PUBLIC MEETING BINDER

Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021



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AGENDA INFORMATION March 8, 2021 Date:







The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 18, 2021

M Regular Meeting

Other:

File: 09.3900.20/000.000

AUTHOR:

Carol Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer

Date:

SUBJECT: Bylaw to Regulate the Keeping of Pigeons

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT "Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021" is given FIRST Reading;

THAT "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004, Amendment Bylaw 8485, 2021, (Amendment 58)" is given FIRST Reading;

AND THAT Bylaw 8470 be referred to a Public Meeting.

REASON FOR REPORT:

At the regular meeting on October 19, 2020, Council directed staff to prepare a bylaw regarding the keeping of pigeons for Council consideration. This report introduces the Pigeon Regulation Bylaw (Attachment 1) to regulate the keeping of pigeons in a manner that is safe, sanitary, and humane, while also sensitive to the needs of neighbouring properties. Accompanying the Pigeon Regulation Bylaw are amendments to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw (Attachment 2) to establish penalties associated with the regulations.

SUMMARY:

This report provides recommendations for regulating the keeping of pigeons in the District of North Vancouver. The proposed "Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021" was prepared with input from key stakeholders and aligns with best practices. Council may refer the bylaw to a Public Meeting to provide additional opportunity for input.

BACKGROUND:

The "Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw", Bylaw 4078 was adopted in 1971 to regulate the keeping of pigeons in the District of North Vancouver. It set standards for establishing and maintaining enclosures, protecting health, and included prohibitions that restricted pigeons from perching, roosting, straying or feeding on another parcel, highway or public place. The bylaw further provided for the administration of a permit in order to keep pigeons on a property.

February 18, 2021

At the Regular Meeting of Council on July 8, 2019, staff were directed to prepare a bylaw for Council's consideration to prohibit the keeping of pigeons and repeal Bylaw 4078. Staff subsequently prepared Pigeon Prohibition Bylaw 8402, 2019, which was adopted by Council on November 4, 2019.

On October 19, 2020, due to concerns raised by members of the community, Council directed staff to repeal "Pigeon Prohibition Bylaw 8402, 2019" and to bring forward for consideration a replacement bylaw that would regulate the keeping of pigeons within the District. Staff were directed to ensure the proposed bylaw would maintain the intent of the 1971 "Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw", Bylaw 4078, while also updating any regulations to ensure they reflect current practices and considerations.

EXISTING POLICY:

In addition to the regulations in the proposed Pigeon Regulation Bylaw, the District's Nuisance Abatement Bylaw, Noise Regulation Bylaw, Rodent Control Bylaw, and Solid Waste Management Bylaw provide tools to deal with problems that may arise.

ANALYSIS:

The Pigeon Regulation Bylaw, if adopted, would permit residents to keep pigeons within the District subject to obtaining a permit and complying with the regulations contained within the bylaw.

Many municipalities in Canada, including the municipalities of Surrey, Vancouver, Richmond, Toronto, Edmonton, and Brampton, permit the keeping of pigeons on private property; however, approaches for regulating this activity vary across the municipalities. The proposed Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470 was prepared following a comprehensive review of approaches taken by other municipalities.

Staff consulted with the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union Inc., Canadian Fancy Pigeon Association, Vancouver Poultry & Fancy Pigeon Association, and any known keepers of pigeons within the District in preparation of the bylaw. Staff also met with the SPCA to ensure there were no concerns regarding the bylaw contents and animal welfare.

A review of the repealed Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw 4078, adopted by Council in 1971, was also undertaken to identify opportunities for improvement and to incorporate best practices. The proposed Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470 includes general regulations on setbacks, location, size, cleanliness, and upkeep of pigeon lofts. Prohibitions are also included in the bylaw as well as regulations for enforcement. The content of the proposed bylaw generally aligns with those seen elsewhere yet contains adjustments that reflect considerations unique to the District of North Vancouver and remains consistent with the intent of the 1971 "Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw", Bylaw 4078.

