

ITEM 10
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 64
COUNCIL MEETING 1982 11 22

Re: FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director - Fire Services be received; and
2. THAT Council adopt the schedule outlined in this report for considering the Fire Prevention and Control Plan, making provision for input from concerned individuals and organizations within the Municipality; and
3. THAT staff be directed to examine ways and means of enhancing the public education aspect of the Fire Department's work in the Municipality, without additional manpower; and
4. THAT the Municipal Manager be directed to correspond with the appropriate senior officials in the Province to put in place a task force, comprising provincial, municipal, emergency health service, police and fire officials, for the purpose of defining the fire service's future role in the delivery of primary health care services, to other than the victims of industrial accidents and motor vehicle accidents; and
5. THAT Council express its appreciation to external members of the Advisory Committee, for their significant contribution of time and expertise to this important project; and
6. THAT this report be tabled.

REPORT

Before Council at this time is the final report with respect to a Fire Prevention and Control Plan for Burnaby. The report represents the culmination of four years of intensive study and analysis with respect to the entire provision of fire services within the Municipality.

For the convenience of the members of Council, the report is submitted on three levels:

1. By means of a Letter of Transmittal from the Director - Fire Services to the Director Administrative and Community Services, a very brief summary of the process leading to the report, touching on the most major issues in the fire service.
2. An executive summary, entitled "Fire Prevention and Control Plan - Final Report Conclusion" - which is commended to members of Council and other interested lay persons, for a full general description of the issues and recommendations. An Executive Summary prefaces that document.
3. The Fire Prevention and Control Plan itself, which provides a significant level of detail.

The report speaks for itself. To be determined by the Council at this time is the process to be followed in assessing the report and its recommendations, and of course decisions respecting the implementation of the recommendations themselves.

It is the opinion of the Municipal Manager that the report should be received and tabled by the Council on 1982 November 22; and that the matter should again be placed on the agenda for discussion and debate at the meeting following, i.e., 1982 November 29. Subsequent to that date, perhaps one month later, there should be an opportunity for interested individuals and groups to appear before Council to discuss the ramifications and implications of the report and its recommendations.

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There are, however, at least two issues which in the Manager's opinion are worthy of prompt consideration. The first pertains to the recommendation (2.1.4) on public education, "that a public education officer be appointed within the Fire Department." No provision has been made in an already heavily restrained 1983 Operating Budget for the Fire Department for this position. Some consideration should be given by the Director - Fire Services to means of achieving a heightened public education program, without the necessity of adding additional staff, or significantly increasing the expenditure of funds.

The second outstanding issue pertains to the provision of primary health care, i.e. the response to "rescue and safety" calls, other than major industrial accidents and motor vehicle accidents. While the Province of British Columbia, through its Emergency Health Services Program, provides good ambulance service, and a sophisticated paramedic program, there is still reliance of that emergency health system on the Fire Departments throughout the Lower Mainland for first response - primary care service. Early consideration should be given to the recommendation of the Director - Fire Services that a task force, comprising provincial, municipal, emergency health service, police and fire officials be struck to examine and define the future role for the fire service in delivery of primary health care services.

The Fire Prevention and Control Plan; and Fire Prevention and Control Plan - Final Report Conclusions are provided for members of Council only. Other interested persons can obtain copies of either document at cost, from the office of the Director-Fire Services, 4867 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V5E 2S9, Phone: 294-7190.

The Fire Prevention and Control Plan represents a significant piece of work, and should serve as an excellent discussion piece for both short and long range planning for the fire service in this Municipality. It is commended to the members of Council for their careful consideration.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO: DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
FROM: DIRECTOR-FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT: FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN; AND
FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN - FINAL REPORT CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY

As Chairman of the Fire Study Technical Committee and the Fire Study Advisory Committee, I am pleased to submit the final report on the Fire Prevention and Control Plan, for the Municipality of Burnaby.

This report, in addition to evaluating our current and future needs in the field of fire protection/suppression, contains recommendations with accompanying time frames for their implementation. These recommendations if adopted by Council, will provide the citizens of Burnaby, industry and commerce, with a standard of fire safety designed to meet our current and projected development over the next decade.

REPORT

The main report has been edited to provide a companion document titled "The Final Report - Conclusions". This document it will be noted, is also cross-referenced with the main study report so as to provide quick referral to the Committee's rationale for its recommendations.

INTRODUCTION

With Council's approval this study was formally activated on 1978 September 11, Manager's Report No.62 Item 5. The Terms of Reference being as contained in the Urban Guide for Fire Prevention Control Master Planning, which was developed by the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration.

