

Re: LETTER FROM RUTH TOMSONS WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL  
MEETING OF 1989 MARCH 20 (CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 15)  
INCIDENT NEAR METROTOWN

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Officer-in-Charge, Burnaby RCMP be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 89-03-21  
FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE BURNABY DETACHMENT RCMP BBY 89/15146  
SUBJECT: Letter from Ruth TOMSONS  
Re: Incident near Metrotown  
PURPOSE: To provide information to Council with regard to police  
patrols in the Municipality.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. A copy of this report be sent to Ruth Tomsons, 4506 Inman Avenue, Burnaby, B.C.

SUMMARY:


A letter dated March 13, 1989 was directed to Mayor and Council bringing to attention an incident Mrs. Tomsons and her husband observed from their vehicle at the corner of Kingsway and Nelson. Two younger youths were being attacked by a number of older youths. When Mr. Tomsons stepped out of his vehicle to break up the fight he was challenged by one of the attackers. Mrs. Tomsons questioned the security, police presence, and safety of citizens walking in or around the neighbourhood shopping area.

REPORT:

There is no doubt the scene was very frightening to the Tomsons and their concern is appreciated. It is perhaps unfair to direct the criticism toward Metrotown itself, as incidents of fighting on the street are not isolated to any single area in Burnaby or neighbouring community. They are sporadic reactions of uncaring individuals that police deal with regularly.

Police visibility cannot possibly be in every area of the Municipality at all times and we feel confident Mrs. Tomsons will recognize this. We make every effort to have patrols in or near populated areas including Metrotown. Our response time in these areas is usually a matter of minutes; nevertheless, when there are a number of individuals running in various directions, as in the case in question, apprehension of those responsible is not always possible.

We will continue setting priorities for patrols with the hope that the unpleasant experience witnessed by the Tomsons will be curtailed.

  
C.S.W. Fuller, Superintendent  
Officer in Charge  
Burnaby Detachment