

CITY OF BURNABY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
(GRANT)

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: WARD SYSTEMS FOR ELECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Rana Dhatt, 6602 Randolph Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 3W4.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its meeting held on 1996 October 21 received and adopted the *attached* report in response to Council's referral of correspondence from a citizen requesting consideration be given to holding a referendum on the question of a Ward System for the City of Burnaby.

Your Committee concluded that there appears to be no compelling reason to consider a Ward System for Burnaby. Should public opinion cause this to change in the future, then the issue can be revisited at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin
Chair

Councillor D. Corrigan
Member

Councillor C. Redman
Member

Copy - CITY MANAGER

DATE: 1996 OCTOBER 21
TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
FROM: DEPUTY CITY MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
SUBJECT: WARD SYSTEMS FOR ELECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

PURPOSE: This report responds to an item of correspondence received by Council requesting consideration be given to conduct a Referendum on the question of "Ward Systems for Burnaby".

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION:

Appearing on the Council Agenda of August 12, 1996 was a letter from Mr. Rana Dhatt requesting that Council give consideration to holding a Referendum on the question of Ward Systems for the City of Burnaby. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee of Council and at its meeting of September 23, the Committee requested that a report be prepared in response to the request.

HISTORY:

The City of Burnaby has always elected its Councillors at large without, as far as I am aware, any public concerns ever being expressed over the issue of representation from specific areas of the community. Burnaby has traditionally had each of its neighbourhoods represented and does not have large areas of neglect that have occurred in other jurisdictions where Ward Systems have been initiated. The need for a Ward System is usually dictated by an inequality in elected representation for one or more large areas within a community. The reason for the inequality may arise for a number of reasons, including the division of wealth or level of education or employment opportunities for its residents.

CURRENT STATUS:

The current situation in Burnaby is best illustrated by the two attachments. The first attachment displays the residences of current City Councillors and the Mayor. A Council member resides in every significantly populated area within the City.

The second attachment illustrates the Community Planning Processes (Citizen Participation Projects) that are currently underway. Again, an equal distribution is occurring throughout the City.

Both of these examples clearly show a City-wide representation and involvement that could not likely be improved upon if the City were split into Wards.

CONCERNS:

Once a community is formally divided into Districts, an immediate potential for jurisdictional disputes develops. Area maps become the mainstay at many of the decision making meetings. The objective of what is best for the whole community becomes blurred and the focus turns to what each area is or is not receiving in the way of services. The Ward System can generate into a mechanism which splits communities apart as opposed to encouraging everyone to work together for the betterment of the City as a whole.

PROCESS FOR INITIATING A WARD SYSTEM:

The Municipal Act provides for elections on an at large basis unless Council establishes elections on a "neighbourhood constituency" basis.

Section 209 of the Act allows Council, by Bylaw, to provide that all or some of the Councillors be elected on a neighbourhood constituency basis. The Bylaw must establish the areas that are to be neighbourhood constituencies and provide for an orderly transition to election on that basis.

Although the Letters Patent provide for an election on an at large basis, the Lieutenant Governor in Council has the authority to approve a Bylaw to allow voting on the neighborhood constituency (N.C.) basis.

Election on the N.C. basis has different requirements for election notices and voter requirements. It would also involve different strategies for ballot printing and accordingly,

ballot costs.

If Council were to consider placing a Referendum before citizens with respect to this issue, it would either have to be a Referendum on its own at a future date or wait for the 1999 general election. With respect to the current election, we are unable to comply with the Referendum requirements for development of the question, initiation of the Bylaw process and advertising of the "other voting opportunity" as set out in the Municipal Act.

In the event Council does give consideration to such a Referendum, it would either have to be initiated early in 1997 in order to put in place the necessary requirements in advance of the 1999 election (at substantial cost to the taxpayer because we would virtually have to reinitiate the entire election process), or hold the Referendum in 1999 with voting on a neighbourhood constituency basis in 2002.

