

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

Re: ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK - SYNOPSIS OF ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 1998 September 23, received and adopted the attached report advising on the outcome of Access Awareness Week activities in Burnaby.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Redman
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

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

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES AND
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

1998 September 15

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK - SYNOPSIS OF ACTIVITIES

PURPOSE: To report on the outcome of Access Awareness Week activities in Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee receive this report for information.

R E P O R T

1. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1998 May 27, the Committee endorsed the participation of Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee in a province-wide access awareness initiative. The initiative was co-sponsored by the Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC of B.C.) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The aim of the initiative was to educate drivers of the importance of specially-designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities by having volunteers in communities across the province monitor usage of designated parking spaces in public and semi-public lots on June 1, 1998.

2. RESULTS OF THE JUNE 1, 1998 EVENT

Members of Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee were assisted with monitoring on June 1 by volunteers from the Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped (BAMH) and the Network of Burnaby Seniors (NOBS), and by one additional individual with a disability. Parking lots which were monitored for some portion of the day included:

- the surface lot at Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch of the Burnaby Public Library
- the surface lots surrounding Station Square in Metrotown
- the surface and underground lots at Eaton Centre Metrotown
- the surface and underground lots at Metrotown Centre
- other surface lots on the north and south sides of Kingsway between Patterson Avenue and Imperial Street

- the parking lot at Brentwood Shopping Centre
- the parking lot at Lougheed Shopping Centre

The results of the monitoring activity are presented in Appendix 1, *attached*. A total of thirteen vehicles were found parked illegally in designated parking spaces. Drivers found mis-using the designated spaces were left an information pamphlet and a mock ticket. The number of violations was considerably lower than members of the Access Advisory Committee had expected, leading them to believe that past public awareness initiatives are beginning to show results. They caution, however, that public education continues to be important, as even thirteen instances of mis-use of designated parking spaces has a significant impact on the lives of persons with disabilities.

3. CONCLUSION

The June 1 event represented the first attempt at a province-wide access awareness activity. Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee acknowledged the need to start a new project on a small scale in order to learn from experience, and deployed a small number of volunteers (13) to monitor selected public and semi-public parking lots. Thirteen abuses of designated parking spaces were noted during the hours of volunteer surveillance. The Access Advisory Committee views the results as relatively positive, and has concluded that past efforts at public education regarding the importance of specially-designated spaces for people with disabilities may have had a positive impact on the parking habits of the general public. In response to requests from both SPARC of B.C. and the UBCM, staff has forwarded the results of Burnaby's participation in the June 1 event to both organizations.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

JS/sa

Attachment

- cc: City Manager
Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Officer-in-Charge, RCMP

APPENDIX 1

ACCESS AWARENESS DAY - JUNE 1, 1998

MIS-USE OF DESIGNATED PARKING

<i>Location</i>	<i>Parking Space</i>	<i>Number of Abuses</i>	<i>Monitored Between Hours of</i>
Bob Prittie Library	Surface Lot	0	noon - 3 p.m.
Station Square	Starbuck's Coffee	0	8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
	Future Shop	0	8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Metrotown Centre	Interior roadway between Eaton Centre and Metrotown Centre	1	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 pm..
	Kingsway entrance to Sear's	1	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Brentwood Mall	Bank of Montreal	1	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
	South side of Zellar's	1	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
	Starbuck's Coffee	1	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lougheed Mall		4	noon - 2:00 p.m.
Kingsway		4	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.