

The Corporation of the City of Guelph

By-law Number (2025) - 21056

A By-law to establish the positions of screening and hearing officers for the purposes of administration of an administrative penalty system within the City of Guelph.

Whereas Sections 102.1 and 434.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, and O. Reg. 333/07, as amended, authorize municipalities to establish an administrative monetary penalty system requiring a person to pay an administrative penalty for a contravention of any designated by-law;

And whereas Section 15.4.1 of the *Building Code Act, 1992*, S.O. 1992, c. 23, as amended, authorizes municipalities to require a person, subject to such conditions as a municipality considers appropriate, to pay an administrative penalty if the municipality is satisfied that the person has failed to comply with the municipal property standards by-law, or an order pursuant to such by-law;

And whereas the City has passed the Administrative Penalty By-law (2025) - 21055;

And whereas in accordance with the aforesaid Administrative Penalty By-law and applicable legislation, a person who receives a penalty notice shall have the right to request a screening review of the administrative penalty by a screening officer appointed by the City;

And whereas in accordance with the aforesaid Administrative Penalty By-law and applicable legislation, a person who receives a screening decision shall have the right to request a review of the decision by a hearing officer appointed by the City;

And whereas the City considers it desirable and necessary to establish the positions of screening officer and hearing officer, which are required for the operation of the City's Administrative Penalty By-law;

The Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph enacts as follows:

1. Title

- 1.1 This by-law shall be known and cited as the "Screening and Hearing Officer By-law".

2. Definitions

- 2.1 For the purposes of this by-law:

"Administrative Penalty" means an administrative penalty imposed for a contravention of a Designated By-law, as set out in the Administrative Penalty By-law;

"Administrative Penalty By-law" means the Administrative Penalty By-law of the City, as amended from time to time, or any successor thereof;

"City" means The Corporation of the City of Guelph.

"Clerk" means the Clerk of the City as appointed pursuant to the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, or their designate;

"Council" means the Council of the City;

"Designated By-law" means any provision of a City by-law to which the Administrative Penalty By-law applies, as designated therein;

"General Manager" The General Manager of Legal/Court Services for the City of Guelph, or anyone designated by the General Manager to perform their duties relating to APS;

"Hearing Officer" means any person appointed from time to time pursuant to this by-law to perform the functions of a hearing officer in accordance with this by-law and the Administrative Penalty By-law;

"Parent" means a person who has demonstrated a settled intention to treat a child as a member of her or his family whether or not that person is the natural parent of the child;

"Person" includes an individual, corporation or other legal entity;

"Policy for Appointment of Screening and Hearing Officers" means the policy of the City for the appointment of screening and hearing officers, as amended from time to time, or any successor thereof;

"Power of Decision" means a power or right, conferred by or under this by-law and the Administrative Penalty By-law, to make a decision determining or prescribing the legal rights, powers, privileges, immunities, duties or liabilities of any Person:

- (a) in the case of a Screening Officer, in respect of a request to review an Administrative Penalty; and
- (b) in the case of a Hearing Officer, in respect of a review of a Screening Decision;

"Regulation" means O. Reg. 333/07, made under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended from time to time, or any successor thereof;

"Relative" includes any of the following persons:

- (a) Spouse, common-law partner, or any person with whom the person is living as a spouse outside of marriage;
- (b) Parent or legal guardian;
- (c) child, including a stepchild and grandchild;
- (d) siblings and children of siblings;
- (e) aunt, uncle, niece and nephew;
- (f) in-laws, including mother, father, sister, brother, daughter and son; or
- (g) any person who lives with the person on a permanent basis.

"Screening Decision" means a notice which contains the decision of a Screening Officer, as set out in the Administrative Penalty By-law;

"Screening Officer" means any person appointed from time to time pursuant to this by-law, to perform the functions of a screening officer in accordance with this by-law and the Administrative Penalty By-law; and

"Spouse" means a person to whom the person is married or with whom the person is living in a conjugal relationship outside marriage.

3. **Screening Officer**

- 3.1 The position of Screening Officer is established for the purpose of exercising the Power of Decision in the review of an Administrative Penalty by a Screening Officer, as set out in the Administrative Procedural By-law.
- 3.2 The Screening Officer shall have all the powers of a Screening Officer as set out in the Administrative Penalty By-law and, with respect to any matters subject to a by-law designated under Section 102.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Regulation.
- 3.3 Screening Officer(s) shall be appointed by the Clerk, in accordance with the Policy for Appointment of Screening and Hearing Officers.

