

ITEM 4  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 53  
COUNCIL MEETING Aug. 2/77

Re: LETTER FROM MR. ROBERT L. FOSTER WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA OF  
THE JULY 18, 1977 MEETING OF COUNCIL (ITEM 4f)

Appearing on the agenda for the July 18, 1977 meeting of Council was a letter from Mr. Robert L. Foster commenting on enforcement of the Narcotic Control Act and the Food and Drug Act in Burnaby. Following is a report from the Officer-in-Charge, R.C.M.P., Burnaby Detachment containing certain details of the undercover operation to which Mr. Foster refers.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Foster.

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JULY 14, 1977

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE BURNABY R.C.M.P. DETACHMENT  
SUBJECT: MR. ROBERT L. FOSTER - COMPLAINT OF COST NARCOTIC  
DRUG ACT ENFORCEMENT - BURNABY, B.C.

Burnaby Detachment did run a drug undercover operation for a period of approximately six months, terminating on June 13, 1977. This operation was directed at the individuals trafficking in Cocaine, Cannabis Resin (Hashish) Cannabis Marihuana, Heroin, Phencyclidine, Columbian Marihuana, Mexican (commercial) Marihuana and Thai Weed.

The figure of \$125,000. quoted in the article which appeared in the June 14, 1977 issue of the Columbian Newspaper is the street level cost, or retail cost of the drugs purchased.

There were four members from the Burnaby R.C.M.P. Detachment Drug Squad and the undercover operator employed on this particular undercover operation. The undercover operator is not a member of Burnaby Detachment. It should be clearly understood at this point that four of the members of Burnaby Detachment Drug Squad occupy Federal positions, paid by the Federal Government and employed on Drug Enforcement duties within the Municipality of Burnaby, at no cost to the Municipality. Likewise the undercover operator occupied a Federal position and paid by the Federal Government. The total cost of the operation was financed by the R.C.M.P. and not a financial burden on the Burnaby tax payers.

I could not agree more with Mr. FOSTER that enforcement of the Narcotic Control Act and Food and Drug Act is costly and a heavy burden on the Canadian tax payer. However, very little imagination is required to appreciate what affect the drug trade would have on our society if the Narcotic Control Act and Food and Drug Act were not vigorously enforced. In my opinion one cannot weigh the cost of drug enforcement against the affects the illicit use of drugs has on our society and this has been abundantly demonstrated here in Burnaby. I do not hold the same views as Mr. FOSTER that these are "victimless crimes".

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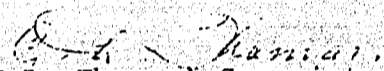
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I am in no position now nor would I attempt to estimate the cost, as Mr. FOSTER has requested covering the Police, pre trial custody, court, prosecution, defence lawyers, prison and probation involved in this undercover operation as the majority of the cases are still before the courts. Likewise, all of the costs are not a burden on the Burnaby tax payers, as the cost of the judicial proceedings is borne by the Provincial and Federal Government and therefore a burden on the Canadian tax payer.

The illicit drug trade has far reaching affects in many other facets of criminal activity, i.e. Murder, Armed Robbery, Breaking, Entering and Theft, Theft, Theft of Auto and many other offences. A very high percentage of our crime in the Municipality of Burnaby is drug related and it is by strict enforcement of the Narcotic Control Act and Food and Drug Act that the Police are able to maintain some semblance of control on the increasing crime rate.

  
(C.L. Thomas) Superintendent  
Officer In Charge  
Burnaby Detachment