

CITY OF BURNABY

FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: ANNUAL REPORT - 1999

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the Office of the Attorney General, Room 232, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

REPORT

The Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1979, Chapter 341, "*Provincial Court Act*" - Section 4(4)(c) provides as follows:

4. (4) The Family Court Committee shall
(c) report annually to the municipalities and to the Attorney General respecting their activities during the past year.

In compliance with this statutory requirement, contained hereunder is a summary of activities of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee during 1999.

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAMS

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee completed a review of an information package from the Attorney-General outlining the benefits and advantages associated with establishing community accountability programs. These diversion programs give communities direct involvement in ensuring that low risk offenders face immediate and meaningful consequences outside the traditional court process.

The programs focus on the offence and encourage accountability for behavior, while aiming to repair the harm to victims and the community. Emphasis is placed on the victims role in the proceedings. The Committee noted that these programs also include clear written statements regarding what the offender will do to make amends, and supervision of offenders to ensure that agreements are fulfilled. In conclusion, the Committee agreed to continue monitoring the community accountability programs as described by the Attorney General.

: COPY - CITY MANAGER

BURNABY YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM

The Family Court & Youth Justice Committee reviewed the funding requirements of the Burnaby Youth Services Program, a juvenile crime prevention program affiliated with the RCMP. The Committee noted that the staff complement of Burnaby Youth Services remains the same now as when the program was initiated in 1974, while the population during the period has increased by over 50,000 and the complexities of the issues being addressed have grown dramatically.

The Committee also noted that the Burnaby Youth Services Program accepts police referrals for youths from 9 - 17 years of age. The program, however, only accepts community referrals for youths from 9 to 14 years of age. Insufficient funding prevents the program from accepting community referrals for youths from 15 - 17 years of age.

Accordingly, the Committee forwarded a request to the Attorney General of B.C. requesting funding assistance for the Burnaby Youth Services program.

CHILD AND YOUTH PROSTITUTION

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is represented on a City of Burnaby task force addressing the sexual exploitation of children and youth. The Burnaby task force has joined forces with a similar task force operating in New Westminster. The two task forces agreed to work together on a number of common initiatives. It was intended that each task force would also continue to work separately on initiatives focused in its home community.

As a joint task force, the group's main preventive initiative is the development of a public education and awareness campaign on the issue of sexual exploitation of children and youth in the sex trade.

The main initiatives being pursued by the Burnaby Task Force are:

- the establishment of a safe house for sexually exploited youth through a partnership between the City of Burnaby, the Ministry for Children and Families, and Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth and Families.
- the acquisition of powers from the Province to enable the City to develop a bylaw making it illegal for anyone under the age of 19 years to work in or frequent establishments where they are likely to be allowed, encouraged, forced or paid to engage in sexual activities.

- the exploration, with selected businesses, of the possibility of establishing a “safe haven” type of program in which businesses could choose to participate. It is envisioned that participating businesses would advertise their “friendliness” to at-risk youth with a logo on the store window. Youth could expect, from such establishments, assistance such as the use of a telephone in emergency situations, information on resources available to them if they are in trouble, and staff who are cooperative with and sensitive to the needs of at-risk youth.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Hutton
Chair

Alison Joe
Vice Chair

Councillor Nancy Harris
Member

