

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

December 14, 1964.

HIS WORSHIP, THE REEVE,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL:

Gentlemen:

Re: Amendment to By-Law #149 - By-Law  
for the regulation of Pool Rooms  
in the Municipality of Burnaby.

On the 6th day of April, 1964, the Clerk's Office received a Petition from certain operators and proprietors of Billiard Parlours and/or Pool Rooms in the Municipality of Burnaby. The Petition requested, in general, that the By-law governing Billiard Parlours and/or Pool Rooms be amended as follows:

1. Lower the existing age at which a person may enter the premises of a Billiard Parlour and/or Pool Room from 18 years to 16 years.
2. Permit persons over the age of 14 years but under the age of 16 years to be in and remain on the premises between the hours of 12 noon and 9:00 p.m. except on days when schools in the Municipality are in session when the hours pertaining to this particular age group would be from 3:30 in the afternoon to 9:00 p.m.
3. Notwithstanding the proviso of the above paragraph 2, to allow any person under the age of 16 years to enter and remain on the premises while he is in the actual custody of a parent or guardian.
4. To permit Billiard Parlours and/or Pool Rooms to open on Sundays between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Upon Motion of Council, this matter was referred to the Family and Children's Court Committee and to myself for a report to be brought in after one year's consideration and checking on the implications and ramifications of such amendments.

On the 13th of November, 1964, Mr. G. M. Smith of Lucky 7 Recreations and Mr. R. Schmidt of Campus Mixed Billiards wrote a letter to Council asking for similar amendments to the said By-law as those hereinbefore described. Subsequently, Council, although the twelve months period had not expired, asked me to bring in a report on the said amendments.

I have considered the matter with the Chairman of the Family and Children's Court Committee, Mr. David Gray, and have received from him a letter setting out the unanimous views of his Committee. The letter reads in part, as follows:

"The committee has unanimously agreed to suggest the following:

(Continued - page 2)

- 2 -

1. Permit persons, aged 16 and 17 years to be in and remain on the premises between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on days when school is in session, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on days when school is not in session.
2. Permit persons aged 12 to 15 years to be in and remain on the premises between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on days when school is in session and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on days when school is not in session provided said person is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
3. The premises and operation of the billiard or pool room should be well-lighted.
4. Offensive or abusive language or behaviour is prohibited.

The committee respectfully makes these suggestions to be considered with the reports you have already received from Inspector Jeeves and Mr. Buckley."

The report of the Family and Children's Court Committee appears to endorse the amendments requested in the above described petition. However, I would emphasize that the report also states that its recommendations should be considered in conjunction with the recommendations of Inspector Jeeves of the R.C.M.P. and Mr. H. Buckley, Chief Licence Inspector. I would also emphasize that the report of the Family and Children's Court Committee is based upon a very limited number of personal investigations of premises and over a relatively short period of time.

I have also requested Inspector Jeeves of the R.C.M.P. to submit a report on this matter. Inspector Jeeves' report, dated December 3rd, 1964, is attached hereto and is quite conclusive in its consideration of the proposed amendments. In essence, the report states that investigations by the R.C.M.P. Youth Detail of the Criminal Investigation Branch should not be made unless restrictions are included in the By-law stating that 14 to 16-year olds must be accompanied by their parents. Inspector Jeeves' report reads in part as follows:

"To further lower age restrictions at this time without some strict qualifications could not help but place children under sixteen years of age in close association with youths who are established delinquents. It is felt that any change in the present By-law should only be considered if fourteen to sixteen-year olds were accompanied by their parents or some other clause inserted which would afford some equivalent supervision. Without such conditions, I could not at present subscribe to any proposal to allow children under sixteen years of age in pool rooms."

- 3 -

In my view, when the implications of enforcing and checking whether or no a person within the 14 to 16 years age group is accompanied by a parent are considered, I believe it will be apparent that the restriction on the whole cannot be properly enforced. Consequently, it is my opinion that the requests of the above described Petitioners to lower the age groups of persons permitted in Billiard Parlours and/or Pool Rooms and to extend the hours when the said persons will be allowed in Billiard Parlours and/or Pool Rooms should not be considered at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor James H. Edwards,  
Council Liaison for  
Administration of Justice.

JHE/dew