

REPORT  
1995 October 16

CITY OF BURNABY

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: ANNUAL REPORT - 1994

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Roy Dungey, Policy Analyst, Policy and Resource Analysis Branch, Ministry of Attorney General, 5th Floor, 910 Government Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

REPORT

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, at its meeting held on 1995 October 04, adopted the attached staff report providing a summary of activities from 1994 February to 1994 December.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Baker  
Chair

Councillor C. Redman  
Member

**COPY - CITY MANAGER**

REPORT  
1995 June 19

CITY OF BURNABY

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: ANNUAL REPORT - 1994

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Roy Dungey, Policy Analyst, Policy and Resource Analysis Branch, 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)(c) The Family Court Committee shall
  - (c) report annually to the municipalities and to the Attorney General respecting their 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 from 1994 February to 1994 December.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH

The Burnaby Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (hereinafter known as the "Committee") held its February meeting as a joint meeting with Community Issues and Social Planning Committee. The Committee members viewed a BCTV news hour broadcast on the video game 'Night Trap'. The Committees engaged in discussion concerning the need for Provincial and Federal Government regulatory guidelines regarding video and electronic games. It was requested that Council approach the Provincial Government to change the Classification Act to include guidelines and ratings for video and electronic games and that the UBCM be requested to support this action. It was also recommended that the Federal Government be approached to apply customs and excise act regulations to video

or electronic games. At the request of the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee staff prepared a report responding to requests on the methods of regulating video or electronic games. Council adopted recommendations 1994 April 05.

At the Committee's March meeting, discussion ensued regarding tougher gun control measures. A letter was received from the Coalition for Gun Control requesting endorsement of its efforts and position of support for tougher gun control. The Committee was requested to correspond to the Honourable Allan Rock, emphasizing the Committee's position regarding the need for tougher gun control measures.

Notification was received from the Ministry Literature Review Committee on the pamphlet entitled "Introduction to Youth Court" with a suggestion that the Ministry Literature Review Committee work with a Provincial coordinating body of the Youth Court Committees or individual committees to standardize the basic information provided.

The suggestion by the Delta Family Court Committee to send a brochure with summonses requiring attendance in youth court, is being reviewed by the Businesses Analysis and Design groups in the Court Services branch.

A letter was sent to all B.C. Family Court Committees expressing concerns regarding violence in the media, video games and video arcades. The Committee requested that all B. C. Family Court Committees discuss the topic at their upcoming meetings. Based on information received from the Family Court Committees, a report was prepared submitting a resolution to the UBCM regarding a Classification system.

The Committee discussed the possibility of inviting Dr. Gordon Neufeld to speak at an upcoming public forum on the subject of youth violence. The Committee was entertaining the prospect of organizing such a forum.

#### APRIL, MAY AND JUNE

The members of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee toured the Burnaby Provincial Courts. The members found the tour to be very informative covering all aspects of the court system. The Committee received a delegation from Burnaby/New Westminster Family Court Counselling to outline the objectives of the Family Justice Centre. It was requested that the Committee appoint a member to act as a Co-Chair to the Community Advisory Panel for the Family Justice Centre.

Smithers Family Court and Youth Justice Committee requested a copy of the Burnaby Family Court and Youth Justice Committee's Mandate and Terms of Reference. Annual reports along with a copy of the relevant passage from the Provincial Court Act were forwarded.

Copies of the Family Justice Reform project were distributed for review. It is a project to develop comprehensive proposals for the reform of Family Justice Services in B.C. Members were requested to serve on the Community Advisory Panel. A co-chair position was also available on the Community Advisory Committee.

The Coalition for Gun Control submitted an overview of the latest developments regarding gun control in Canada. The letter was requesting support in its quest for support in the introduction of new gun control legislation. The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee endorsed the position of the Coalition for Gun Control.

The Willingdon Youth Custody District submitted a letter requesting that the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee serve on the District's Board. The Committee advised the Board, that due to the time schedule of the meetings, members were not available to attend.

Notification was received regarding the transfer of responsibility for the B.C. Family Court and Youth Justice Committees to Mr. Roy Dungey, Ministry of Attorney General's Department.

A report on youth violence was received from the City of Surrey, prepared by the Mayor's Advisory Committee.

The Committee requested copies of the amendments to the Young Offenders Act (YOA) along with a timeline for when the amendments would be dealt with in the House of Commons.

#### SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

A letter was received from the Honourable Allan Rock advising that a review of firearm options will commence. Other areas will be examined including: access to ammunition, sentencing, registration system for all firearms, and use of prohibition orders. The writer advised that examination had begun on the problem of firearms smuggling and theft from legal owners. Strict legislation must be enforced and part of that enforcement must be dedicated to ensuring that access and registration controls which apply to law abiding and responsible firearm owners are not simply evaded by others.

An invitation was received from the Richmond Family Court Committee advising of its 30th Anniversary celebration. The Committee is the longest serving Family Court Committee with continuous service in the province. An invitation was extended to celebrate on Thursday, 1994 October 20, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Nature Park, 11851 Westminster Highway, Richmond, B.C.

Discussion ensued on the proposed changes to the YOA and a concern was expressed that preventative and rehabilitative measures and programs are not being addressed. It was suggested that a public forum be held to discuss preventative measures for youth crime. It was suggested that the Committee discuss a list of approaches that could be used in the community. It was suggested that the community develop action plans to prevent youth crimes instead of lobbying for tougher laws. The Committee was given a brief overview of where it is at in reviewing changes to the YOA encouraging people to support tougher laws and sentences. The Committee discussed the possibility of hosting a forum to discuss community solutions and public involvement at a neighbourhood level to look at the problem of young offenders.

Councillor Evans appeared before the Committee to give a brief overview on the Community Policing concept for Burnaby. The speaker detailed to date of where the plan is progressing and how the information would be helpful to the Family

Court Committee in planning such a forum. The Committee advised that Burnaby Family Life Institute and the Burnaby School District were requested to co-sponsor the forum.

The November meeting consisted of discussions concerning the upcoming public forum 'Community Concern/Community Solutions Youth Violence: A New Perspective'. Discussion ensued regarding advertising, displays, etc. A news release was received from the CRTC advising that the series 'Mighty Morphin Power Rangers' contravenes several articles in the TV Violence Code of Canada's Private Broadcasters. The Commission applauds the swift action taken by YTV which immediately decided to remove power rangers from its lineup following this CBSC ruling. Arising from discussion, the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee agreed to send a letter of support to the CRTC to compliment its action.

A letter was received from School District No. 41, requesting that funding for a video on adolescent suicide prevention project be made available to the Vancouver Crisis Centre by writing the Attorney General's Department in support of such a project.

Further discussion ensued regarding the draft advertisement for the upcoming public forum. It was decided that the forum would take place on Wednesday, 1995 April 26 at Burnaby Central High School gym, 4939 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1M2 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The members of the Burnaby Family Court and Youth Justice Committee are as follows:

Chair Louise Baker

Vice Chair Paul McMurray

Members: Councillor Redman  
Hakam Bhaloo  
Gerd Evans  
Sam Friesen  
Allen Hutton  
Prim Mahadeo  
Colin Snell

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Baker,  
Chair

