

ITEM	10
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	65
COUNCIL MEETING	1983 10 31

RE: CHILD SILHOUETTE SIGNS

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

83 10 26

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: CHILD SILHOUETTE SIGNS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council deny the use of silhouette signing on the Municipal street system.

REPORT:

At its meeting of 1983 October 25 the Traffic Safety Committee passed a recommendation:

"That Council request the Board of School Trustees, School District No. 41 - Burnaby, to examine the feasibility and desirability of using silhouette signs adjacent school property as a means of increasing safety measures for school children, and further, to consider a design that would be considered acceptable by municipal staff."

The subject of placing silhouette signs, sometimes referred to as silent policemen, has been addressed in the past and rejected as being unnecessary and in fact a hazard. Their use has been covered in a directive circular letter G14/55 from the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and further confirmed in a letter dated 1981 July 06.

Legal advice was sought in June of 1981 and the Solicitor's advice was "I know of no statutory authority which would permit the Municipality to place such signs in the centre of a roadway."

In view of the above and the statements made in the attachments it is clear that the Municipality could place itself in a liability position should it permit the use of the requested silhouette signs.

HB/ch

Atts.

c.c. () Traffic Supervisor

() Secretary, Traffic Safety Committee


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

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Department of Highways;
Traffic Branch,
Langford, B. C.

August 22nd, 1955.
Circular Letter No. G.114/55.

TO All Divisional and District Offices:

RE: Child Silhouette School Signs.

We have recently noticed in Ontario, and in Quebec, that metal silent policemen are in use at some schools. These figures evidently were supplied by Coca Cola Limited, as they bear wording to that effect on the back. We have been requested to approve of these signs in two districts in the Province.

However, we have refused applications to erect this type of sign, and our policy will be to resist such signs anywhere in British Columbia. In this policy we are strongly backed by the Traffic Section of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Life size figurine signs are non-standard, and in North America most highway departments strongly disapprove of the use of these signs. It is generally conceded that such a novelty sign creates an impression upon the motorist for a short period, but, soon loses its appeal and falls back into the same class as its predecessors. Moreover, cut-out facsimiles are deemed an outright hazard when they remain continuously in the road, liable to misinterpretation with real people, and even obscure the presence of the child pedestrian.

We would, therefore, request that the District Engineers discourage any possible use of this sign as being contrary to the Highway Act and Regulations, and advise this office of any group or area which is using or starts to use signs of this type.

W W Harding,
Traffic Engineer.

*Oct 26/70
Sent to District Engineer
for District Engineer
to District Engineer
for District Engineer*

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