

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL 1996 JULY 29

FROM: COMMUNITY ISSUES &  
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: DESIGNATED PARKING STRATEGY

PURPOSE: To present a proposed strategy for addressing problems with the use of parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receive the *attached* report for information.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of 1996 March 4, Council approved the 1996 workplan for Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee. One of the issues identified in the workplan was designated parking for persons with disabilities. The workplan proposed that the issue be addressed through both a public education campaign about designated parking spaces and attempts to improve enforcement.

This report outlines a more detailed strategy for addressing the issue of designated parking.

**2.0 THE ISSUE**

The Access Advisory Committee has identified the misuse of designated parking spaces and the enforcement of their proper use as priority issues for 1996. After considerable research, the Committee has concluded that the problems stem from a number of factors, including:

- ▶ confusion and a lack of consistent information among the general public, Burnaby businesses, City staff and the R.C.M.P. regarding enforcement of designated parking spaces on public and private property. This confusion is not surprising given the number of provincial regulations and municipal bylaws governing designated parking and complexities involved in their application.
- ▶ the R.C.M.P.'s need to balance competing bylaw enforcement demands, resulting in the perception among some persons with disabilities that enforcement of designated parking is given a low priority by the R.C.M.P. The tools enabling enforcement of designated parking are available in the Motor Vehicle Act and in Burnaby's Street and Traffic Bylaw.

: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR FINANCE  
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.  
- DIR. REC. & CULT. SERV.  
- OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.  
- CITY SOLICITOR  
- MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

- ▶ some question about the validity - both in terms of applicant eligibility and permit longevity - of some of the designated parking permits issued by Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of B.C.
- ▶ the disregard for and abuse of designated parking spaces by some members of the public. This situation is made worse by the general lack of consequences for abusing designated spaces: often tickets are not issued and if they are, there are few ramifications from non-payment.

### 3.0 THE STRATEGY

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee proposes a four pronged strategy to be carried out during the remainder of 1996 and into 1997 for addressing the designated parking issue. The four proposed actions include:

#### 3.1 Training for City Staff on Designated Parking Enforcement

An information sharing/training session will be held for all City staff involved with designated parking and persons with disabilities. Thus the session will be targeted to R.C.M.P. traffic officers and front desk staff, City Bylaw Enforcement Officers, and other City staff from the Building, Planning, Health, Parks & Recreation and Legal departments and the Licence Office.

The objectives of the session will be to ensure all relevant staff are operating from the same knowledge/information base and to identify and address any areas where information or practice may be inconsistent or contradictory. As a follow-up to the session, a brochure outlining key elements of the designated parking question will be produced. The brochure will be for the use of City staff, disabled persons, the general public, Burnaby businesses, and anyone else interested or involved in the provision of designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities.

#### 3.2 Public Education Campaign

The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness in the community of the regulations governing designated parking spaces and the consequences for persons with disabilities when others park in those spaces. The campaign was launched in 1996 May with the choice of the designated parking issue as the theme for Access Awareness Week (May 26 - June 1). During May, articles on the subject appeared in "Info Burnaby" and the Burnaby Now, and Access Awareness Week posters were posted in City Hall, Burnaby libraries, recreation and community centres and the Metrotown Centre information kiosk. Future potential activities include posters in bus shelters and distribution of the brochure outlined in Section 3.1. The Committee also proposes to ascertain the feasibility of posting deterrent signs at designated spaces which note the fine for illegal parking.

**3.3 Business Education Campaign**

The Access Advisory Committee proposes to approach the Burnaby Chamber of Commerce to form a partnership for improving awareness among businesses of the designated parking issue. Of primary concern to the Committee is monitoring/enforcement of designated spaces on business property, the abuse of designated spaces and public walkways/wheelchair access points by the drivers of some delivery vehicles, and the display of proper signage for designated spaces on private property.

The brochure outlined in Section 3.1 will be used in the campaign, as well as letters to selected individual businesses.

**3.4 Potential Changes to City Bylaws**

The Access Advisory Committee proposes to review relevant City bylaws and regulations for potential changes which could enhance enforcement of designated parking spaces. One suggested change, for example, is to raise the maximum possible fine, as both a deterrent to the public. Any potential bylaw or regulatory changes identified would first be vetted through the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee proposes to carry out the strategy for designated parking outlined in Section 3.0 of this report during the remainder of 1996 and into 1997. This report is submitted for information.

Councillor C. Redman  
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston  
Vice-Chair

JS/db

cc: O.I.C. - R.C.M.P.