February 18, 2021

Summary of key differences between the repealed Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw 4078 (1971) and the proposed Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470 (2021):

Subject	Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw 4078 (repealed)	Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470 (proposed)		
Approval	Permit required (contents of permit application contained in the bylaw).	Permit required (contents of permit application removed from bylaw for administrative purposes).		
Enclosures (lofts)	No maximum number specified.	Maximum 1 loft.		
	No minimum floor space requirements.	Minimum 0.19 sq. metres of floor space for each pigeon over the age of 1 month.		
	To be lime-washed or painted at least once every year.	Loft must be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times.		
	1.5 metres from any property line.	1.5 metres from a rear lot line.		
		3.0 metres from an interior lot line.		
	9.0 metres from any residence.	9.0 metres from any building used for human habitation or occupancy.		
	No requirement (may be constructed in any yard, subject to siting requirements listed above).	Must be constructed only in a rear yard.		
Number of pigeons allowed	No limit.	Maximum 20 pigeons.		
Keeping & temporary release	Pigeons may not stray, perch, roost, feed, or nest on land or buildings except the property of the pigeon owner and for the purpose of exercising or racing.	Pigeons may not stray, perch, roost, rest or nest upon any parcel other than the parcel identified in the permit.		
	Must be under the control of the owner when exercising or racing.	To be kept within loft at all times except for limited periods necessary for exercise, training or competition when such pigeons must be under the owner's control.		
Pest control	Kept clean. No requirements for feed in bylaw but to be managed according to other District bylaws.	Kept clean. Pigeon feed must be stored according to District bylaws in a wildlife-resistant container.		
Fines	No fines; enforcement would proceed by way of court process.	Fines included; local adjudication process.		

^{*}The minimum lot size of 5920 sq ft in the new Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw (8470) is the same as the repealed Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw (4078)

Timing/Approval Process:

Should Council proceed with staff's recommendations, the Public Meeting may be scheduled for the spring and the Bylaws could be given further consideration at a following Council meeting.

Public Input:

Staff consulted key stakeholders in the preparation of the bylaw, as noted above. A public hearing is not required as the Zoning Bylaw does not need to be amended; however, staff recommend referring the bylaw to a public meeting for broader public input prior to second and third readings of the bylaw. Understanding some members of the public cite challenges with availability and scheduling associated with participating in public meetings, residents will have the option to provide their input about the proposed bylaw amendments online in advance of the public meeting, should Council accept staff's recommendation noted above.

Conclusion:

The proposed Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470 will, if adopted, regulate the keeping of pigeons in the District and ensure animal welfare and public health are protected while potential nuisance issues are mitigated. The proposed bylaw contains updated regulations that respond to public and stakeholder input, align with other District of North Vancouver bylaws and best practices, and maintain the general intent of repealed Bylaw 4078, Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw.

Options:

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

- 1. Give bylaws 8470 and 8485 First Reading, and refer Bylaw 8470 to a Public Meeting (staff recommendation);
- 2. Give the bylaws no readings; or,
- 3. Provide alternate direction to staff.