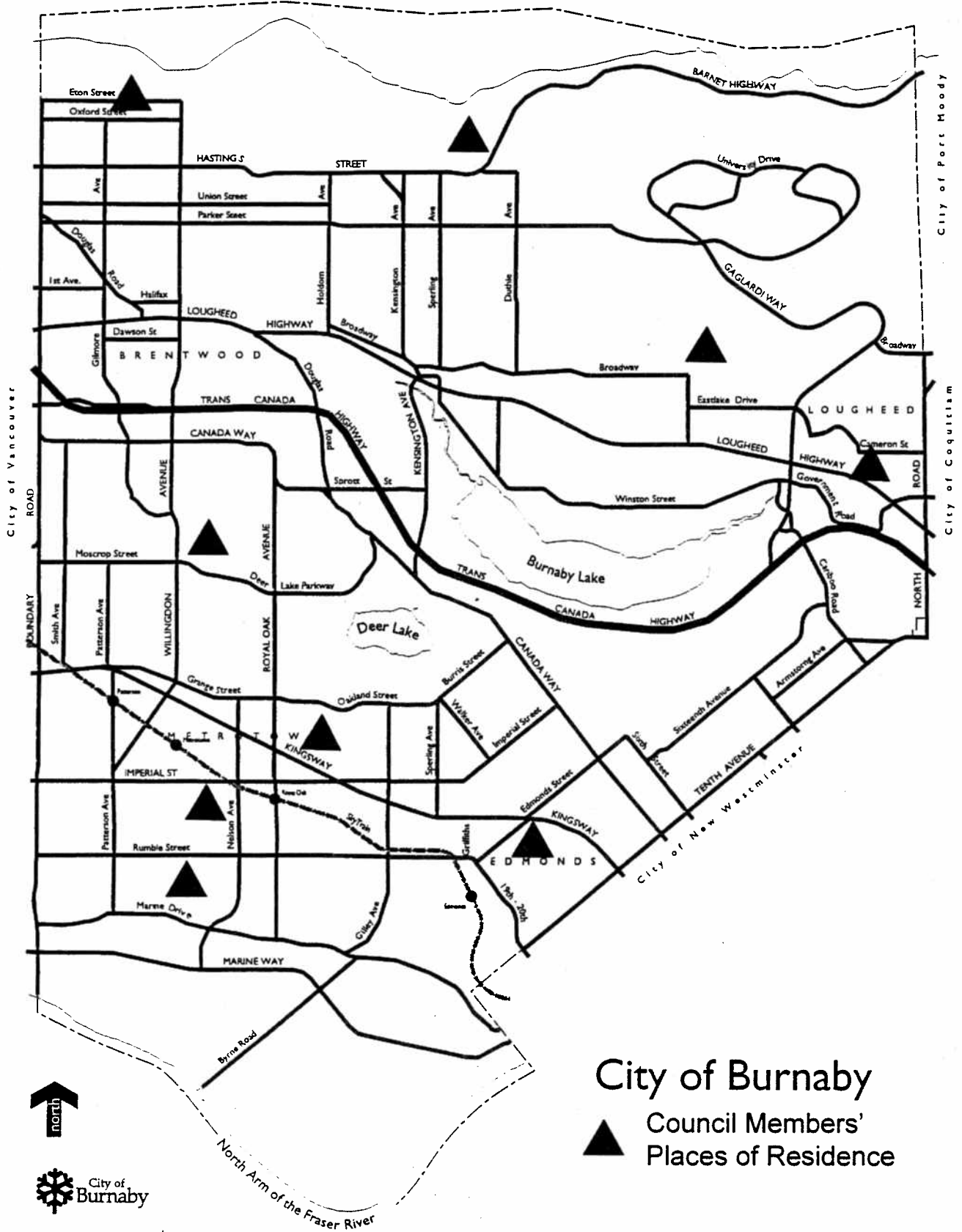
CONCLUSION:

There appears to be no compelling reason to consider a Ward System for Burnaby. Should public opinion cause this to change in the future, then the issue can be revisited at that time.

