

ITEM 16
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 61
COUNCIL MEETING 85/09/30

RE: COMMUNITY COUNTER-CRIME PROGRAM
FIRST PHASE - BICYCLE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
1985 September 25
File: L34-1

FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE

RE: COMMUNITY COUNTER-CRIME PROGRAM
FIRST PHASE - BICYCLE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

SUMMARY

The Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway has donated a mobile unit (van) to Burnaby to launch a major counter-crime program in the community. The first phase of this program is a unique bicycle identification program to help reduce the incidence and costs of bicycle thefts in the community. The cost of operating the van will be borne by Burnaby and the van will be staffed by R.C.M.P. and volunteers from the above Rotary Club. This report discusses the program in more detail.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

As will be evident to Council before their meeting on 1985 September 30, there will be a launching of a major counter-crime program with the aid of a mobile unit operated by the R.C.M.P. and volunteers from the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway. The purpose of the program is to educate the public and help reduce theft and break-ins in the community. The first phase of the overall program is a unique bicycle identification program to reduce the incidence and costs of bicycle thefts in the community. The program is endorsed by the Finance Department, who will continue to administer the registrations and licences, and the program advertising will be assisted through the courtesy of Chevron Canada.

About ten years ago the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway, with volunteer help from R.C.M.P. auxiliary constables, carried out a successful identification program of household items which were inscribed with Social Insurance Numbers with electric pencils. This identification was a deterrent to theft, aided in the recovery of stolen articles, and was very successful.

However, with the passage of time, many citizens have forgotten about this program. Also, there is an increasing amount of bicycle thefts, and increasing amounts of breaking and entering and thefts in businesses and residences in the community. Over the past three years in Burnaby there has been an average of 74 breaking and entering and thefts from businesses per month, and 185 from residences per month. There were also 794 reported bicycles stolen in Burnaby in 1983, and 970 in 1984, a 22% increase. It is now considered timely by the foregoing organizations to launch a major publicity and identification program to counter these high and increasing numbers of thefts, with the first phase being bicycle identification.

CURRENT PROGRAM

The current program consists of owners of bicycles having them inscribed with a sequential number and then having them licenced, currently for \$2.00 every year with the issuance of a decal that is displayed on the bicycle. Burnaby has an agreement with some sporting goods stores to sell annual licences for a commission. When a bicycle is recovered, the owner can be traced through the stamped registration number kept in the Finance Department - Licence Division at the Municipal Hall. If there is no stamped number or annual decal, the owner is currently charged \$16.00 plus the annual licence fee. Every second year (i.e. 1984, 1986) there is an increased effort to obtain maximum dog and bicycle registrations through the use of summer students who canvass the community. When the owners of recovered bicycles cannot be located, the bicycles are auctioned to the public. The estimated revenue from bicycle licences and auctions for the past few years is as follows:

	<u>From Licences</u>	<u>From Auctions</u>
1983	\$ 6,444	\$4,940
1984 (canvass program)	12,519	6,245
1985	6,500 (est)	4,167

PROPOSED PROGRAM

As mentioned earlier, the proposed new bicycle registration program will be the first phase of a major counter-crime program aided by a mobile unit operated by the R.C.M.P. and volunteers from the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway. Bicycle owners will be invited to bring their bicycles to the mobile unit or to the Municipal Hall where special equipment will be used to inscribe the driver's licence number of a parent or guardian on key parts of the bicycle. In the event of loss or theft, the ownership can be quickly established by the R.C.M.P. as well as the Licence Division. The operation of the mobile unit will be widely advertised and located at various schools and shopping centres throughout the year within the municipality. It is proposed to waive the licence fee for the first registration with the unique identification number. This program has operated in another city in the Province with a significant reduction in the number of bicycle thefts. It is considered by all that there will also be a significant reduction in thefts in Burnaby, once the program is implemented on 1985 September 30. Anyone registering their bicycle in the last three months of 1985 for the first time will receive a free licence good through 1986.

COST OF PROGRAM

The major cost of the program consisted of the purchase of a mobile unit (the van) and was borne by the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway, who donated the van to the community. The cost of operating the van will be borne by Burnaby, and the van will be staffed by the R.C.M.P. and volunteers from the aforementioned Rotary Club. Some of the equipment for the Municipal Hall is purchased by the municipality, who will also participate in the advertising program. The Licence Division will continue to administer the registrations and licencing thereafter.

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EFFECT ON MUNICIPAL REVENUES

It is proposed to waive the fee for the first time registration of the unique identification number from 1985 September 30 until the end of 1988, the time estimated to have most of the bicycles in the community identified. There will be no charge for the first time registration with the new number. The licence fee for the bicycles thereafter will follow the rates set annually by by-law. For 1986 it is proposed to raise the licence fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00 for renewals, and for the handling of unlicensed bicycles, raised from \$16.00 to \$17.00. A separate report for licence fees for 1986 is now in preparation.

Because there will be no cost for the first time registration, there is no expectation for any licencing revenue in 1986, if all current licenced and unlicensed bicycles have the new unique registration number imprinted on them. Burnaby will also terminate their commission sales arrangements with the sporting goods stores as there will be no charges on which to base commissions. These commissions may be reinstated after the program is completed. However, there will continue to be revenues for the one time charge if an unlicensed bicycle is turned in to the Municipality, and from bicycle auctions.

In 1987 and subsequent years, there will be an annual licence fee for all bicycles that were registered for the first time in the preceding years. The amount of revenue will depend on how many owners have their bicycles registered with the new number and have it licenced regularly thereafter. Based on past experience, there are about 3,000 bicycle licences issued annually except for canvass years, when about 6,000 licences are issued. Although the program is anticipated to be highly successful, with possibly a very high number of first time registrations, it is expected that the number of licences issued annually thereafter will follow historical patterns, once the first time free registration period is over.

cc: O.I.C., R.C.M.P.,
Burnaby Detachment

Howard Karras

Howard Karras
DIRECTOR FINANCE