Respectfully submitted,

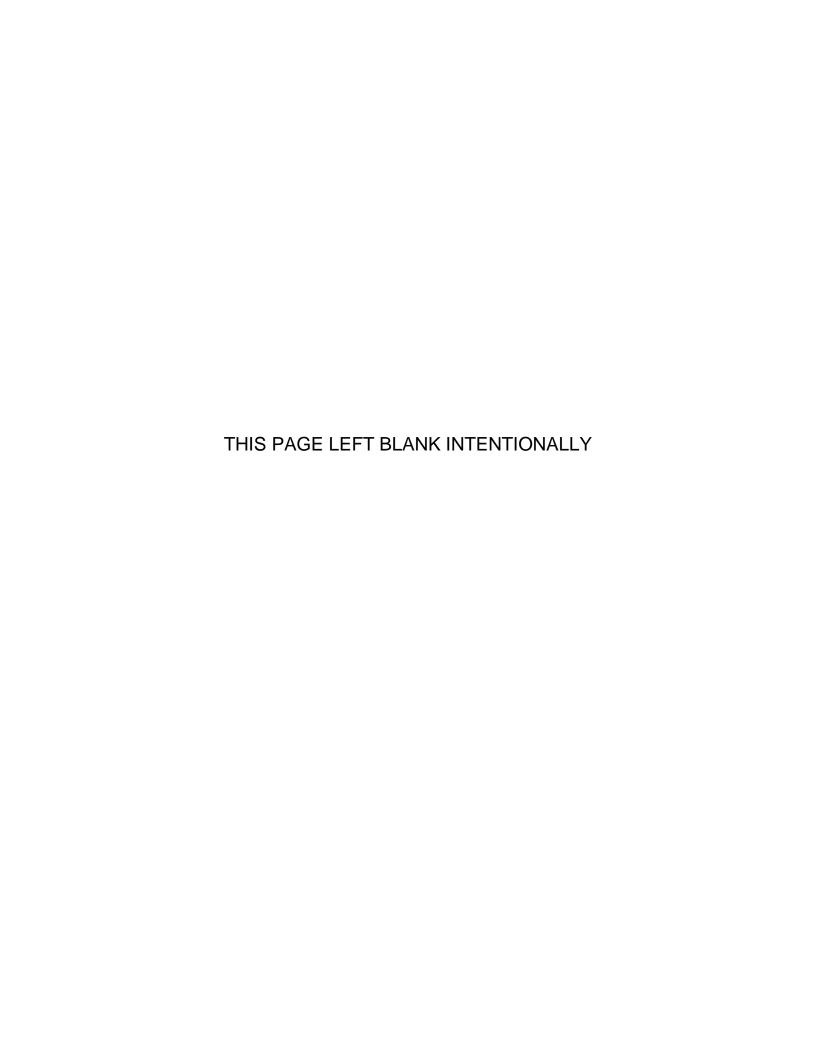
Carol Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer

Attachment 1: District of North Vancouver Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021

Attachment 2: District of North Vancouver Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004,

Amendment Bylaw 8485, 2021, (Amendment 58)

	REVIEWED WITH:	989
☐ Community Planning	☐ Clerk's Office	External Agencies:
☐ Development Planning	Communications (4)	☐ Library Board
☐ Development Engineering	☐ Finance	☐ NS Health
☐ Utilities	☐ Fire Services	□ RCMP
☐ Engineering Operations	□ rṛs	□ NVRC —
☐ Parks	Solicitor	Museum & Arch.
☐ Environment	□ GIS	Other:
☐ Facilities	Real Estate	and the second s
☐ Human Resources	Bylaw Services	
Review and Compliance	Planning	





Bylaw 8470

A bylaw to regulate the keeping of pigeons in the District of North Vancouver

The Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver enacts as follows:

Citation

1. This bylaw may be cited as "Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021".

Definitions

2. In this bylaw:

"District" means the Corporation of the District of North Vancouver or the geographic area within the municipal boundaries of the District, as the context requires;

"loft" means any building, structure or coop in which pigeons are housed or kept;

"owner" has the meaning prescribed in the Community Charter, SBC 2003, c. 26, as amended or replaced;

"parcel" means a lot, block, or other area in which land is held or into which land is subdivided, including a strata lot and a lot created under the Strata Property Act, SBC 1998, c. 43, as amended or replaced; and

"pigeon" means any member of the Columba genus, including birds commonly referred to as common pigeons, racing pigeons, fancy pigeons, utility pigeons and flying or sporting pigeons.

General Regulations

- 3. A person shall not keep *pigeons* in the *District* except on a parcel of land having an area of at least 550 square metres (5,920 square feet).
- 4. A person shall not keep *pigeons* on any parcel unless the person applies for, obtains and keeps in good standing a permit for the keeping of *pigeons* by submitting an application to the *District* together with the applicable fee prescribed in the Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, if any, along with any additional information required by the *District's* General Manager Planning, Properties and Permits or designate.

