

CITY OF BURNABY

ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

Re: Handicapped Accessible Units

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council direct staff to undertake a review of the the current policy under which the voluntary provision of handicapped accessible housing is encouraged and, in particular, consider the inclusion of units adaptable to people with handicaps such as hearing and/or sight impairments.
2. THAT copies of this report be sent to the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee and the Community Planning and Housing Committee for their information.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1997 February 20 the Advisory Planning Commission discussed the City policy of encouraging developers to provide handicapped adaptable housing units in new multi-family residential developments. During its consideration of zoning bylaw amendments the Commission have recognised that some developers do not participate in this voluntary program and have concluded that a policy review may be necessary in order to increase participation.

The Commission is concerned that the current policy focuses on those persons with disabilities that necessitate the use of a wheelchair and require living units with appropriate fixtures and design to accommodate that condition. The Commission suggests that, in cases where cost, location and other conditions may prevent the provision of a full handicapped unit, that an alternative would be to provide units adaptable for persons with hearing or sight impairments.

In reviewing the policy adopted by Council in 1990 regarding handicapped accessible units it was indicated that a review of the policy would be undertaken at a later date. As a significant amount of multi-family housing construction is currently taking place in Burnaby the Commission requests that Council undertake this review at this time and that consideration be given to the provision of units for hearing and/or sight impaired persons.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioners:

Mrs. Lorraine Brown, Vice Chair  
Ms. Barbara Fisher  
Mr. Alan Dewey  
Mr. Brian Elder  
Ms. Brenda Felker  
Mr. John Hardie  
Mr. Phil Henderson  
Mr. Vern Tompkins

Ashak Dhanani  
Chair

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