

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

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

Re: Annual Report - 1991

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Rene de Vos, Policy Program Analyst, Policy and Program Services Division, Ministry of Attorney General, 5th Floor, 910 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

R E P O R T

The Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1979, Chapter 341, "Provincial Court Act" - Section 4 (4)(c) provides as follows:

4. (4) The Family Court Committee shall
 - (c) report annually to the municipalities involved and to the Attorney General respecting its activities during the past year.

In compliance with this statutory requirement, contained hereunder is a summary of activities of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee for the year 1991.

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January, February and March , 1991

At the Burnaby Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (hereinafter known as the "Committee") meeting held on 1991 January 23 the members requested that a report be written compiling information on the renewal of the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (hereinafter known as the FMEP).

At the 1991 March 06 meeting the draft report was presented to the Committee for discussion purposes. The report raised concerns regarding the coercive tone of the program, the lack of budgetary information available from the Director of the program, the cited recovery rate in comparison to other provinces, and some of the parameters of the legislation. Suggestions were provided as to how the program might be improved.

The Committee submitted a letter of support to Ohio Governor Richard Celeste who granted clemency to 25 women who were in prison for killing or assaulting men they lived with. Copies were sent to Colman McCarthy of the Vancouver Sun, Marguerite Dixon House and Family Court Committees of B.C.

A letter was submitted to the Honourable Perrin Beatty, Minister of National Health and Welfare requesting a copy of the report on Child Sexual Abuse ('Rogers Report').

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

:- AGENDA 1992 APRIL 13
:- COPY - ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER



A letter of invitation was sent to Ms. Allison White, Chair, Coquitlam Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to attend as a guest speaker at the April 03 Committee meeting to address the forum on 'Teenage Suicide' to be held 1991 April 17 at the Como Lake United Church, Coquitlam, B.C.

April, May and June, 1991

At the April 03 Committee meeting Ms. Allison White, Chair, Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, School District #43, addressed the Committee giving background information regarding the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee in Coquitlam. Ms. White explained that a member's daughter had attempted suicide and how it was found that there is no follow-up for these people and their families.

The Coquitlam Family Court and Youth Justice Committee decided to seek input from the community by holding a forum on the topic of adolescent suicide. The information that was to be obtained would be submitted in the form of recommendations to the Ministry of Health.

Louise Baker, Chair was present at the Forum on Teenage Suicide (Coquitlam). The program in Coquitlam is contracted out and the teenagers are assessed five times but receive no actual treatment. The agency in Coquitlam is only open during office hours. In Vancouver and Burnaby there is a group called SAFER (Suicide, Attempt, Follow-up, Education and Research) who pick up the teenagers from Vancouver General, St. Pauls and Burnaby Hospital to carry out assessment and treatment. The organization is on call 24 hours a day.

The FMEP report prepared by the Committee was adopted requesting Council's endorsement of the report; and that a copy of the report be forwarded to the Ministry of the Attorney General. Copies of the report were forwarded to interested parties.

A letter was received from the Ministry of the Attorney General responding to the Committee's report on the FMEP. The Committee decided to respond to the letter. There was considerable correspondence regarding the subject.

On 1991 May 01 Mr. Lorne McLeod, Freelance Writer, and Mr. Jim Doyle appeared before the Committee. Mr. McLeod addressed the Committee outlining a brief history of his experience with the FMEP and how he is totally opposed to the program. Mr. McLeod gave an historical overview on Themis Management Consulting Incorporated, the firm responsible for the operation of the FMEP.

The Committee adopted a resolution to host a Public Information Meeting on Youth Gangs in the Lower Mainland. The Forum would be held on Wednesday, 1991 November 06 at 7:00 p.m. at Bonsor Recreation Complex. The panel format would include representatives from the RCMP, Vancouver City Police, Criminologist, Vancouver School Board, Burnaby School Board, Judiciary, Crown Counsel and a Youth Worker. Guests invited would include principals from Burnaby high schools and Elementary schools, Student Councils from high schools, Burnaby - MLA's, Family Court and Youth Justice Committee's in the Lower Mainland, School Trustees and notification to parents through the school system.

The main purpose of the forum would be to address the following:

- Extent of the Youth Gang problem in Burnaby
- Where it is located
- What can be done and how
- What cost is there to the community
- Extra police cost
- Personal cost

A report concerning the Information Meeting on Youth Gangs was submitted to Council for information purposes.

September, October, November and December

Further discussion ensued regarding the upcoming Information Meeting on Youth Gangs in the Lower Mainland.

It was decided that a letter would be sent to all Family Court Committees in the Province advising them of the upcoming Information Meeting on Youth Gangs in the Lower Mainland and upon request, a summary of the meeting would be forwarded to them.

Discussion ensued on how well the Information Meeting on Youth Gangs in the Lower Mainland was attended and the favourable responses that were received. It was also reported that approximately 140 people attended the meeting.

Committee members expressed a desire to attend the B.C. Family Court and Youth Justice Committee's 1991 Annual Conference, 1991 October 18 and 19 at the Inn at Westminster Quay.

The Committee received a letter from the Nanaimo Family Court Committee requesting that a questionnaire derived from the present Young Offender's Act be completed concerning the crimes being committed by youths in our community. The Committee decided to send a covering letter with a questionnaire to the following for response: Burnaby Crown Counsel, Federal Crown Counsel, Burnaby RCMP and District Director for Corrections.

Suggestions for the 1992 agenda for the Burnaby Family Court and Youth Justice Committee came forward:

- Information meeting on Youth Gangs to be held at a different location.
- Review of the New Young Offender's Act.
- Family Violence and the system which courts and police deal with in these situations.

The following individuals have agreed to serve on the Burnaby Family Court and Youth Justice Committee for 1992.

Chair	Louise Baker
Vice Chair	Paul McMurray
Members	Alderman Doreen Lawson Carole Cameron Nancy Conrod Sam Friesen Prim Mahadeo Sam Palidda
Committee Secretary	Gloria McCaskie

Respectfully Submitted,



Louise Baker,
Chair

Alderman D. Lawson,
Member