- 5. Any person who keeps *pigeons* must ensure that there is a *loft* on the *parcel* upon which the *pigeons* are to be kept that meets the following requirements:
 - (a) the *loft* must be constructed only in a rear yard;
 - (b) the loft must be situated in compliance with the following minimum setbacks:
 - (i) From a rear lot line
 (ii) From an interior side lot line
 (iii) From a dwelling unit, school, place
 1.5 metres (4.9 feet)
 3.0 metres (9.8 feet)
 9.0 metres (29.5 feet)
 - (iii) From a dwelling unit, school, place of worship or building used for human habitation or occupancy
 - (c) the *loft* must provide at least 0.19 square metres (2.0 square feet) of floor space for each *pigeon* over the age of 1 month; and
 - (d) the loft must be constructed to be dry, light and have adequate ventilation.
- 6. Any person who keeps pigeons must ensure that:
 - (a) all pigeon feed is stored in accordance with all applicable District bylaws;
 - (b) all leftover feed, trash, and manure is removed and disposed of in a timely manner and in accordance with all *District* bylaws so as to prevent obnoxious odours, health hazards, attraction for pests and wildlife, or conditions that could interfere with the health or well-being of a *pigeon*;
 - (c) the *loft* is kept secured at all times except when that person or another person with his or her permission is present;
 - (d) the loft and all components of it are maintained in good and sanitary condition at all times and all cleanings from the loft are disposed of in a manner that will not create a nuisance or health hazard and in accordance with all applicable District bylaws;
 - (e) all pigeons are kept within the loft at all times except for limited periods necessary for exercise, training or competition when such pigeons must remain under that person's control or the control of another person with that person's permission; and
 - (f) their *pigeons* do not stray, perch, roost, rest or nest upon any *parcel* other than the *parcel* identified in the permit upon which the *loft* is located.

7. If a person keeping *pigeons* suspects that a *pigeon* is infected with a reportable or notifiable disease under the *Animal Health Act*, as amended or replaced, SBC 2014, c. 16, that person shall immediately consult a licenced veterinarian to diagnose the condition. If the diagnosis is confirmed, the person shall immediately notify the Medical Health Officer and comply with the instructions of the Medical Health Officer.

Inspection

8. The *loft* may be inspected by the *District* for compliance with the provisions of this bylaw as a condition of issuing a *pigeon* permit.

Prohibitions

- 9. A person must not:
 - (a) keep or permit to be kept more than 20 pigeons on any parcel;
 - (b) have or permit more than one *loft* per *parcel*;
 - (c) keep pigeons in, upon or under any building used for human habitation; or
 - (d) deposit manure in the municipal sewage or storm drain system or compost manure in such a way as to allow manure to enter the municipal sewage or storm drain system.

Offence and Enforcement

Entry

10. Bylaw Enforcement Officers, are authorized, in accordance with section 16 of the Community Charter SBC 2003, c. 26, as amended or replaced, to enter at any reasonable time onto a parcel to inspect and determine whether the regulations of this bylaw are being complied with.

Obstruction

11. A person must not interfere with, delay, obstruct or impede a Bylaw Enforcement Officer or designate or other person lawfully authorized to enforce this bylaw in the performance of duties under this bylaw.

Violations

12. Every person who violates any of the provisions of this bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of this bylaw; or who neglects or refrains from doing any act or thing which violates any of the provisions of this bylaw will be liable to the penalties herby imposed and each day that such violation is permitted to exist will constitute a separate offence.

Penalty

13. Every person who commits an offence contrary to the provision is liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not more than the maximum permitted under the *Offence Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 338, as amended or replaced, in addition to the costs of the prosecution.

Designation of Bylaw

14. This bylaw is designated under section 264 of the *Community Charter* as a bylaw that may be enforced by means of a ticket in the form prescribed.

Designation of Bylaw Enforcement Officer

 Bylaw Enforcement Officers, Animal Services Officers, Medical Health Officers and Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are authorized to enforce this bylaw.

Ticketing

16. Pursuant to sections 264(1)(c) and 265(1)(a) of the *Community Charter*, the table below sets out the designated expressions for offences under this bylaw with the corresponding bylaw section number and fine amount:

DESIGNATED EXPRESSION	SECTION	FINE
Parcel too small	3	\$100
Keep pigeons without permit	4	\$100
Loft not meeting requirements	5	\$100
Improper storage of pigeon feed	6(a)	\$100
Improper disposal of pigeon waste	6(b)	\$100
Loft not secured	6(c)	\$100
Loft not in sanitary condition	6(d)	\$100
Pigeons not in loft or under control	6(e)	\$100
Allow pigeons to stray	6(f)	\$100
Fail to consult veterinarian	7	\$100
Fail to report to Medical Health Officer	7	\$100
Keep more than 20 pigeons	9(a)	\$100
Have more than one loft	9(b)	\$100
Keep pigeons in building	9(c)	\$100
Deposit manure in municipal storm system	9(d)	\$100
Obstruct bylaw enforcement officer	11	\$100

