Property" between 2008-JAN-28 and 2010-OCT-04.

OPTIONS

1. That Council declare 217 Irwin Street a “Nuisance” pursuant to the “Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw 2019 No. 7250”, and to authorize Staff to record and charge for municipal services, including police required to abate nuisance activity.
2. That Council provide Staff with alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Nanaimo RCMP have responded to 15 calls for service to 217 Irwin St in 2019, 12 of which were for nuisance-related matters.
- Police have received 53 calls to the property since 2010.
- Bylaw Services have responded to complaints of unsightly conditions, accumulation of garbage and debris, and people living in tents and temporary accommodation in the yard.
- 217 Irwin Street was previously designated as a “Nuisance Property” by Council between January 2008 and October 2010.
- Police have recommended the City designate the property as a nuisance, which would authorize Staff to record and charge for municipal services, including policing required to abate future nuisance activity.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: RCMP letter dated 2019-NOV-21

ATTACHMENT B: Letter from Property Owner received 2019-OCT-31

Submitted by:

Dave LaBerge
Manager, Bylaw Services

Concurrence by:

Bill Corsan
Director, Community Development

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development Services