

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY
CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

REPORT OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the placement of an article in Information Burnaby and Burnaby Now advising that Central Park and Metrotown are safe places to exercise/visit and shop within the community.
2. THAT the Crime Prevention Committee be directed to contact Community Cable 4 regarding the possibility of airing a program to the affect that both Central park and Metrotown are safe places to exercise/visit and shop within the community.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to outline the course of action proposed by the Crime Prevention Committee to advise the community that the highly publicized past incidents occurring in both Central Park and Metrotown are isolated incidents, both of which are safe places to exercise/visit and shop within the community.

REPORT

CENTRAL PARK

Council, on 1989 January 16, adopted the following Notice of Motion regarding crime in Central Park:

"WHEREAS Central Park is Burnaby's largest and most significant park facility offering active and passive recreation opportunities to the citizens of Burnaby and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS there were a number of complaints to police in 1988 about illegal activities taking place within the park and its facilities; and

WHEREAS a particularly brutal assault on a woman recently occurred in a Central park washroom; and

WHEREAS Burnaby citizens rightfully expect to be able to use Central Park without being affected by illegal activities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council request the Burnaby R.C.M.P. prepare a report for the Crime Prevention Committee outlining the actions the R.C.M.P. intend to take to minimize illegal activities in Central Park in the future."

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

- : - AGENDA 1989 FEBRUARY 27
- : - COPY - MUNICIPAL MANAGER
- DIR. ADMIN. & COMM. SERV.
- D.I.C., R.C.M.P.

In compliance with the Notice of Motion, the Burnaby Detachment, R.C.M.P., on 1989 February 15, submitted the following two memorandums to the Crime Prevention Committee:

"The potential criminal activity in and around parks is recognized by the police. As in past years, the police will provide enforcement and extra patrols according to resources available; likewise, if there is need to assemble a task force to concentrate on a specific policing concern, this too will be addressed.

While the police sincerely recognize the concern expressed by the Crime Prevention Committee, which is directed to Central Park, it must be appreciated that residents, merchants and motorists throughout the municipality are deserving of equal quality of police protection.

It has been the practice to adjust priorities within the policing objectives and this will continue in 1989."

"Further to our previous memo dated 89-01-26, Central Park may well be perceived to be a problem area and unsafe. This is due to the publicity received over one serious incident and the unwarranted concern by some individuals.

Central Park had a total of eight person offences during 1988, two were robberies, four common assaults and two assaults causing bodily harm. Compared to 4100 Hastings with 27 person offences and Metrotown with 20 person offences, Central Park is a much safer place to be.

We will, however, make extra patrols in the park with both regular and auxiliary members during the summer months. Our plainclothes sections have also been asked to patrol the park whenever duties permit.

Inspector E.D. (Dave) Dore, Officer in Charge Operations, will attend the next meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 1989."

As noted above, Inspector E.D. (Dave) Dore, Officer in Charge Operations, Burnaby Detachment, R.C.M.P., attended the 1989 February 15 meeting of the Crime Prevention Committee and advised that extra patrols utilizing both member and auxiliary staff will be continued in Central Park. In addition, the training of four police dogs will also be conducted within Central Park.

The Crime Prevention Committee was of the opinion that the "higher profile" planned by the R.C.M.P. in Central Park will help to diminish the occurrences of crime within the park.

However, the Crime Prevention Committee is concerned with the amount of adverse publicity which some isolated occurrences of crime receive and feel it is imperative that the general public be advised that Central Park is a safe place to visit.

In addition, the Crime Prevention Committee on 1989 January 26, asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to look into the possibility of working with British Columbia Telephone in establishing a Telephone Network System for Central Park. The Parks and Recreation Commission will report back to the Crime Prevention Committee after this request has been reviewed.

METROTOWN

The Crime Prevention Committee, on 1989 January 26 were advised of certain criminal activities, reported by the B.C. Corps of Commissioners, occurring in and about Metrotown.

As a result, Alderman J. Young appeared as a delegation before the Crime Prevention Committee on 1989 February 15, and advised that he had met with representatives of the B.C. Corps of Commissioners to review the matter and advise the Crime Prevention Committee accordingly. Alderman Young stated that the B.C. Corps of Commissioners only identified "parking" as a problem and that other criminal activity was not established within Metrotown. In conclusion, Alderman Young recommended that a temporary R.C.M.P. office be established in Metrotown as quickly as possible and that funds be allocated from the Provisional Budget if required.

Inspector E.D. (Dave) Dore, Officer in Charge Operations, Burnaby Detachment R.C.M.P., advised that the R.C.M.P. office will come on stream very soon and, in the mean time, member patrols through Metrotown will continue to maintain a high profile police image in the area. Inspector Dore further advised that the R.C.M.P. are on top of the situation with respect to criminal activity in Metrotown.

In conclusion, Inspector Dore stated that the criminal situation in Metrotown is not as bad as the public has been led to believe.

The Crime Prevention Committee was of the opinion that the establishment of a permanent R.C.M.P. office in Metrotown is a very positive approach to crime in Metrotown.

However, the Crime Prevention Committee is concerned with the amount of adverse publicity which an isolated incidence of crime has received and feel it is imperative that the general public be advised that Metrotown is a safe place to shop/visit.

In addition, a Joint Forces Operation involving Vancouver and Burnaby R.C.M.P. members, has been established to monitor youth gangs in and about the Metrotown area. The Joint Forces Operation has already and will continue to monitor the activities of youth gangs in and about the Metrotown area.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman L.A. Rankin,
Chairman

Alderman R.G. Begin
Member

Alderman F.G. Randall
Member

