ITEM 2
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 52
COUNCIL MEETING 86/09/08

RE: LETTER FROM MS. RITA CUSANO WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 1986 SEPTEMBER 02 MEETING OF COUNCIL (Item 5 (d))
ANIMAL CONTROL - RACCOONS

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 86 09 02

FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE

RE: ANIMAL CONTROL - RACCOONS

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Rita Cusano, 4212 Dundas Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 1B1.

REPORT

A letter from Rita Cusano regarding raccoons appeared on Council's agenda for the meeting of 1986 September 02. We have discussed this situation with the Environmental Health Department, and the Burnaby S.P.C.A. and have prepared the following information:

1. Under the terms of the Provincial Wildlife Act, raccoons are protected and regulated by the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of the Environment. A Provincial permit is required to trap, kill, or transport any raccoon. The Fish and Wildlife Branch advised that they do not have the resources to respond to complaints regarding raccoons unless there is a clear and immediate danger to humans.

2. The S.P.C.A. is a humane society which has the responsibility for dealing with sick or injured wild animals, including raccoons. As agents of the Municipality, they regularly respond to calls involving such animals. The Provincial S.P.C.A. Act does not empower them to capture or destroy wild animals such as raccoons unless they are injured or sick.

3. The S.P.C.A. Shelter Superintendent has discussed the raccoon problem with Rita Cusano, and explained to her that raccoons are within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Branch.

   The Shelter Superintendent advised Rita Cusano, as he does with all callers having problems with raccoons, to properly seal garbage in metal cans, and to rinse the inside of the garbage cans with liquid ammonia, which acts as a general repellent.

   The S.P.C.A., our Environmental Health Department, and the Fish and Wildlife officers all consistently stress that these animals should not be fed or encouraged in any way. If an animal is persistent in its raids on garbage, or if it moves into an attic or basement, the home owner's recourse is to contact one of the Provincially licenced pest control agencies and to pay to have the animal or animals trapped and removed.

Indications are that raccoons are becoming a nuisance problem in Burnaby and other areas of the Lower Mainland. In this regard, we have undertaken preliminary examination of the raccoon problem with our Environmental Health Department and will report back to Council later this year.

It is recommended that a copy of this report be sent to Rita Cusano, 4212 Dundas Street, Burnaby, B.C V5C 1B1.

R. Ellyett for.
DIRECTOR FINANCE

cc. Chief Public Health Inspector
S.P.C.A.
Ministry of the Environment