

ITEM 3
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 41
COUNCIL MEETING 85/06/10

RE: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 1986 CENSUS
DWELLING STRUCTURE TYPE CLASSIFICATIONS

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Planning & Building Inspection be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1985 June 03
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION
SUBJECT: PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 1986 CENSUS DWELLING STRUCTURE TYPE
CLASSIFICATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council request the Honourable Harvie Andre, Minister of Supply and Services, to reconsider the proposal to reduce the number of 1986 Census dwelling structure classifications from nine to four.
2. THAT should a reduction in the number of classifications be considered necessary, the Minister be requested to incorporate, at a minimum, the following six categories to help maintain the usability of household data by type of residence:
 1. Single detached dwellings
 2. Two household dwellings
 3. Row houses
 4. Apartments less than 5 storeys
 5. Apartments 5 storeys or more
 6. A residual category including mobile, movable and other dwellings.
3. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Svend Robinson, (MP - Burnaby) and Mr. Chuck Cook (MP - North Vancouver/Burnaby).

REPORT

Mayor Don Ross, Chairman, GVRD Board of Directors, has forwarded the attached letter dated 1985 May 17 to the Honourable Harvie Andre, Minister of Supply and Services who is responsible for Statistics Canada. In this letter Mayor Ross asks the Minister to reconsider the current proposal to reduce the number of dwelling structure classification types in the 1986 Census from the existing 9 to 4. The letter contends that the usability of the 1986 Census material will be severely limited if this proposed change occurs. It is submitted that at a minimum the following five classifications should be maintained:

1. single detached and two household dwellings including semi-detached or double house dwellings and duplex dwellings.
2. row houses
3. apartments less than 5 storeys
4. apartments 5 storeys or more
5. a residual category including mobile, movable and other dwellings.

This department concurs with the assessment that the usability of the 1986 census data would be dramatically reduced if the proposed change were to occur. However, we do not share the view that the above five categories would provide an acceptable alternative to the existing classifications.

Demographic and household characteristics vary considerably by dwelling unit type and are used extensively in our planning study area population profile and projection work. In our opinion, the proposed change would seriously impact the quality of the available data and also make it impossible to maintain continuity with population, household and dwelling unit characteristics and projections derived from previous census materials. As an example, the type of residential development anticipated in the more urban segments of the region (e.g., apartments under 5 storeys and two household dwellings) would be consolidated into a residual category where trends and characteristics associated with these types would be impossible to identify.

To the present, this municipality has used available census materials extensively in the ongoing development of its data base and in the identification of past and current trends and preparation of projections for planning purposes. As a user of this source, the availability of basic household and other demographic data by a proper range of dwelling unit types is considered vital and essential to our purposes. We therefore request Council's support in requesting the Minister to reconsider the proposal to change the dwelling structure classifications to the four proposed. As an alternative, this department believes that the following six classifications should be utilized if a reduction in the number of dwelling structure types is considered necessary:

1. single detached dwellings
2. two household dwellings
3. row houses
4. apartments less than 5 storeys
5. apartments 5 storeys or more
6. a residual category including mobile, movable and other dwellings

Separate categories for single detached and two household dwellings are considered particularly important within Canada's urban communities to assist in the monitoring of trends and characteristics associated with established and developing low density residential areas. Without this separation, the usefulness of the census data would be significantly lessened.



A. L. PARR
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

JSB/jce
Attach.

cc: Manager, G.V.R.D. Development Services
Mayor Don A. Ross, Chairman, GVRD Board of Directors



Greater Vancouver Regional District

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May 17, 1985

The Honourable Harvie Andre
Minister of Supply and Services
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Minister:

Municipalities in Greater Vancouver were pleased to learn that a census will be undertaken in 1986 but concerned that some of the most useful information on households will not be collected. We have communicated this view to Mr. Martin Wilk, Chief Statistician of Statistics Canada, and understand that the census format is now under review by the government. I would like to raise this concern with you in the hope that a remedy may be found.

Specifically, our concern is with information on households by type of residence. The 1981 census provided data on households according to nine dwelling structure types: single detached, semi-detached or double house, duplex, row house, apartments less than 5 storeys, apartments 5 or more storeys, mobile homes, other movable dwellings, dwellings attached at grade to non-residential structures. Provided were total numbers and, through cross-tabulations, a wide range of detailed information on household characteristics. In 1986, however, it is proposed that only four classifications be used: single detached, apartments 5 storeys or more, mobile homes and movable dwellings, and a residual category. Information will be significantly reduced and comparison with previous censuses very limited.

The proposed reduction means that no longer will census data users be able to distinguish adequately among the characteristics of households which reside in different dwelling structure types. This information is particularly necessary in fast growing municipalities such as my own. In Surrey, municipal and school board staffs estimate on a different basis the public sector needs of proposed rowhouse or apartment developments and single detached dwelling developments. The requirements of households in these different dwelling structure types vary considerably. Reliable estimates based upon accurate census information are necessary to minimize the potential for overbuilding costly public facilities. The limited households information proposed for the 1986 census will severely limit the ability of municipalities and school boards to estimate future needs.

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At a minimum, what is required are five classifications: single detached and two household dwellings including semi-detached or double house dwellings and duplex dwellings, row house, apartments less than 5 storeys, apartments 5 storeys or more, and a residual category including mobile, movable and other dwellings. The recording of this information by census enumerators, as already proposed for the limited data to be collected, would correct the recognized errors of the 1981 census and provide a new and reliable base.

While I support the desire to control the cost of the 1986 census, the benefits to municipalities would be significant from providing more detailed household information than currently proposed. I would appreciate if you would consider and grant approval of this change in your review of the 1986 census format. More detailed information on households by structure type would be of considerable assistance not only to municipalities in Greater Vancouver but I am sure to those across the country, as well as the consulting and home building industries.

Yours truly



Mayor Don A. Ross
Chairman
GVRD Board of Directors

DAR:jw

- cc: - The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister of Energy, Mines & Resources
- The Honourable John Fraser, Minister of Fisheries & Oceans
- The Honourable Tom Siddon, Minister of Science & Technology
- Benno Friesen, Member of Parliament for Surrey, White Rock and North Delta
- Lou Greenbaum, President UDI Canada
- Michael Audain, President UDI Pacific Region