ITEM 8
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 1
COUNCIL MEETING 90/01/08

RE: 1990 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the recommendations of the Municipal Clerk be adopted.

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TO:

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

DATE: DECEMBER 28

FROM:

MUNICIPAL CLERK

SUBJECT:

1990 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

PURPOSE:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT IS TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING MUNICIPAL ENUMERATING PROCEDURES, POLLING DIVISION BOUNDARIES AND AUTOMATED VOTING MACHINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING COUNCIL'S DIRECTION REGARDING THESE MATTERS IN

CONNECTION WITH THE 1990 MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. THAT Charles A. Turpin be appointed Returning Officer for the 1990 Municipal Election.
- THAT the Municipal Polling Divisions be realigned as particularly described in this report and its appendices.
- 3. THAT the Municipal Solicitor be directed to prepare a bylaw reflecting the proposed changes to the Polling Divisions.
- 4. THAT a door to door enumeration not be conducted for the 1990 Municipal Election.
- 5. THAT the Provincial Voters List form the basis for the 1990 Municipal Voters List.
- 6. THAT Voter Registration Centres be established in Shopping and Seniors Centres during 1990 April, May, June and July.
- 7. THAT Council authorize staff to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to request that the Provincial Government amend the Municipal Act to permit those municipalities who choose to do so, to initiate an automated voting and election results tallying system for Municipal Elections.

REPORT

In preparation for the 1990 Municipal Election a number of recommendations are being submitted to Council for its direction. Matters concerning the realignment of polling divisions and enumerating procedures require considerable time to implement, and therefore Council is being requested to give consideration to these subjects at this time.

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The majority of Council have not been a part of such decisions in the past, and therefore a package of background information with more detailed descriptions has been put together and forwarded under separate cover entitled "Appendices to the 1990 Municipal Election Report Number 1". Each of the sections in this report has an accompanying appendix in the supplemental information and the page numbers provided throughout this report refer to the appendices.

A. Polling Divisions

It is recommended that the polling division boundaries be realigned which, if done, will result in an increase in the number of polling places and a reduction in the area covered by many of the divisions. This proposal calls for the establishment of thirty-seven (37) polling places as compared to the thirty-one (31) polling places that were established for the 1987 election (exclusive of the advance and mobile polls).

The purpose for proposing a realignment of the Polling Divisions is twofold. Firstly, significant changes in population densities in the Central Park/Metrotown area and the North East sector of the municipality warrant providing additional polling places for the increasing number of voters. Secondly, several of our polling places at other locations throughout the municipality are now experiencing turnouts in excess of 1,000 voters. This has proven to be too large a number when it comes to ballot counting and submitting count results. Ideally, each polling place should be expected to process between 600 to 800 voters on election day, and the proposed realignment offers an opportunity of realizing this expectation.

The changes that are proposed are described individually in Appendix I and an overall map of Burnaby showing the proposed boundaries in total is attached to this report.

B. 1990 Voters List

I am proposing that the Provincial Voters List be used as a base for the preparation of the 1990 Municipal Voters List. In making this proposal I am also recommending that the municipality not conduct a door to door enumeration.

Many of the surrounding municipalities used the Provincial Voters List during the 1987 municipal elections with no apparent problems resulting from adopting this practice. These same municipalities will continue to use the Provincial Voters List for their 1990 elections and will be joined by the City of Vancouver and the District of Richmond who have previously conducted their own enumerations.

Our proposal would be to use the provincial list as a base which could be adjusted as a result of our enumeration of the mobile polls, our voter registration centres which will be located in shopping centres and seniors developments, and the day to day adjustments that occur throughout the year. We are recommending that we continue with our practice of enumerating all of our mobile poll locations. The turnover at these locations is relatively high when compared to the remainder of the resident population due to the age and health of the occupants. The recommendation to establish rotating Voter Registration Centres coupled with suitable accompanying publicity would enable voters to register, or check to see if their name appears on the List, at a variety of locations throughout the municipality. These rotating centres would operate during the late spring and summer months and are proposed to be staffed by students hired under a Federal Government Student Works Program which will help to reduce our costs while providing employment for some members of our student population.

The decision not to conduct a door to door enumeration is based on economic considerations as well as a belief that the recent changes concerning the maintenance of the Provincial Voters List make it a viable alternative.

The estimated cost of conducting a municipally-wide door to door enumeration is estimated to be \$75,000.00.

Previous reports regarding the Enumeration Process are included in the Appendices as Appendix II.