C. A. Turpin
Deputy City Manager Corporate Services

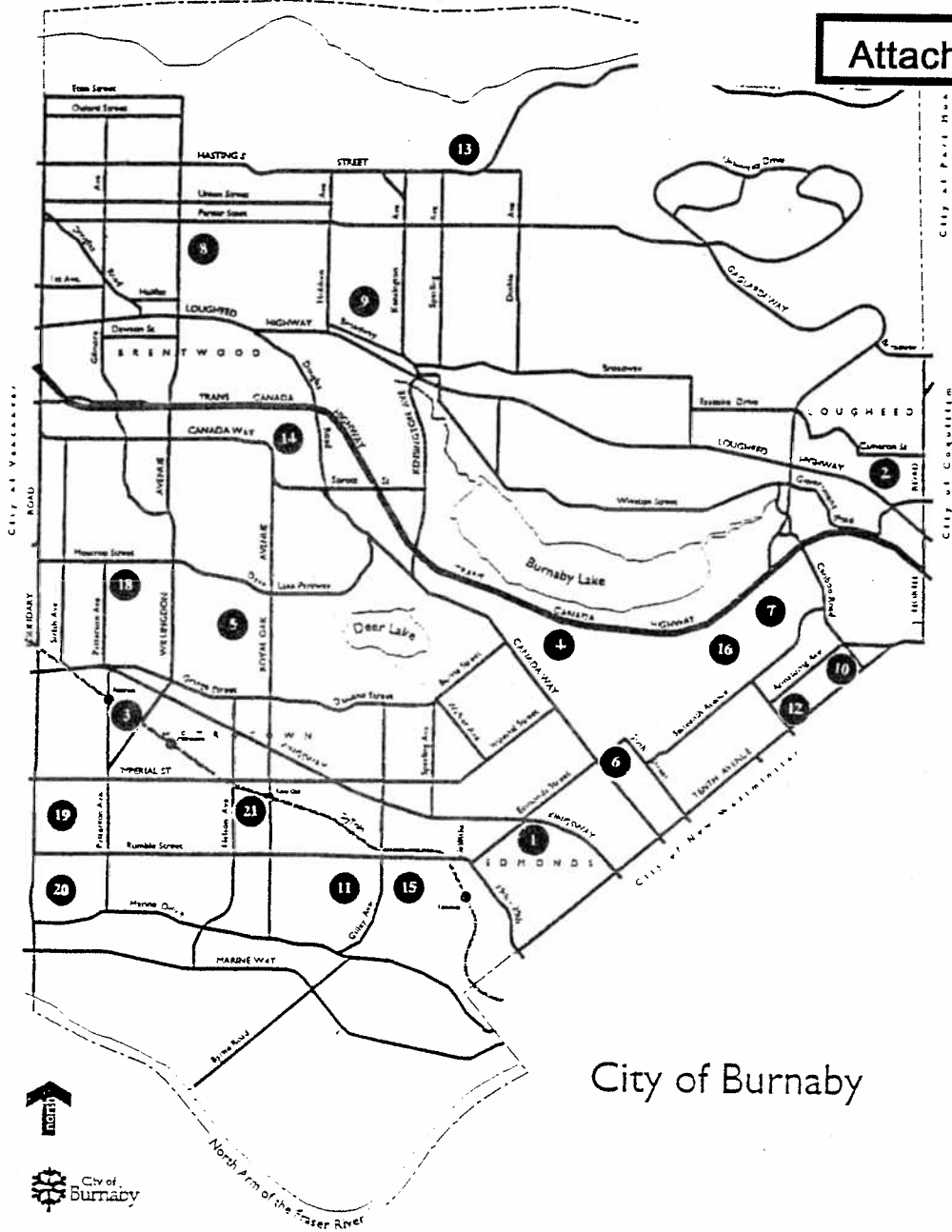
CAT:jh
Attachment

B U R R A R D I N L E I



City of Burnaby
 ▲ Council Members' Places of Residence





COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESSES

Town Centre Plans

- 1. Edmonds Town Centre
- 2. Lougheed Town Centre

Transportation Plans

- 3. Maywood/Mayberry
- 4. Lakeview
- 5. Forest Glen
- 6. Canada Way-6th St.

- 7. South East Burnaby

Area Rezoning Processes

- 8. Brentwood Park (R3 to R10)
- 9. Parkcrest (remains R2)
- 10. Crest Drive (R2 to R10)
- 11. South Slope (W of Gilley) (remains R2)
- 12. Crest (R3 to R10)
- 13. Westridge (R2 to R11)

- 14. Norfolk (R5, R9 to R12)

- 15. South Slope (E of Gilley) (R2, R3 to R10)
- 16. Dogwood Ridge (R3, R5 to R10)
- 17. Garden Village (R2 to R10)
- 18. South Slope (E of MacPherson) (remains R2)
- 19. Joffre Ave. North (R3 to R10)
- 20. South Slope W of Patterson (R2 on-going)
- 21. Dunblane (R5, R9 to R12)