



# POLICY

<b>Subject Area:</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Policy #</b>	<b>5.01.03</b>
<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Density Bonus Policy</b>		
<b>Authority:</b>	<b>Legislative</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> 2020-02-11
	<b>Administrative</b>		<b>Review Date:</b> 2025-02
<b>Issued By:</b>	Lisa Grant, Director of Development Services		<b>Issue Date:</b> 2020-02-24
		<b>Manner Issued:</b>	Planning and in Resources

## **Purpose:**

To define the City’s policy with respect to developments utilizing density bonus provisions of the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw and amenities to be obtained from such developments.

## **Associated Policy Documents:**

- Official Community Plan, 2013, Bylaw No. 3838
- Affordable and Family Friendly Housing Policy 5.05

## **Policy:**

1. Where the Zoning Bylaw permits density bonuses within a residential zone and provides for acquisition of additional density in exchange for cash in lieu of amenities, the amount of cash in lieu shall be determined by the increase in land value attributable to the additional density. The increase in land value attributable to the additional density will vary over time and shall be reviewed on an annual basis or more frequently if, upon the advice of the Director of Development Services, needed to respond to significant market fluctuations.
2. For large or complex development sites involving rezoning and which:
  - i. call for a density exceeding the density contemplated in the Official Community Plan land use designation for the site or
  - ii. call for land uses with a higher value than the uses contemplated in the Official Community Plan

Council may consider adoption of a zone with density bonus requirements determined on a site-by-site basis to require either cash in lieu of amenities or the provision of amenities as determined appropriate for the specific development in Council’s consideration of the application. The amount of cash in lieu or the value of the amenities shall be based on a calculation of the increase in land value attributable to the additional density or the change in

land use. The community benefit of the project, as defined in the Affordable and Family Friendly Housing Policy, shall be factored in this calculation.

3. In areas designated for Frequent Transit Development in the Official Community Plan, Council may provide for consideration of residential density in excess of 1/5 FAR through adoption of a Comprehensive Development Zone with a density bonus requirement of \$50 per square foot.
4. Allocation of the cash in lieu funds acquired by developments utilizing the bonus density shall be as follows:
  - i. 50% of the amount shall be deposited in the Community Amenities Reserve Fund for the following purposes:
    - improvements to parks, fields, trails and other open spaces including environmental enhancements;
    - creation or enhancement of facilities used for community purposes including day cares, spaces for recreation or social purposes, recreation, heritage recognition and display purposes; and,
    - acquisition and installation of public art.
  - ii. 50% of the amount shall be deposited in the City's Special Needs Housing Reserve Fund for special needs housing purposes.
5. Allocation of funds provided by developments providing cash in lieu of secured non-market rental units shall be deposited in the Special Needs Housing Reserve.
6. The expenditure of funds in the Community Amenities Reserve Fund obtained for the purposes outlined in (3) shall be determined by Council from time to time. In making this determination, the following criteria shall be applied:
  - contribution to meeting the City's strategic goals, objectives and plans
  - benefit to the community as a whole
  - benefit in off-setting the impacts of additional density within the neighbourhood absorbing the density
  - the capital cost of the selected amenity relative to the available funds
  - on-going operating and maintenance costs
  - availability of other means to fund the amenity.
7. The expenditure of funds in the Special Needs Housing Reserve Fund to support building construction, alterations or additions for a special needs housing development may be determined by Council from time to time in response to application from an eligible proponent. For clarification, the term "special needs housing" includes housing meeting the needs of people with disabilities or health-related needs, shelters, refuges, and secured non-market rental housing or other housing restricted to meeting affordability criteria.

### **Responsibility:**

In the application of density bonus provisions associated with rezoning, the Director of Development Services shall bring forward a recommendation and proposed bylaw to Council giving consideration to the criteria outlined in this policy.

In the review of funds obtained through application of cash in lieu provisions, the Director of Development Services shall bring forward a recommendation for expenditure to the Department Head Team for its recommendation to Council.

**END OF POLICY**

**Record of Amendments:**

<b><u>Policy</u></b>	<b><u>Issue date</u></b>	<b><u>Reviewed</u></b>	<b><u>Replaced</u></b>	<b><u>Re-issue Date</u></b>
5.01	2009-11-20	2018-10	Yes	2018-10
5.01.02	2018-10-09	2020-02	Yes	2020-02
5.01.03	2020-02-24			