

RE: LETTER FROM JAMES G. LORIMER, M.L.A.
19 - 4429 KINGSWAY, BURNABY, B.C., V5H 2A1
ANIMAL CONTROL - CREMATION FEES

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Finance be adopted.

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1983 January 19

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE
RE: ANIMAL CONTROL - CREMATION FEES
RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to James G. Lorimer, M.L.A. Burnaby.

REPORT

On the Council agenda for the meeting of 1983 January 24 there is correspondence from James G. Lorimer, M.L.A. Burnaby, regarding residents' concern over wording used in a brochure to inform residents that effective 1983 January 03 there is a service fee for the cremation disposal of dogs and cats delivered to our animal shelter.

The wording in the brochure reads:

"Cremation disposal fees: Effective 1983 January 03 a cremation fee for all dogs and cats shall be charged at 17¢ per pound with a minimum of \$4.00 for all carcasses delivered to the S.P.C.A. animal shelter, 3202 Norland Avenue, Burnaby. This service is only provided for Burnaby residents."

The message was included in the brochure that sets out dog licence and control regulations, and bicycle licence regulations. Included as part of the brochure are application forms to assist residents in obtaining their licences. Annually, the brochure is delivered to every home within the Municipality. Additionally, a notice to renew dog and bicycle licences appears in one issue of Burnaby Today. This year the advertisement included the information on cremation fees.

This is the first year that dog and cat owners have been charged a fee for cremation if they deliver their pet to our shelter. The charge is set out in the Burnaby Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulation By-law, No. 6191, as approved by Council on 1982 November 22 (Item 19, Report No. 64).

Mr. Lorimer advises that he has received a number of complaints from animal lovers who have found the wording in the notice to be very insensitive. One similar complaint was relayed from the Mayor's office to the Licence Department. No complaints were received by the Licence Department or at the animal shelter.

We appreciate Mr. Lorimer taking the time to apprise us of the adverse effect of this announcement. If it is necessary to advertise cremation disposal fees in the future, we will endeavour to be less explicit in the format of the message that is distributed to the public. However, the same message will appear in the February issue of Information Burnaby. Unfortunately, this cannot be altered because it is already in print.

We trust that Mr. Lorimer is in a position to relay this information to those persons who expressed concern.


Howard Karras
DIRECTOR FINANCE

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