

ITEM 2
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 77
COUNCIL MEETING 88/12/12

RE: BICYCLE REGISTRATION/LICENCING PROGRAM

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE

1988 December 07
File: L34

SUBJECT: BICYCLE REGISTRATION/LICENCING PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To obtain approval to continue the Stop Bicycle Theft program and to discontinue annual bicycle licencing by repealing the Burnaby bicycle bylaw.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT Council approve continuing the bicycle registration program as outlined in this report; and
2. THAT Burnaby Bicycle Licencing Bylaw 1973, No. 6253, be repealed; and
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway together with a letter of appreciation for their involvement in the Stop Bicycle Theft program.

SUMMARY

Council in 1986 implemented the Stop Bicycle Theft bicycle registration program for a three year trial period. The program has been a cooperative effort between municipal staff, the R.C.M.P. and the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway. Our evaluation of the program has concluded that the program is both popular and successful. Since its initiation, almost 5,800 bicycles have been registered and marked for identification.

It is proposed that the Stop Bicycle Theft registration program be continued as a free service to the public in place of annual bicycle licencing. The cost for the program will be recovered from the sale of unclaimed bicycles.

The annual licencing of bicycles has not been well received by the public. Over the last three years, the number of paid licences for bicycles has averaged approximately 1,000 per year or only 16% of the registered bicycles. As a result, it is proposed that the annual licencing of bicycles be discontinued.

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REPORT

There are three parts to this report. Part I is an evaluation of the bicycle registration program Stop Bicycle Theft. Part II analyzes the annual licencing of bicycles. Part III proposes the continuation of the bicycle registration program.

PART I: REVIEW OF THE STOP BICYCLE THEFT PROGRAM

In 1986, a bicycle registration program was introduced to the public as part of the R.C.M.P.'s Community Counter-Crime Program. The program is operated by the Municipal Licence Office in conjunction with the Burnaby R.C.M.P. Instrumental to the development of the program was the donation of a van by the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway for the marking of bicycles on location at schools, malls, etc.

The intent of the program is to reduce the incidence of bicycle thefts in the community, and to enhance the return of stolen bicycles to the rightful owners. The R.C.M.P. advise that there has been a 30% reduction (613 to 425) in the number of bicycles reported stolen in 1988 (January-November) over 1987.

Under this program bicycles are marked with the B.C. driver's licence number of the owner or a parent or guardian. Bicycles are marked on all parts which are easily removed by thieves. This includes the frame, seat, front forks, crankarms, handlebars, wheels and fenders. In addition, a decal issued with the licence is affixed to the bicycle. The driver's licence number, address and other relevant information is recorded on the licence application.

In the event of loss or theft, the ownership of a recovered bicycle can be established through the R.C.M.P. or the Licence Office. The driver's licence number marked on the bicycle during the initial registration allows the R.C.M.P. to identify the owner of the bicycle using the police computer. In addition, the decal affixed to the bicycle allows the Licence Office to identify the registered owner using the information recorded on the registration form.

As part of the program, the first licence of an unmarked bicycle is issued free of charge, provided the bicycle is properly marked for identification by the R.C.M.P. or municipal staff.

Since the initiation of the Stop Bicycle Theft program in 1986, the number of bicycle licences issued each year has stabilized around 3,000. Of the 3,000 licences issued each year, approximately 1/3 of the licences were paid for as a renewal licence. The remaining 2/3 were exempt from the licence fee as they are being marked for the first time.

The following table compares the trend for bicycle licencing and the bicycle registration program:

Licence Year	Number of Paid Licences	Number of Bicycles Registered
1986	966	2,741
1987	1,198	2,131
1988 (Jan - Nov)	<u>948</u>	<u>891</u>
	1,030 (Average)	5,763 (Total)

From 1986 to 1988 (November), approximately 5,800 bicycles have been marked for identification.

From our review, we have concluded that the bicycle registration program has been successful. It has been well received by the public when compared to annual bicycle licencing. It also allows for the easy return of recovered marked bicycles, and is thought to have contributed to the reduction of bicycles stolen in Burnaby.

PART II: REVIEW OF ANNUAL BICYCLE LICENCING

Burnaby introduced bicycle licencing in 1973 with the implementation of the Burnaby Bicycle Licencing Bylaw. The intent of the bylaw was to provide a means of identification that would aid in the return of a recovered bicycle to the rightful owner.

