

ITEM 1
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 48
COUNCIL MEETING 85/07/15

RE: LETTER FROM MR. A.D. DEMCHUK WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE
1985 JULY 02 MEETING OF COUNCIL (Item 5 e)
DISTRICT LEAD THE WAY IN RESTORING LAW AND ORDER TO OUR STREETS

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Officer in Charge, Burnaby Detachment,
be adopted.

* * * * *

Dated 85/07/10
Your File 8-3-20-1
Our Files 29139/85 BBY
29579/85 BBY

TO: The Manager
FROM: O.I.C. Burnaby Detachment
RE: LETTER FROM MR. A.D. DEMCHUCK (DATED: 85 JUN 21)
Directed to Mayor and Council
Agenda Item 1985 JULY 02

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.
2. THAT a copy be sent to Mr. DEMCHUCK.

SUMMARY:

1. In the letter referred to in the caption, Mr. DEMCHUCK relates his serious concern toward the present society, as he sees it, and expresses some views regarding several issues which are sensitive to him. These include:
 - (a) Financial losses due to thefts.
 - (b) Break and Enter of his personal motor home.
 - (c) His vehicle having been burglarized, when in an underground parking lot.
 - (d) He questions response time of police attendance at scenes of crime, etc.
 - (e) Suggests the establishing of a Curfew By-Law for teenagers under 19 years of age, wherein a stiff fine should be levied against parents of curfew breakers.

REPORT

1. We will address each of these issues in sequence:
 - (a) Mr. DEMCHUCK is correct in stating that thousands of dollars are paid out by Insurance Companies, in payment for loss by theft, which include thefts from auto's parked underground. We do not record specific statistics, but it is reasonable to suggest that perhaps 45 to 50 percent of thefts from auto's, occur in underground parking areas. That is not to suggest that vehicles parked on the street are not vulnerable, but, perhaps because the activities of the thief are often more concealed in an underground area, there is often lesser chance of being detected. Many apartment owners have security doors installed to discourage would-be thieves, however, similar thefts still take place, either by thieves sneaking in when the doors are opened by tenants, or by getting into the underground from the inside, often visiting within.
Considering the land value of today, there seems no alternative to underground parking facilities, and that method of parking is here to stay.

The Manager
July 10, 1985

102

(b) and (d) The motor home of Mr. DEMCHUCK was parked at the time of the theft and the illegal entry was not discovered immediately. There was a delay in arrival of an investigator, as a number of priority calls were being attended to over the immediate period, which included a number of thefts from residences, a silent alarm, suspicious persons in the area, and a violent person etc.,. Since the theft in question was not current, attendance at the DEMCHUCK scene of crime was not classed as an immediate priority. If Mr. DEMCHUCK was not told there would be a delay in arrival of the investigator, this would have been an error on our part, for which we offer our apology. Our attendance at scenes must be gauged by the type of incident, and the number of outstanding calls which are called in or witnessed on patrol, at that particular time. Members do not purposely delay proceeding to the scene, if not otherwise engaged in another duty.

(c) and (d) Mr. DEMCHUCK indicates the response time to attend the scene, when he had witnessed a culprit in the act of theft, was between 15 to 20 minutes. However, our computer records show response time, from time of dispatching the call until arrival time at the scene, as being approximately three minutes. It may be possible the discrepancy in the delay, being referred to by Mr. DEMCHUCK, is partially attributed to a delay in the actual call being placed once the culprit was confronted in the parking lot. We treat crimes in progress on a priority basis, as we realize the importance of early arrival with a view of apprehending a suspect in the act. The suspect was described as a 19 year old male, who, when he once left the scene, would immediately be lost in the darkness of the night. We do not see where we can attribute negligence or improper action to the police, in this incident. The stolen goods, which were very limited, were left by the culprit when he fled and were returned to the rightful owners.

(e) A Curfew By-Law, in todays society, would be nearly impossible to enforce and very probably, would never meet the conditions of todays Charter of Rights. Youths today are attending sporting activities, night school, working etc., and have many just reasons to be out. It is agreed that in years past, when social standards, respect for authority etc., were looked at in a different light, a curfew may have produced some positive results. If we did suggest that youths of a given age (assumably 17 and under), have restricted movement because of a curfew, then we are still faced with identical activities of those 18 years and over. We have no documented statistics to suggest that youths under 17 and more responsible for illegal acts of thefts, in parking lots or otherwise, than persons who are above that age. It would take an extensive study to reach any conclusions to such a suggestion.

2. We certainly appreciate the views of Mr. DEMCHUCK, and share his concerns about what he describes. However, there are, unfortunately, many contributing factors in todays society and what are accepted standards, compared to the standards of previous times. The enforcement aspect, the excess Court case-load and the controls placed upon the authorities etc., causes the police investigator a great deal of concern and frustration; perhaps in a similar manner as the citizens who become victims, as Mr. DEMCHUCK was. We would like to be in a position to offer, or put into effect, a solution to the concerns expressed by Mr. DEMCHUCK and others like him, but, unfortunately, it is not a simple task.

3. We would certainly be willing to discuss these views further with Mr. DEMCHUCK, should he consider he would like to meet with us, at his convenience.


(N.I.L. FUCHS) Supt.
B.I.C. Burnaby Detachment