

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY
FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

RE: SUSPENSION OF THE VICTIM OFFENDER RECONCILIATION PROGRAM
IN BURNABY

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

R E P O R T

BACKGROUND

The Burnaby Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, at its meeting held in 1990 May, adopted a motion to endorse in principle the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) and subsequently conducted interviews and examination of VORP's publications and books, attended information seminars and received presentations from VORP representatives to the Committee.

A report was submitted to Council at the 1990 September 17 Council meeting recommending that Council endorse in principle the VORP in Burnaby for a period of one (1) year, after which time, the program would be reassessed.

CURRENT STATUS

At the invitation of the Burnaby Family Court & Youth Justice Committee Mr. Dave Keillor, Director of the Local Probation Office attended the Committee meeting on 1992 February 05. Mr. Keillor advised that VORP was unable to obtain sufficient referrals from appropriate sources to be able to make the program work. He advised that in 1989 January a three month contract was awarded to VORP staff as an opportunity to liaise and promote their services with the Crown bench and the RCMP. Again in 1989 April a twelve month contract was negotiated for VORP to do 24 complete mediations. Only 18 referrals were completed within this time frame. In 1990 April, another one year contract was granted with 120% increase in dollars and with an increase in the number of referrals. 55 referrals were contracted; only 28 referrals were made by the end of the fiscal year. Concern was expressed as to the cost per case. In December of the last fiscal year, Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam and Port Moody were included in the Program. In 1991 April, a six month contract was awarded to include 27 referrals; as of 1992 September only 16 completed referrals were made.

CONCLUSION

The Committee has been advised by the Fraser Region Justice Initiatives Society that, because of the lack of financial, human and time resources, the program has been suspended in Burnaby indefinitely. The Fraser Region Justice Initiatives Society will contact the Committee if they wish to resume the program in Burnaby at some future date.

This report is submitted for Council's information.

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

: - AGENDA 1992 APRIL 13
: - COPY - ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER
 - DIRECTOR ADMIN. & COMM. SERV.
 - O.I.C., R.C.M.P.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise Baker
Chair

Alderman D. Lawson
Member