The annual fee for a bicycle licence is currently \$3.00, with the licence expiring on December 31st of each year. If convicted for having an unlicensed bicycle, an individual is liable to a fine not exceeding \$100.00, or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days on default of payment. There has never been a charge laid under this bylaw.

The following table illustrates the trend for bicycle licencing:

Licence Year	Number of Paid Licences	Revenue		Cost/Gain to Municipality
		Licences \$	Auction \$	
1981	2,724	6,045	Not Available	7,115
1982(cavassed)	3,862	7,714	Available	8,710
1983	3,074	6,444	3,845	8,690
1984(cavassed)	5,999	12,519	6,256	9,867
1985	1,271	4,107	6,351	9,335
1986*	966	3,167	3,651	10,300
1987	1,198	3,877	5,189	9,330
1988(November)	948	3,042		9,804

* In 1986 the bicycle licence fee was increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00.

To summarize the preceding table, the bicycle licencing program has an annual budget of approximately \$10,000, with licence revenue averaging \$3,500 over the past three years. Additional revenue, which has averaged approximately \$5,000 per year over the past five years, is also generated by the auctioning of recovered bicycles that remain unclaimed. Therefore bicycle licencing and the Stop Bicycle Theft registration program generally operate on a cost recovery/minimal cost basis for the municipality.

The number of paid bicycle licence renewals issued over the past three years has remained constant at approximately 1,000 per year. Based on the number of bicycles marked during the Stop Bicycle Theft program, the number of paid renewal licences in 1988 should have been approximately 5,800.

This year (January-November) there are 948 paid licences. This is 16% of the bicycles that were marked by the Stop Bicycle Theft program between 1986 and 1988.

The marked bicycle parts and the decal issued during the initial marking continue to reduce the incidence of bicycle thefts in the community by discouraging potential thieves, whether or not the licence is current. Similarly, there is little incentive for an individual to purchase the \$3.00 annual licence as the municipality does not pursue bicycle bylaw violations through the courts.

Given that the introduction of the bicycle registration program seems to be well received by bicycle owners, we have concluded that the annual licencing of bicycles has become redundant. The objective of identifying bicycles as a deterrent to theft and as a means of returning them when they are stolen, is being achieved through the ongoing bicycle marking/registration program.

Therefore we have concluded that the annual licencing of bicycles should be discontinued and that an ongoing program of marking and registering of bicycles should be implemented.

PART III: CONTINUATION OF THE BICYCLE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

An ongoing bicycle registration program would operate in the same manner as the current Stop Bicycle Theft bicycle identification program and would be a free service to the public. The Licence Office would be responsible for maintaining the records of the program.

The Burnaby R.C.M.P. would continue providing this program as a service to the community. The marking of bicycles for identification closely parallels their Block Watch Program which promotes the marking of all household and personal items for identification.

All removable parts of a bicycle will be marked with the driver's licence number of the owner or parent or guardian and an identifying decal will be issued. Upon sale of a bicycle, new owners would be encouraged to re-register the bicycle with the municipality and the R.C.M.P.

The proposed registration program should run, over time, on a cost recovery basis for the municipality. The loss of \$3,500 in licence fee revenue should be offset through a reduction in annual administration costs. The revenue generated by the auction of unclaimed bicycles would not be affected by the program.

CONCLUSION

Maintaining the current bicycle licencing program as an ongoing registration service would be a continuation of an already successful program. It would provide for the return of recovered bicycles to owners and be a deterrent to the theft of bicycles. Furthermore, it would benefit the public by eliminating the requirement to purchase a bicycle licence each year.

The focus of the current and proposed program is the marking and registration of bicycles. A registration program:

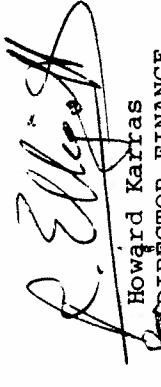
- . Provides a deterrent against theft;
- . Allows for the return of recovered bicycles; and
- . Reduces administration costs to the municipality.

The cost of implementing these changes to the current program are minimal. Current promotional materials, leaflets, decals and licence forms would be modified for the 1989 printing.

It is recommended that Council approve continuing the bicycle registration program as outlined in this report; and

That Burnaby Bicycle Licencing Bylaw 1973, No. 6253, be repealed;
and

That a copy of this report be sent to the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Kingsway together with a letter of appreciation for their involvement in the Stop Bicycle Theft program.



Howard Kairas
DIRECTOR FINANCE

TJ:gw

cc: Director Administrative & Community Services
Director Engineering
O.I.C., Burnaby R.C.M.P.