Council further approved the appointment of the members named to the Advisory Committee, so as to provide for the maximum input from the citizens, industry and commerce of Burnaby. Additional prerequisites for these appointments was predicated not only on the need to have a good cross representation of the citizens of Burnaby, but of equal importance was the need to enlist the skills and training of personnel who could collectively address a most complex and challenging task in a competent and professional manner.

In addition to the Fire Study Advisory Committee, a Technical Committee comprising members of the Senior Management Group, was struck for the purpose of monitoring the Advisory Committee's findings and conclusions and ensuring continuity was maintained in accordance with the Fire Prevention Control Study - Flow Chart.

As a result, a truly communal plan meeting the varied and diverse needs of Burnaby has been produced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was the Committee's conclusion that the Fire Prevention Plan, must be viewed as a process. The first step being to achieve more cost effective fire protection. It was also the Committee's consensus that before we can reduce costs in our present fire protection system we must first reduce risks.

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Accordingly, the recommendations contained in the report in addition to bringing into effect a four (4) minute response time to all but the most remote segments of Burnaby, emphasizes the need for provincial legislation which will encourage the installation of sprinkler systems and smoke alarms.

Currently there are two primary areas of concern.

- 1) Lack of adequate fire protection at the Simon Fraser University.
- 2) The need to reduce the present response time to the Burnaby General Hospital.

These recommendations are further amplified under 2.1 Short Range Recommendations, Page 5 of the Final Report Conclusions and 6.0 Page 37 Definition of Fire Situation, of the main Fire Prevention and Control Plan.

The question of inadequate fire protection for the Big Bend area has been carefully evaluated. This however, is viewed as a long term problem and will only be acted upon when the area is further developed in accordance with 6.1.3. Page 46 of the Main Report.

Council's attention is directed to the need for developing an intensive and on-going public education program designed to teach an awareness of fire prevention not only in the Grade School system but throughout the entire community.

Adoption of this recommendation will greatly enhance the work of the Fire Prevention Bureau, who are finding it increasingly difficult to pursue this vital program by reason of the increasing workload imposed upon them by the recently amended Fire Services Act.

PROVISION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The provision of primary care by the Fire Service, has been an emotional issue at the various Committee meetings as it deals most directly with life and death. While the law of averages denotes the ordinary citizen will not be directly involved with fire mishaps, the social characteristics of Burnaby, as with the rest of Canada, point to a marked increase in the longevity of our population with its attendant increased need for primary care.

This factor is further evaluated on Page 24 Table 6 and Page 53 of the Main Report.

The foregoing, it should be noted, is not peculiar to Burnaby, being the subject of much discussion by Fire Chiefs within the Lower Mainland who are faced with the current financial restrictions.

As a consequence, meetings were held with the Emergency Health Services, to devise ways and means to reduce their dependency on the Fire Departments.

To date these meetings have resulted in a marked improvement as the ambulance dispatchers now evaluate each call for medical aid on the information elicited from the caller prior to requesting assistance from the Fire Services.

A review of Burnaby's Rescue Safety calls during the past six months, excluding calls received directly from the public, suggests that ambulance dispatchers are asking for assistance only when the time element is critical; no other ambulance is available or when the patient's condition is uncertain. An earlier trend to a decrease in our R/S calls - based on more selective ambulance/fire service dispatching now appears to be reversing itself, with R/S calls holding at the level of approximately 300 per month. There is no concern that these calls are improper or unnecessary.

However, the situation still remains less than satisfactory given the proposed staff reduction for 1983 and should be the subject of an official enquiry by a task force comprising Provincial/Municipal/E.H.S./Police/Fire members for the express purpose of defining the Fire Services future roll in the delivery of primary care services, to other than the victims of industrial accidents and motor vehicle accidents.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As Chairman, I am deeply indebted to the members of the Advisory Committee who gave so freely of their time during the past three years, and would recommend Council so recognize their contribution to the Municipality in a tangible form.

To the Technical Committee, I wish to convey the thanks of the Advisory Committee members for their input and guidance, factors which were instrumental in allowing me to meet the Fire Prevention Control Study - Flow Chart.

To Mr. C. Lowther, Planner II, I wish to express special thanks for the conscientious manner in which he researched those matters deemed pertinent to the Study. Largely through his personal efforts, the Committees were not only able to meet their objectives but also the requirements of the Fire Prevention Control Study - Flow Chart.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporation of the District of Burnaby adopt the recommendations contained in the Fire Prevention and Control Plan.



T.G. Nairn
CHAIRMAN - FIRE STUDY TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES.
DIRECTOR-FIRE SERVICES, BURNABY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

TGN:mc

