

TO: CITY MANAGER

1998 MAY 20

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING QUERIES
REZONING REFERENCE #98-6
4203 HASTINGS STREET & 4204 ALBERT STREET
HASTINGS STREET AREA PLAN**

PURPOSE: To respond to points raised at the 1998 April 28 Public Hearing for Fire Station #5, Rezoning Reference #98-6.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT

At the 1998 April 28 Public Hearing for the construction of a new firehall in the Hastings Street Area, concerns were expressed regarding noise and the displacement of the designated parking lot. Staff were asked to report on these points.

The Fire Chief indicates that everything technically possible will be done to follow the Department's established "Good Neighbour" policy and minimize noise in and around the Fire Station. Under the Motor Vehicle Act, all warning devices must be used when exceeding the speed limit, proceeding past a red light traffic-control signal or stop sign without stopping, or disregarding rules and traffic-control devices governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions etc. Therefore, when a call is received by the Fire Department, an assessment is always made to determine whether a fast response is required. Only upon this determination are warning devices used if deemed necessary. In addition to minimizing the disruption caused by the use of sirens, the Fire Department has modified its response to some emergency situations. For example, the response to "alarms ringing" has been altered from 5 units using flashing lights and sirens to dispatching only 1 of 5 units in an emergency mode. The response to motor vehicle accidents has also been modified to require only one of two units dispatched to use flashing lights and a siren. Furthermore, on many occasions and, in particular, in residential areas, it is unsafe to speed; therefore, warning devices may not be required. Finally, with regard to noise from loud announcements, loud hailers will not be used at this Fire Station and speakers on trucks will be turned off when returning.

With regard to the displacement of the public parking lot for which 4204 Albert Street is designated and zoned, efforts are being made to acquire the adjacent privately owned properties to the east for inclusion in an expanded project that would include provision for public parking in addition to the Fire Hall. In the meanwhile, with the recent designation of 304 Rosser Avenue and 4410 Albert Street as a future public parking lot site, the number of intended lots in the Hastings Street area is remaining consistent with the dozen indicated in the Hastings Street Area Plan.

This is provided for the information of Council.



D.G. Stenson
Director Planning and Building

FA:yr

- cc. Fire Chief
- City Solicitor
- Project Manager
- Director Engineering
- Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services