

Re: Bicycles

Following is a report from the Treasurer regarding the handling and storage of bicycles that are found in Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT two suitable mini pickup trucks be purchased at an estimated total cost of \$4,100; and

THAT a suitable open air storage enclosure be built in the vehicle compound at an estimated cost of \$2,800; and

THAT the Chief Licence Inspector be empowered to carry out the duties of processing found bicycles, currently being carried out by the R.C.M.P.; and

THAT found bicycles be turned over to the Purchasing Agent for sale by auction after the required three month waiting period has expired; and

THAT the proceeds from such sales be placed in the general revenue of the Municipality.

* * * * *

12 March 1974

File: C60 R.C.M.P.

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

FROM: MUNICIPAL TREASURER

RE: BICYCLES

Currently, there are 200 found bicycles in storage in the R.C.M.P. building. This storage is badly needed for police exhibits, as will be noted from the attached report on the subject from the Officer in Charge, Burnaby Detachment, R.C.M.P. From this letter, too, it will be noted that the overall processing of found bicycles is expensive and time consuming.

A thorough study has been made of the suggestions put forward by the Officer in Charge and the following program is recommended by that Officer, the Purchasing Agent, the Chief Licence Inspector and the undersigned:

1. The civilian parking meter patrolmen are currently operating Harley Davidson motorcycles which originally cost \$3,000 each. There are two in service. However, they break down frequently and replacement parts are often hard to come by. As a consequence, they can be out of service for weeks at a time. When this happens, a pool Volkswagen is put into use.

"No parking" zones are chiefly in the Kingsway and Hastings Street areas. Traffic is becoming so heavy on these streets that the Officer in Charge is of the opinion that it is becoming too dangerous for the patrolmen to mark tires while mounted on motorcycles. It follows that patrolmen should do this work on foot.

Unfortunately, it is not practical to drop these men off and pick them up for transfer elsewhere. They should

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have their own transportation. If they are supplied with mini trucks, in addition to their other duties they can assume the task of picking up found bicycles.

2. A parking patrolman or, on occasion, a policeman, can deliver found bicycles to Licence Department staff for storage and handling.
3. A portion of the fenced vehicle storage area behind the Municipal Hall can be screened off for open air storage of bicycles. A storage area of 600 square feet - roofed and surrounded by chain link fencing - is estimated to cost \$2,800. Sufficient storage racks are currently on hand.
4. The Chief Licence Inspector can be empowered to carry out the procedures in storing and disposing of bicycles currently being carried out by the R.C.M.P.

In this connection, it has long been the practice of the R.C.M.P. to return to finders, money and material turned in by the public; in the event owners cannot be located within one year for money and three months for material. This is a policy the R.C.M.P. would like to retain, for it encourages citizens to turn in money and other objects. However, they have reservations about the value of such a policy with respect to bicycles. In view of the amount of handling involved and the suspicion that "found" bicycles may not always be truly "found", the recommendation has been made that the Municipality make use of Section 662 of the Municipal Act and sell "found" bicycles after a three month waiting period.

Section 662 reads as follows:

- (1) Subject to subsections (2), (3), (4), and (5) hereof, any property which has come into the custody and possession of the police force on behalf of the municipality may, in cases where the owner of the property has not been ascertained and no order of a competent Court has been made with respect thereto, be disposed of or sold by the Collector or some other person authorized by Council.
- (2) The proceeds of any sale may be applied to all or any of the following purposes:
 - (a) The recovery of any expense incurred by the municipality in respect of the property, including any expense involved in its disposal or sale:
 - (b) The payment of reasonable compensation to any person by whom the property has been delivered into possession of the police:
 - (c) Payment into the general revenue of the municipality.
- (3) Where any of the property is a perishable article, or has no apparent marketable value, or its custody involves unreasonable expense or inconvenience, it may be sold or disposed of at any time. In any other case the property shall not be sold or disposed of until it has been in the possession of the police for three months. The proceeds

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of any sale shall be held in suspense for one year from the date of sale, unless claimed by and paid to the lawful owner thereof, and then dealt with under subsection (2).

- (4) A sale may be by public auction or otherwise as determined by Council, except that one week's public notice of sale describing the property to be sold, except property of no apparent marketable value, must be given in one issue of a newspaper published or circulating in the municipality.
- (5) The municipality, or any member of the Council, or any person in lawful custody of any article of property, or any officer, employee, or agent of the municipality, shall not be liable in damages or otherwise for or in respect of any claim that may arise in respect of any article of property after the same has been disposed of or sold as provided in this section, and the receiver or purchaser of any article as provided in this section shall have vested in him a good and sufficient title thereto as against any former owner thereof.