4. **Hearing Officer**

- 4.1 The position of Hearing Officer is established for the purpose of exercising the Power of Decision in a review of a Screening Decision, as set out in the Administrative Penalty By-law.

- 4.2 The Hearing Officer shall have all the powers of a Hearing Officer as set out in the Administrative Penalty By-law and, with respect to any matters subject to a by-law designated under Section 102.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Regulation.
- 4.3 Hearing Officer(s) shall be appointed by the Clerk, in accordance with the Policy for Appointment of Screening and Hearing Officers. In the selection of Hearing Officer(s) for appointment, preference shall be given to eligible candidates:
- (a) with good knowledge of, and experience in, administrative law; and
 - (b) of good character.
- 4.4 Hearing Officers shall be appointed for the term of Council, and thereafter until the Hearing Officer is reappointed or a successor is appointed pursuant to this by-law or is no longer required by the City.
- 4.5 Notwithstanding Subsection 4.4, the Clerk may revoke the appointment of a Hearing Officer at any time, if the Hearing Officer:
- (a) is found to have contravened any applicable City policy relating to the administration of the Administrative Penalty system;
 - (b) is found to have contravened any other requirement of the appointment; or
 - (c) at any time during the appointment becomes ineligible for appointment.
- 4.6 A Hearing Officer shall be remunerated at a rate as established by the General Manager or their designate from time to time.
- 4.7 A Hearing Officer is deemed not to be an employee of the City.

5. Eligibility

- 5.1 The following persons are not eligible for appointment as a Screening Officer or a Hearing Officer:
- (a) a City employee;
 - (b) a member of Council;
 - (c) a Relative of a member of Council;
 - (d) a person indebted to the City, other than:
 - (e) in respect of current property taxes; or
 - (f) pursuant to an agreement with the City, where the person is in compliance with the terms thereof.

6. General

- 6.1 A Screening Officer or a Hearing Officer shall have no authority to further delegate their powers or duties.
- 6.2 Neither a Screening Officer nor a Hearing Officer has jurisdiction to consider questions relating to the validity of a statute, regulation or by-law, or the constitutional applicability or operability of any statute, regulation or by-law.
- 6.3 The General Manager shall administer this by-law and is delegated the power to prescribe all forms, notices, guidelines, practices, processes and procedures, necessary to implement this by-law and the administrative penalty system, and to amend the same from time to time as the General Manager deems necessary.
- 6.4 The General Manager is delegated the power to establish and implement any policies necessary to implement this by-law and the administrative penalty system, including without limitation the Policy for Appointment of Screening and Hearing Officers, and may amend the same from time to time, as the General Manager deems necessary.

- 6.5 The Clerk is delegated the power to appoint, suspend the appointment of and revoke appointments of any Screening Officer and Hearing Officer, in accordance with the Policy for Appointment of Screening and Hearing Officers, and any other applicable policies, by-laws and legislation.
- 6.6 For the purposes of Subsection 23.2(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, Council has determined that any powers delegated pursuant to this by-law are minor in nature.
- 7. Interpretation**
- 7.1 Unless otherwise specified, references in this by-law to parts, sections, subsections, clauses and schedules are references to parts, sections, subsections clauses, and schedules in this by-law.
- 7.2 The part and section headings contained throughout this document are for reference purposes only and do not form a part of this by-law. This by-law is to be interpreted without reference to such headings.
- 7.3 References in this by-law to any statute or statutory provisions include references to that statute or statutory provision as it may from time to time be amended, extended, or re-enacted.
- 7.4 This by-law shall be read with all changes in gender or number as the context requires.
- 7.5 References in this by-law to items in the plural include the singular, and references to the singular include the plural, as applicable.
- 7.6 The words "include", "includes", "including" are not to be read or interpreted as limiting the words, phrases, or descriptions that precede it.
- 7.7 Should any provision, or any part of a provision, of this by-law, be declared invalid, or to be of no force and effect, by a court of competent jurisdiction, it is the intent of Council that such a provision, or part of a provision, be severed from this by- law and every other provision of this by-law shall be applied and enforced in accordance with its terms to the extent possible according to law.
- 8. Effective Date**
- 8.1 This by-law shall come into effect on April 1, 2025.

Passed this twenty-fifth day of February, 2025.

Cam Guthrie, Mayor

Dylan McMahon, Acting City Clerk