

REPORT
Regular Council Meeting
1988 November 07

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY
FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FAMILY COURT
AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE - 1987

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Rene Devos, Senior Project Officer, Policy Program Services, Ministry of Attorney General, 4th Floor - 609 Broughton Street, Victoria, B.C., V8W 1C8.

R E P O R T

The Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1979, Chapter 341, "Provincial Court Act" - Section 4(4)(c) provides as follows:

4. (4)(c) The Family Court Committee shall
(c) report annually to the municipalities involved and to the Attorney General respecting its activities during the past year.

In compliance with this statutory requirement, contained hereunder is a summary of activities of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee from 1987 January to 1987 December.

1987 FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee hosted the 1987 Conference at the Sheraton Villa Inn, Burnaby from 1987 February 27 to 1987 March 01 inclusive.

The Conference was well attended with representation from eighteen (18) B.C. communities.

The theme of the Conference was "Youth" and the agenda for the three-day Conference included business and voting sessions, a tour of the Willingdon Youth Detention Centre, guest speakers addressing matters such as services available to youth, the Young Offenders Act and its relation to the Community, and the effects of family breakup on youth.

The most worthy event to note was a "mock trial" of an actual case of a young offender involved in a serious crime. A Family Court Judge and two lawyers assisted and participated in this exercise which was labelled "You be the Judge".

A video recording was made of the entire event, copies of which are available in the Municipal Clerk's Department. This program has been aired on Rogers Cable 4 on several occasions owing to popularity and public demand.

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

- AGENDA 1988 NOVEMBER 07
- COPY - MUNICIPAL MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Based on the comments received at the close of Conference by way of an Evaluation Summary, the majority of participants felt the Conference to have been an interesting, well organized and valuable affair.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Following the first Rogers Cable T.V. airing of "You be the Judge", the Chairman of the Committee received a telephone call from one of the actual victims of the crime portrayed at the 1987 Family Court Committee Conference and on the television program. This person experienced a tremendous amount of trauma as a result of the crime and the subsequent high community profile it received and didn't know where to turn for assistance in alleviating the ill feelings.

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee agreed it would be most appropriate to pursue a follow-up program to "You be the Judge" which would focus on the victims of crime.

Correspondence was received from the Officer-in-Charge, R.C.M.P. Burnaby informing the Committee of the Detachment's Victim Assistance Program which began early 1987. As a result of this correspondence, the Committee agreed it could take an active role in exposing the program to the community to promote a greater awareness of the services available to victims of crime. A sub committee was then struck to consider the possibility and ramifications of producing a Cable Television Program on victim assistance.

Committee members then went to great lengths to research and view any and all films available on the subject of victim assistance by way of the Justice Institute of B.C. and the National Film Board.

At year end, the Committee agreed to continue research on the victim assistance proposal on an ongoing basis.

CITIZEN ADVISORY REVIEW BOARD
(WILLINGDON YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE)

The Citizen Advisory Review Board extended an invitation to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to appoint a representative to sit on the Review Board.

The Committee decided not to specifically appoint one particular Committee member but rather delegate the responsibility on a rotating monthly basis.

TEEN COURT (TO BE LATER KNOWN AS
"BURNABY YOUTH DIVERSION COURT")

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee requested and received information on "Teen Court" currently in operation in Odessa, Texas. A judicial system is set up, including a retired judge and a full jury, for the purpose of trying school students who had been involved in some sort of mischief and subsequently determining the appropriate punishment for the wrongful act committed.

The Committee agreed to approve in principle the "Teen Court" concept and as a result of information received from Texas, struck a sub committee to put together a similar proposal for Burnaby.

Respectfully submitted,

Freeman D.M. Herd
Chairman