

ITEM 7
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 50
COUNCIL MEETING 90/08/13

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 AUGUST 08
FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE FILE: L34

SUBJECT: ANIMAL CONTROL

PURPOSE: To respond to Council's questions regarding animal control arising from the delegation of Ms. Nancy McCurrach at the July 23rd Council meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Ms. Nancy McCurrach at 3908 Albert Street, Burnaby, B.C.

REPORT

Ms. McCurrach appeared as a delegation to Council on July 23rd. She requested that the municipality implement regulations to control 'vicious' dogs and take steps to improve our 'after hours' service.

Arising from Ms. McCurrach's delegation, Council requested that staff:

- provide a status report on the preparation of our new Animal Control Bylaw which includes vicious dog regulations; and
- investigate Ms. McCurrach's concerns pertaining to the quality of the 'after hours' service provided by the S.P.C.A. and the R.C.M.P.

1. STATUS OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAW

The Solicitor expects to present Council with a revised animal control bylaw this Fall.

2. THE PROVISION OF 'AFTER HOURS' ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE

After hours animal control services in Burnaby are provided through our contract with the Vancouver Regional Office of the S.P.C.A. on an emergency basis. The Regional Office ensures there is an officer on duty between 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. weekdays, and between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. weekends. The officer serves most of the Greater Vancouver area. Given the large area covered, calls considered to be emergency in nature are responded to as soon as possible. On average, two or three emergency calls per month are received from Burnaby residents. Non-emergency calls are referred to the local S.P.C.A. to be dealt with during normal working hours.

The R.C.M.P. will also respond to a reported biting if it is a severe attack or if public safety comes into question. During the summer months (April through September) additional emergency coverage is provided by the Burnaby park and beach patrol.

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We contacted Ms. McCurrach to discuss her concerns. She informed us that when she contacted the S.P.C.A. emergency number to report an altercation between a pit bull and her dog, she was requested to call the Burnaby S.P.C.A. during office hours.

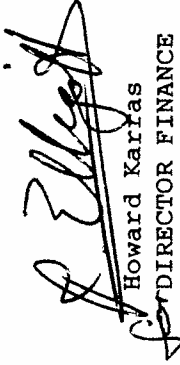
We contacted the Regional Office of the S.P.C.A. to discuss Ms. McCurrach's call. The Regional S.P.C.A. could not recall the incident, and explained that they do not record calls unless they are considered emergency in nature. In this instance, Ms. McCurrach's call was considered non-emergency. This position is supported by the fact the pit bull was on leash and Ms. McCurrach's dog was not injured.

In response to the concern raised by Ms. McCurrach, we will discuss the possibility of the Regional S.P.C.A. recording all telephone calls to ensure that concerns pertaining to 'after hour' incidents can be properly investigated. In addition, we will ask that the S.P.C.A. explain to individuals making non-emergency calls to the after hours service that they should report the incident to the local branch during office hours to ensure that all incidents are properly recorded and thoroughly investigated.

In conclusion, while our arrangements with the S.P.C.A. have generally proven satisfactory, we will work with the Regional S.P.C.A. to improve the service.

TJ:aj

cc. Municipal Solicitor
Executive Director, S.P.C.A.



Howard Karias
DIRECTOR FINANCE