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C. Automated Voting

The matter of Automated Voting has been of interest for a number of years. In 1972 Burnaby conducted an election using the then state of the art automated voting system and the excellent results encouraged staff to further investigate the subject. The Provincial Government, through the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act (Page 319), allowed Burnaby, on a one time basis, to conduct the 1972 election by use of voting machines. Subsequent to 1972 Burnaby has made a number of appeals to the Province requesting a change to the Municipal Act which would enable municipalities to conduct elections using automated voting machines if they choose to do so. The operative wording being the option to choose, a choice which should be available to each municipality. The Vancouver City Charter has been amended to permit the City to use automated voting systems.

In petitioning the Province again it is not our intent to use an automated voting system for the 1990 election; however, the option may be recommended for future elections.

Included in Appendix III are previous reports, and though they describe a different older system than those on the market now the advantages afforded by using automated voting machines are still valid and therefore, a repeat of this information in this report is not necessary. However, also provided in the appendices is information on the preferred system, currently in use by the City of Vancouver, and the updated cost of such a system for Burnaby.

Accuracy is the major feature provided by automated voting machines, and for Council's information I have provided comparisons between the election night results and the final results for the 1985 and 1987 elections. The growing number of candidates on each ballot, the increasing population, the lateness of the hour and the number of ballots all contribute to the problem. Municipal elections are unique in that there are at least 3 ballots with as many as thirty (30) candidates on some ballots. This volume has led other jurisdictions to the use of the voting machines and may cause Burnaby to do so in future years.

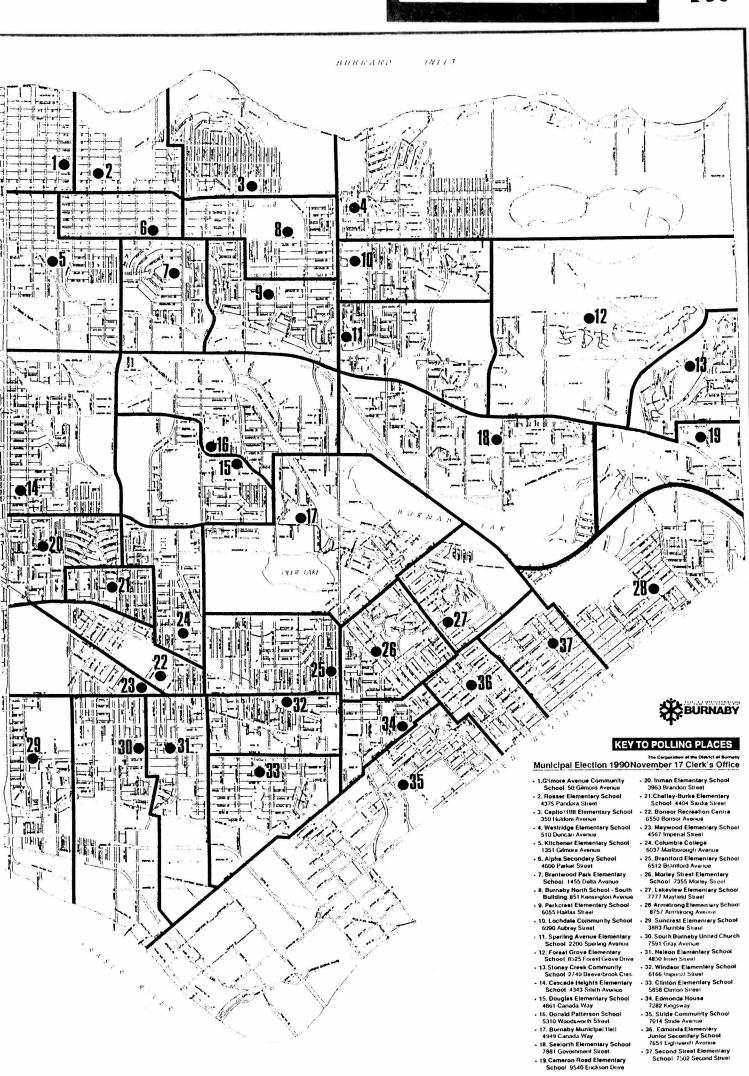
Conclusion

In conclusion Council is being requested to:

- a) approve the realignment of the municipal polling division boundaries;
- b) instruct staff to use the Provincial Voters List as a base for the 1990 List of Electors coupled with rotating Voter Registration Centres and accompanying publicity; and
- c) permit staff to again petition the Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding a needed amendment to the Municipal Act which would provide municipalities with the choice of either using conventional manual voting tallying procedures or using an automated system.

C.A. Turpin MUNICIPAL CLERK

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