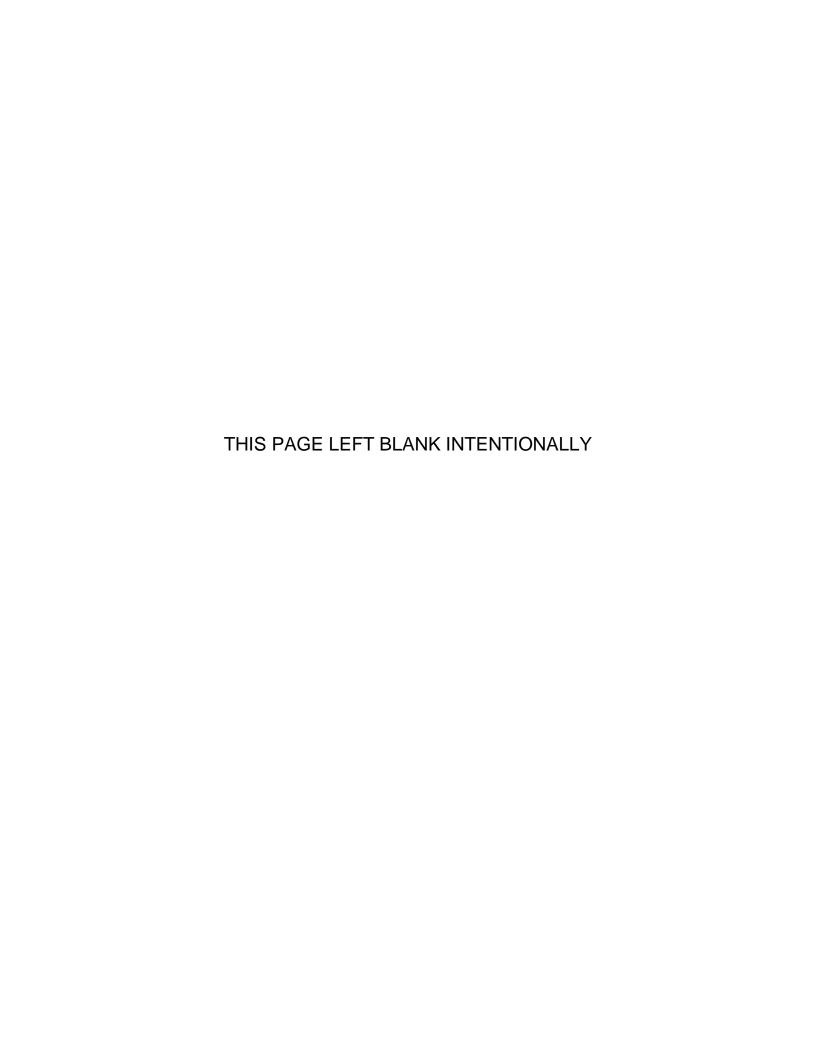
Severability

17. If a section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph of phrase of this bylaw is for any reason declared invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

Repeal

- 18. The District of North Vancouver Pigeon Prohibition Bylaw 8402, 2019 is hereby repealed.
- 19. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004 Amendment Bylaw 8403, 2019 (Amendment 46) is hereby repealed.

READ a first time		
READ a second time	₩.	
READ a third time		
ADOPTED		
Mayor	Municipal Clerk	
Certified a true copy		
	_	
Municipal Clerk		



Bylaw 8485

A bylaw to amend Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004

The Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver enacts as follows:

Citation

1. This bylaw may be cited as "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004 Amendment Bylaw 8485, 2021 (Amendment 58)".

