

ITEM	8
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	11
COUNCIL MEETING	1982 02 22

RE: LETTER FROM JEANETTE L. AADLAND,  
 7325 NELSON AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C. V5J 4C5  
 OUTDOOR BURNING  
 (ENQUIRIES - COUNCIL MEETING OF 1981 NOVEMBER 09)  
 (ITEM 3, REPORT NO. 60, 1981 NOVEMBER 30)

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Director Engineering be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 82 02 18

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: OUTDOOR BURNING

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the reduction of burning days in 1982 from 12 days to 8 days by cancelling outdoor burning on March 27th and 28th and on April 3rd and 4th and that the appropriate bylaw amendment be brought forward.
2. THAT the matter of outdoor burning be examined again when appropriate, with a report for Council to follow.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. E.A. Anderson of 5529 Carson Street, Burnaby, and Jeanette Aadland of 7325 Nelson Avenue, Burnaby.

SUMMARY:

From our investigation it would seem that there are mixed feelings about outdoor burning and some strong opinions on both sides.

On the one hand pollution factors and the discomfort to those with respiratory problems must be considered and on the other the benefit of reduced waste material being taken to an already overtaxed landfill site.

We also understand that the other Municipalities in the Lower Mainland are monitoring the situation with a view to primarily curtailing and eventually abolishing outdoor burning.

REPORT:

A letter of complaint with respect to outdoor burning was sent to Council by Mr. E.A. Anderson of 5529 Carson Street, Burnaby, and in response to an enquiry made at the regular Council Meeting of 1981 November 09 the Director Engineering submitted a report to Council on 1981 November 29.

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We quote from the above report:

"... the Director Engineering intends to bring forward a Council report approximately 1982 February 15.

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Before that time, the Engineering Department will:

1. Confer with staff from the Burnaby Fire Department.
2. Meet with the appropriate staff in the Environmental Division of the G.V.R.D.
3. Determine additional costs, if any, which would accrue to the Engineering Department's Refuse Collection service.
4. Give consideration to the general discomfort level caused by polluting irritants, particularly to citizens with breathing problems.
5. Determine the practises and intentions of neighbouring municipalities on the subject of outdoor burning."

We will deal with the points in the same order as listed above:

1. The Burnaby Fire Department are opposed to any form of outdoor burning.  
The Medical Health Officer is opposed to open burning on the grounds that it presents a health hazard to individuals with chronic lung disease and is a nuisance to many others. Organized arrangements must exist in this Municipality to deal with garden and other refuse to forestall rat harborage and other possible health related problems. However, it is recognized that this Municipality faces a critical issue on future methods of refuse disposal due to the reduction in available solid waste landfill sites within the Greater Vancouver area. Until such time as this issue is resolved, the Medical Health Office will support, on an interim basis, the recommendation of the Engineering Department to reduce available open burning days from twelve to eight.
2. The Air Pollution Control Division of the G.V.R.D. attempt to cooperate with Municipalities but by nature of their function are generally opposed.
3. There would be no additional cost for collection of material because of our task system but the additional cost for disposal is estimated at \$6,000.
4. Obviously people with respiratory problems will be affected by smoke pollution but there are conflicting medical opinions regarding the dangers especially when compared with pollutants from motor vehicles and industries.

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5. City of Vancouver. The City has been allowing outdoor burning on a basis similar to Burnaby's. The City is currently giving consideration to a proposal to ban outdoor burning completely but a final decision has not yet been made.

North Vancouver. Allows outdoor burning for two weekends in Spring and two weekends in Fall.

Surrey. From May 1st to October 31st a permit is required for any outdoor burning. From November 1st to April 30th burning is permitted at any time.

Delta. Allows outdoor burning for a 15 day period in the Spring and a 15 day period in the Fall.

Richmond. Has the same regulations as Surrey except the period when permits are required extends from May 1st to September 30th.

Coquitlam. Permits outdoor burning for two weekends in Spring and two weekends in the Fall. At other times permits must be obtained for land clearing burning.

When considering the pros and cons for outdoor burning in Burnaby we are forced to heed the problems we are facing at our existing landfill site and this is reflected in our summary and in our recommendations to Council. When more definitive information is available to us on the pertinent matters, we will re-examine the question of whether or not outdoor burning should be permitted.

A letter dated 1982 February 06 was sent to the Mayor and Council by Jeanette Aadland of 7325 Nelson Avenue in which she objected strongly to outdoor burning and stated that there was an increase in the number of burning days. Council enacted Bylaw No. 5680 to amend Bylaw No. 5096 on 1976 May 27. This amendment changed the number of burning days from eight per annum to 12 per annum.

The Burnaby Information Newsletter of 1982 February (Volume 8 Number 1) made reference to Burnaby's proposed burning days for 1982, including the four now being recommended for abolition. If Council adopts the recommendation to abolish the four burning days, appropriate media coverage will be employed to advise Burnaby's citizens.

EEO:MR:sp

cc: ( ) Director Fire Services  
( ) Medical Health Officer

  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

