

ITEM	7
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	50
COUNCIL MEETING	91/09/03

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 August 27

FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE, BURNABY DETACHMENT RCMP

SUBJECT: BURNABY RCMP METHODS AND PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFYING RESIDENTS AND MEDIA OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

PURPOSE: To inform the Mayor and Council on how and when the police inform the public of incidents that may jeopardize public safety.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

This report is in reply to Council's request for information on the methods and procedures used by the police to apprise the general public and media of criminal activity in Burnaby.

In most serious cases the public's right to know is satisfied by quick releases to the media. The need to withhold information is weighed against the sensitivity in the gathering of that information as well as legalities of release of certain types of information. This decision rests with senior investigators and is done only after consultation with senior officers. In all cases, if the public's safety were paramount we would jeopardize the case to inform the general public.

To ensure information flows to the general public the NCO i/c Crime Prevention/Victim Services has been given the responsibility of Media Relation's NCO. The purpose was to stream line and monitor the continuity of information to the local media and general public.

The release of information and avenues are as follows:

- (a) On scene of crime - releases are given verbally to all media present.
- (b) Press Releases are given by fax to all media outlets.
- (c) Block Watch - P.C. Cops Outbound Message-Computer - currently we have access to 7129 homes and 500 businesses. (A recent sexual assault we contacted successfully 4129 homes.)
- (d) Block Watch - Quarterly newsletter to 7129 homes.
- (e) Use of School Board mail to all 50 schools.
- (f) Use of Mall internal information mediums.

ITEM	7
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	50
COUNCIL MEETING	91/09/03

In conclusion, the police have implemented a process to maintain and monitor the release of information to the general public.

B.A. Beaudreau

B.A. Beaudreau, Superintendent
Officer in Charge
Burnaby Detachment

119

cc: Director of Administrative and Community Services