

ITEM 2

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 7

COUNCIL MEETING Feb. 3/75

Re: Police Reports

Council on January 20, 1975, in connection with consideration of a monthly report from the R.C.M.P., requested information on the feasibility of having the R.C.M.P. prepare a comprehensive report similar to the one that Vancouver Council recently received on the operations of the Vancouver City Police Department. Comments on the Vancouver report were made on the basis of information contained in an article from The Province dated January 17, 1975, (copy attached).

The Superintendent, Officer in Charge, Burnaby Detachment, R.C.M.P., has examined the Vancouver report and advises as follows:



Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
Burnaby Detachment,  
6355 Gilpin Street,  
Burnaby, B.C.,  
V5G 2J2,  
January 27, 1975

YOUR NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
VOTRE N° \_\_\_\_\_

OUR NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NOTRE N° \_\_\_\_\_

" The Municipal Manager,  
Corporation of the District of Burnaby,  
4949 Canada Way,  
Burnaby, B.C., V5G 1M2.

**RECEIVED**

JAN 27 1975

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S  
OFFICE

Dear Sir:

Re: Police Manpower & Criminal Code Statistics

Reference the Vancouver Province report of January 17, 1975, concerning the operation of the Vancouver Police Department, and your request for similar information pertaining to Burnaby, I have asked for a copy of the Police report and hope to receive it in time to submit with this memorandum.

" The study compares the workload of the Vancouver Police with other major city police forces in Canada and shows the consequences of having insufficient manpower. The yardstick used is the number of police per 1,000 crimes, which is considered reasonably accurate for comparison purposes now offences are uniformly reported to Statistics Canada. There may be some slight variations between the number of crimes reported and those committed, depending on variations in the percentage of total crimes actually reported by the populace city by city, and possibly in the accuracy of recording by some police departments. It is doubtful if these variances would be so widely different they would make any appreciable impact on the total picture.

The comparison statistics quoted for police per 1,000 crimes in 1973 are: Montreal 46.6, Toronto 31.0, Ottawa 23.1, Calgary 21.9, Winnipeg 21.5, Hamilton 19.6, and Vancouver 17.6. In the same year Burnaby had only 15.1, and with the large increase in crimes reported in 1974, that ratio has been reduced to 12.5 police per 1,000 crimes. I am currently preparing my annual report on policing the Municipality in 1974, which will detail problem areas and show a need for a fairly substantial increase in manpower for Burnaby.

The "Province" report reveals the Vancouver Police, because of manpower shortages and increased crime, were only able to follow up a small number of 1,176 strongarmings and purse-snatchings in 1973. Similarly only half the small store hold-ups, 80% of the more than 700 assaults causing bodily harm, half the number of burglaries, very few of the 20,000 thefts and 3 1/2% of property damage offences were followed up. We do not have

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Re: Police Manpower & Criminal Code Statistics

readily available statistics on how many cases received follow-up investigation in Burnaby. Many do not because the need is often obviated by a thorough initial investigation, or the circumstances do not warrant it. Certainly in none of the more serious offences have we been unable to follow-up initial investigations because of shortages of manpower.

With respect to the reported stacking of calls for police assistance due to the lack of available police units to attend, this does occur on occasions in Burnaby. It has rarely presented a serious problem because many of the calls are not of an urgent nature and do not require immediate police attendance. We are able to attend all calls for assistance, but at times it is on a priority basis rather than in order of receipt.

The report also indicates there are many occasions when a district has no available police units. This often occurs in our zones as only two or three cars are assigned to each of the eight zones, but on those occasions when a further call for assistance is received from that zone, it is answered by a car from a neighbouring zone or a unit from another Section.

In summary then, although the problems being experienced in Vancouver have not yet become acute in Burnaby, one of the serious consequences has been a reduction in the amount of time which can be utilized in crime prevention; and where crime prevention programs are neglected, they invariably result in further increases in crime."

Yours truly,

*W. G. Lambert*  
(W.G. Lambert) Supt.  
Officer in Charge  
Burnaby Detachment "

We feel at this time that there is no need for a report that is as comprehensive in scope as Vancouver's, but will wait until we receive the R.C.M.P., Burnaby Detachment's Annual Report before commenting further on this matter.

This is for the information of Council.

PROVINCE

Friday, January 17/75

# Half the time police could not return

A police report supporting the request for 323 more policemen reveals only half of all small store holdups received any follow-up investigation by detectives in 1973.

The 56-page report outlines the consequences of having in Vancouver only 15.8 policemen for every 1,000 crimes committed — the lowest number of any major city in Canada.

This compares with 52.7 policemen for each 1,000 crimes committed in Montreal in 1973; 31 policemen in Toronto and 21.1 in Winnipeg.

Only "a small number" of the 1,176 strongarmings and purse-snatchings in 1973 were followed up, the report states.

About 80 per cent of the more than 700 assaults causing bodily harm were not followed up and "extremely few" common assaults and threatening cases received any attention from detectives.

The figures for 1974 are worse, the report says.

In crimes against property in 1973, the report says:

- Only half the number of burglories that should have

had further investigation received it;

- "Very few" of the 20,000 thefts, including car thefts, received any follow-up;

- Only 3½ per cent of prop-

erty damage offences were followed up.

To increase the percentage of crimes that are followed up, the report recommends an increase of 36 detectives.

Most of the additional manpower would be used in increasing the size of the patrol division to 673 from 418.

Here, the report says, "re-

sources are totally inadequate to handle the numerous calls for service received by the department. (Estimated 110,000 in 1974). There are simply not enough men available to assign to this important function."

During a 12-week period last fall, it states, "there were 639 recorded occasions where at least one district (the city is divided into four districts) had no units available."

Lack of available police units to respond to calls re-

sults in radio dispatchers "stacking" or getting a backlog of calls to be handled.

In the first nine months of last year the report says: 433 calls were "stacked" for more than two hours; 1,088 calls were stacked for more than one hour; 4,280 calls stacked for more than 30 minutes, including one "holdup in progress."

Police and city officials are to meet MLAs and MPs next week to discuss cost sharing to bring about the manpower increase, estimated to cost about \$6 million a year.