

ITEM 6

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 11

COUNCIL MEETING Feb. 12/73

6. Re: Rising Crime Rate
(Item 8, Report No. 70, October 30, 1972)

A comprehensive report concerning the various efforts that are being made by the R.C.M.P. and Municipal Departments to combat the rise of crime was referred to Council on October 30, 1972. Council adopted the recommendations, but directed that a further report be prepared on the feasibility of engaging detached workers to handle youth problems.

The Parks and Recreation Administrator advises that recreational personnel during the pursuit of normal duties occasionally encounter young people with social problems. The problems are of varying degrees and appear in some cases to be of a type that may without treatment culminate in behavior that will involve the law. Recreational personnel are of course specialists in matters that pertain to recreation, and are not trained or qualified to counsel or work with persons that are troubled with personal or social problems. Nor is it the proper function of the Parks and Recreational Department to become involved with such matters. Nevertheless, department personnel from time-to-time do become aware of such problems.

The Parks and Recreation Department has not achieved successful results with systems that have involved the use of detached workers. A procedure has accordingly been adapted whereby recreational personnel in the future will refer persons with problems to highly qualified and trained counsellors in the Social Service Department, providing of course, that such persons desire and are willing to accept such assistance on a voluntary basis. The Social Services Department will refer cases that are outside its area of competence, such as those of a psychiatric nature, to the Mental Health Centre for treatment.

Probationary Officers and R.C.M.P. Personnel use the same referral procedure that is outlined above, and have been doing so for some time.

This is for the information of Council.