

ITEM 4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 75
COUNCIL MEETING 85/11/25

RE: LETTER FROM MRS. DONNA EDEN WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE
1985 NOVEMBER 04 MEETING OF COUNCIL (Item 3 b)
BREAK AND ENTER PRESENTATION

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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1985 November 12
File 14477/85 BBY

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE, BURNABY DETACHMENT RCMP
SUBJECT: BREAK AND ENTER PRESENTATION
DONNA EDEN, GRETA STREET, BURNABY

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That this report be received by Council for information purposes.
2. That Mrs. EDEN be provided with a copy of this report at her residence at 4241 Greta St., Burnaby, B.C., V5J 1N7, and invited to continue to take part in existing RCMP programs.

INTRODUCTION:

Mrs. EDEN appeared before Council on 85 NOV 04 and presented her concerns regarding the increased number of Break and Enter offences in Burnaby. In the presentation, Council was requested to set up a task force to study Break and Enters in Burnaby. She perceives the mandate of such a task force to be:

- (1) Getting out and talking to the public. Finding out their concerns.
- (2) Examining the police/citizen ratio in Burnaby compared to Vancouver.
- (3) Number of people involved in Crime Prevention.
- (4) Impact of Young Offenders Act.
- (5) Looking at entire Youth Services Program.

REPORT:

1. All the members of this detachment recognize the trauma caused to victims of Break, Enter and Theft, and welcome the offer of assistance and the interest shown by this Burnaby resident. This community problem is one that is prevalent throughout the Vancouver metropolitan area. However, the perspective of the police is somewhat different than Mrs. EDEN'S with regard to addressing the problem.
2. Mrs. EDEN is correct when she says that a higher uniformed police profile would provide greater deterrence to thieves than is the case now. However, the police must deploy the resources assigned to them in a manner which best meets all

of the policing needs in the community; responsibility for those deployment decisions is and must remain that of the Officer in Charge.

3. The official statistical data on Burnaby Break, Enter and Thefts is in line with those being experienced in other jurisdictions in the Vancouver metropolitan area, but is at some variance with the numbers used by Mrs. EDEN in her presentation to Council. Those individuals involved in Break, Enter and Theft are a cross section of the community, including both young offenders and hardened criminals, many of the latter who are compulsively supporting extremely expensive drug habits.

The actual monthly average for commercial, residential, and other Break, Enter, and Thefts in the past three years is:

1983	-	280
1984	-	278
1985	-	333

Part of the 1985 increase in Break, Enter, and Theft incidents can be attributed to the unexpected need to redirect members dedicated to burglary investigations to attend to an increase in violent crimes against persons, and in the apprehension of a serial child molester and rapist. Again that redirection of resources has to be determined by the Officer in Charge according to his best judgment and the changing needs in the community.


4. The Detachment has spent considerable time with the schools working out timetables and developing a spirit of cooperation. The Neighborhood Watch presentations for the two additional schools will take place within the schedules agreed to by the Detachment and school authorities.
5. The RCMP Auxiliary Program has just recently been resurrected in the province, and we have spent most of the time selecting and training candidates, and it is only recently that we have deployed them fully in the field. However, they are a volunteer group that donate their time to the community as concerned citizens. Most are employed full time and complement the regular members on weekends. These resources are not only deployed in the fight against burglaries, but they must be used in other areas. I am satisfied that the approach we have taken to testing their effectiveness in a small portion of the Municipality, then analyzing the results before implementing the program throughout the Detachment is the correct and responsible course of action.
6. I also do not believe that we have too many crime prevention programs or projects. While the argument could be made that it is better to have one program well done than several done poorly, it is precisely the balance being struck between Community Policing/Crime Prevention programs and law enforcement that provides the optimum results available from any given resource base. To commit all resources too narrowly would simply cause catastrophic failure in other areas.
7. The problems caused for the police by the Young Offenders Act have been analyzed by the Attorney Generals across Canada, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and the British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police, and recommendations

have been made to the appropriate federal authorities. These changes, together with the implementation of the Charter of Rights, are causing police to be more cautious in their investigation of criminals, which is the intent of the new legislation, i.e. to hold young offenders accountable for their actions and to protect citizen rights. In a free society the protection of life and property versus a citizen's rights are always in a state of delicate balance. The pros and cons of these changes will be subjected to lengthy scrutiny by our courts before all the problems are finally ironed out.

The burglary question is very complex crossing social, economical, moral, and addiction boundaries, and involves the entire community, the police, as well as all the other segments of the Justice System and the parliamentarians legislating the changes.

8. All RCMP Detachments and the Police Departments in the Vancouver metropolitan area could do with more peace officers. Indeed, appearing elsewhere on this agenda is a recommendation from myself and the Director Administrative & Community Services that more resources be assigned to the Burnaby Detachment. A part of those additional resources will be devoted to Community Policing/Crime Prevention Programs.
9. One of the aldermen made reference to the parent/guardian responsibility to control the youths, and that approach in theory is correct. However, where that parent is unwilling or unable to control his dependent, the existing law provides no provision to compel such an action. Public agencies then have to become involved in enforcement with that youth. The court docket is vastly overcrowded and in many instances, cases which are borderline insofar as evidence is concerned are not proceeded with. Some are handled by the diversion process via Youth Services, with a reasonable success rate where first offenders are involved.
10. Mrs. EDEN's interests in curbing burglaries in Burnaby, and her presentation of concerns to the Mayor and Council are commendable. While the Officer in Charge of Burnaby Detachment is pleased to have that input and support, he could not be held responsible or accountable to a citizen task force's decisions and directions. There are no provisions in the terms of the contract between the Federal Government and the Corporation for the formulation of such a task force.
11. In conclusion, there is no objection to working with citizen groups in operational areas, providing that the Officer in Charge clearly reserves all rights to the direction and control of the Detachment's resources and administration. Mrs. EDEN is most welcome to continue to work along with us regarding her concerns, in order that Burnaby Detachment can reach the short term objectives and goals approved by the Force and Corporation.

NLF/ml


N.L. Fuchs, Superintendent
Officer in Charge
Burnaby Detachment