In the normal course of events, the R.C.M.P. from time to time turn over to the Purchasing Agent a variety of articles that come into their possession and for which owners cannot be found or where no "finder" is involved or cares to take possession of said articles. Periodically, these articles are sold by auction. In 1973, \$807 was realized from such sales.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT two suitable mini pickup trucks be purchased at an estimated total cost of \$4,100; and

THAT a suitable open air storage enclosure be built in the vehicle compound at an estimated cost of \$2,800; and

THAT the Chief Licence Inspector be empowered to carry out the duties of processing found bicycles, currently being carried out by the R.C.M.P.; and

THAT found bicycles be turned over to the Purchasing Agent for sale by auction after the required three month waiting period has expired; and

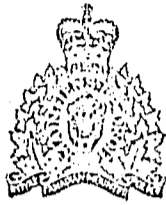
THAT the proceeds from such sales be placed in the general revenue of the municipality.


MUNICIPAL TREASURER

EM:gw
Attach.

cc: O.C., R.C.M.P.
Purchasing Agent
Chief Licence Inspector

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Burnaby Detachment,
6355 Gilpin Street,
Burnaby, B.C., V5G 2J2,
November 28, 1973.

YOUR NO. _____
VOTRE NO _____

YOUR NO. _____
VOTRE NO _____

The Purchasing Agent,
Corporation of the District of Burnaby,
4949 Canada Way,
Burnaby, B.C., V5G 1M2.

Dear Sir:

Re: Bicycles

Reference to the above and to telephone conversation between yourself and S/Sgt. Anderson recently, the following is submitted for your information.

Present Method of Handling

1. Report is received from citizen that a bicycle has been found and is at some location in Burnaby.
2. A patrol member from the police zone concerned will attend and pick up the bicycle utilizing the trunk of the patrol car.
3. The bicycle is conveyed to the Justice Building and left in the garage area with a completed report outlining circumstances of finding, etc.
4. The exhibit custodian (at present Special Constable Kristensen) gives the report a number and tags the bicycle using the report number as a reference.
5. The exhibit custodian cross checks with records of reported stolen bicycles and periodically with records of other adjoining municipalities and/or cities.
6. The bicycle is stored by hanging it on a hook on stands provided for this purpose.
7. If a citizen who has lost a bicycle wishes to examine the bicycles in storage, the exhibit custodian arranges for him or her to visit the bicycle storage area to view them.
8. If a bicycle is licenced, the exhibit custodian checks the records and phones or otherwise advises the owner.

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9. The bicycles are held for three months and if by that time the owner has not claimed them, they are returned to the finders except in cases where police are the finders.
10. When police are the finders, the bicycles are turned over to the Municipality at the expiration of the three-month period.

Our present system is time consuming, expensive and inefficient. Some of the faults are:

1. Takes a policeman away from his area and regular police duties. If a two-man patrol is involved, the time loss is doubled.
2. Patrol cars are used for hauling bicycles by utilizing the trunks of the vehicles. This means the trunk lids must be left open and the bicycle hangs out. The trunk areas have been subject to scrapes and scratches, and the trunk lids dented and hinges sprung in some cases. Some of the patrol vehicles have radio equipment in their trunks and this can easily be damaged causing expensive radio repairs. The bicycles have also been scraped and dented when the trunk lids have bounced on them or when being fitted into the awkward carrying position. Should the police become involved in any police activity requiring sudden mobility, they would be severely hampered by the open trunk and the bicycle hanging out.
3. Expensive storage being utilized. The present heated, secure storage is most acceptable but very expensive and we must now give priority to storage of more valuable items such as exhibits, etc.
4. The returning of bicycles to the finders is time consuming and can be avoided if the Municipality wishes to utilize Sec. 662 of the Municipal Act.

Suggested Alternate Method

1. Provide less expensive storage, possibly secure outside storage, to be controlled by the Municipality.
2. Provide suitable transportation to pick up the bicycles.
3. Appoint a municipal employee to work in close contact with the Licencing Department to take care of lost and found bicycles. This employee could maintain a record of the bicycles reported stolen and a record of those found. He could cross check records and registrations, and liaise with other municipalities to provide better

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service to the public. He could be afforded any police assistance he might require to assist in carrying out his duties.

The suggested alternate method would go a long way toward resolving some of the problems now being experienced. An estimated 650 bicycles are reported stolen in Burnaby each year, and approximately 375 to 425 are turned in as found. With the anticipated enforcement of registration in 1974, the return to owners should increase appreciably and the availability of registration records will become more important.

Regardless of whether the function of handling bicycles remains with the police or not, it will be necessary to obtain alternate storage for bicycles since the space presently used is urgently required for more important storage.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours truly,

W.G. Lambert for
(W.G. Lambert) Supt.
Officer in Charge
Burnaby Detachment (AOL)

c.c. Municipal Treasurer