Amendments

2. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004 is amended by: inserting the following violations for the Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021:

Bylaw Section	Description The following fines apply to the contraventions below:	Amount	A2 Discounted Penalty: Within 14 days	A3 Late Payment: After 28 days	A4 Compliance Agreement Available	A5 Compliance Agreement Discount
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)		
3	Parcel too small	100	75	150	NO	N/A
4	Keep pigeons without permit	100	75	150	NO	N/A
5	Loft not meeting requirements	100	75	150	NO	N/A
6(a)	Improper storage of pigeon feed	100	75	150	NO	N/A
6(b)	Improper disposal of pigeon waste	100	75	150	NO	N/A
6(c)	Loft not secured	100	75	150	NO	N/A
6(d)	Loft not in sanitary condition	100	75	150	NO	N/A
6(e)	Pigeons not in loft or under control	100	75	150	NO	N/A
6(f)	Allow pigeons to stray	100	75	150	NO	N/A
7	Fail to consult veterinarian	100	75	150	NO	N/A
7	Fail to report to Medical Health Officer	100	75	150	NO	N/A
9(a)	Keep more than 20 pigeons	100	75	150	NO	N/A
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9(c)	Keep pigeons in building	100	75	150	NO	N/A
9(d)	Deposit manure in municipal storm system	100	75	150	NO	N/A
11	Obstruct bylaw enforcement officer	100	75	150	NO	N/A

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- (c) the *loft* must provide at least 0.19 square metres (2.0 square feet) of floor space for each *pigeon* over the age of 1 month; and
- (d) the *loft* must be constructed to be dry, light and have adequate ventilation.
- 6. Any person who keeps *pigeons* must ensure that:
 - (a) all *pigeon* feed is stored in accordance with all applicable *District* bylaws;
 - (b) all leftover feed, trash, and manure is removed and disposed of in a timely manner and in accordance with all *District* bylaws so as to prevent obnoxious odours, health hazards, attraction for pests and wildlife, or conditions that could interfere with the health or well-being of a *pigeon*;
 - (c) the *loft* is kept secured at all times except when that person or another person with his or her permission is present;
 - (d) the loft and all components of it are maintained in good and sanitary condition at all times and all cleanings from the loft are disposed of in a manner that will not create a nuisance or health hazard and in accordance with all applicable District bylaws;
 - (e) all *pigeons* are kept within the *loft* at all times except for limited periods necessary for exercise, training or competition when such *pigeons* must remain under that person's control or the control of another person with that person's permission; and
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Inspection

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Prohibitions

- 9. A person must not:
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 - (d) deposit manure in the municipal sewage or storm drain system or compost manure in such a way as to allow manure to enter the municipal sewage or storm drain system.

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Obstruct bylaw enforcement officer	11	\$100

Severability

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Repeal

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READ a first time March 15 th , 2021		
READ a second time		
READ a third time		
ADOPTED		
Mayor	Municipal Clerk	
Certified a true copy		
Municipal Clerk		

Bylaw 8485

A bylaw to amend Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004

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ADOPTED	
Mayor	Municipal Clerk
Wayor	Municipal Clerk
Certified a true copy	
Municipal Clerk	

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED PIGEON REGULATION BYLAW

What:

A Public Meeting for Bylaw 8470, a proposed bylaw that would regulate the keeping of pigeons within the District of North Vancouver. If adopted, the bylaw would require issuance of a permit for the keeping of pigeons and would prohibit the keeping of pigeons except on a parcel of land having an area of at least 550 m².

When:

Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5pm

Where:

District of North Vancouver Municipal Hall, 355 W. Queens Road, North Vancouver, BC

How:

This Public Meeting will be held virtually, with participation by electronic means only. Those wishing to view or to participate in the meeting may do so at

https://dnvorg.zoom.us/j/65345321120 or by phone by dialing 1-778-907-2071 and entering Meeting ID: 653 4532 1120

When and How can I provide input?

We welcome your input on April 19, 2021 at 5 pm. You may sign up in advance to speak at the meeting by contacting the Municipal Clerk at gordonja@dnv.org prior to noon, Monday, April 19, 2021. After the speakers list has been exhausted, there will be an opportunity for additional speakers who had not signed up in advanced to make submissions. You may provide a written submission at any time prior to the close of the meeting by completing the online

feedback form at DNV.org/proposed-pigeon-bylaw

Need more info?

Relevant background material and copies of the bylaw are available for review online at DNV.org/agenda

Questions?

communityplanning@dnv.org 604-990-2311

