

ITEM	5
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	62
COUNCIL MEETING	1979 09 17

RE: INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF ACCIDENTS IN BURNABY DURING JULY 1979/78

When the Officer-in-Charge, Burnaby Detachment, R.C.M.P. submitted his report on the policing of the Municipality for the month of July, Council inquired about the reason(s) why the incidence of traffic accidents had increased. Comments on this inquiry are contained in the following report from the Officer-in-Charge.

It is interesting to note that the higher number of accidents in July of 1979 was not attributable to a lack of enforcement as indicated by the fact that there were 1,000 more prosecutions for traffic related offences in July of 1979 than the comparable period of 1978.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Officer-in-Charge, Burnaby Detachment, R.C.M.P. be received for information purposes.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1979 SEPTEMBER 12
 FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE BURNABY DETACHMENT R.C.M.P.
 RE: INCREASED ACCIDENTS JULY 1979/78
 BURNABY, B.C.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following be received for information purposes.

REPORT

Statistical data submitted for comparison.

TOTAL ACCIDENTS % 1979/78		ENFORCEMENT (PROSECUTIONS, TRAFFIC RELATED)	
JANUARY	+55 or + 8.8%	+	989 or +31.5%
FEBRUARY	+84 or +16.2%	+	252 or + 7.9%
MARCH	- 1 or - .2%	-	410 or - 9.1%
APRIL	+83 or +17.2%	-	797 or -21.6%
MAY	-34 or - 6.2%	+	170 or + 4.2%
JUNE	+18 or + 3.8%	-	187 or - 6.1%
JULY	+173 or +48.5%	+	1000 or +32.3%
AUGUST	-37 or - 7.2%	+	396 or + 9.8%

MONTH OF JULY TOTAL ACCIDENTS FOR PAST TEN YEARS

1979 - 529	1974 - 483
1978 - 356	1973 - 324
1977 - 440	1972 - 347
1976 - 392	1971 - 277
1975 - 491	1970 - 255

SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS MONTH OF JULY TOTAL ACCIDENTS % 1979/78

SURREY	+10.2%
COQUITLAM	+11.0%
UNIT "B"	+29.4%
VANCOUVER CITY POLICE	+18.1%
RICHMOND	+14.6%
NORTH VANCOUVER	+48.1%
NEW WESTMINSTER CITY POLICE	+ 3.7%

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WEATHER PATTERN FOR JULY

1st to 8th	-	Sun			
9th	-	4.5 millimeters of rain			
10th	-	10.3	"	"	"
11th	-	2.6	"	"	"
12th July to 13th August	-	Sun			

Accidents are up in all surrounding jurisdictions for the month of July 1979. The increase of 48.5% locally is attributed to the following:

- Increased traffic flow through Burnaby caused by tourism and British Columbia residents staying-home rather than holidaying in the United States because of exchange rate in the dollar.
- Increased number of accidents for July 9th to 11th due to rain after a dry spell.
- Accident increase between July 12th to 31st due to hot weather. It has been found that drivers increase speed to create more draft through the windows during a hot spell. They also become more irate thereby taking more chances.
- Opinions from personnel responsible for surrounding jurisdictions indicate changing attitudes of drivers are causing the increased accidents in respective areas.

C.L. Thomas
(C.L. Thomas) Supt.
O. i/c Burnaby Detachment