

**CITY OF BURNABY**

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL ZONE HOURS**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council reaffirm its support for the initial UBCM resolution concerning the extension of school zone time, and that this resolution be resubmitted for consideration at the 2003 UBCM Convention.
2. **THAT** Council forward copies of this report to:
  - a) the UBCM; and
  - b) the Burnaby School Board for comment

**REPORT**

The Traffic Safety Committee, at its meeting held on 2003 June 03, received and adopted the attached report responding to correspondence from the UBCM regarding the extension of school zone hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Evans  
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow  
Vice Chair

Councillor L. Rankin  
Member

COPY: CITY MANAGER  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
OIC, RCMP

City of Burnaby

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

**TO:** TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2003 05 27  
**FROM:** ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,  
TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING SYSTEMS **FILE:** 38000-08  
**SUBJECT:** SCHOOL ZONE HOURS  
**PURPOSE:** To respond to correspondence from the UBCM regarding the extension of school zone hours.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee affirm their support for the initial UBCM resolution concerning the extension of school zone time, and that this resolution be resubmitted for consideration at the 2003 UBCM Convention.
2. **THAT** copies of this report be sent to:
  - a) the UBCM; and
  - b) the Burnaby School Board for comment.

**R E P O R T**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The 2003 May 05th meeting of Council included correspondence from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities ( UBCM ) advising of an impending change to section 149 of the Motor Vehicle Act. The change would provide local authorities the ability to extend times for 30 Km/hr speed limits in school zones past the current 8:00 am to 5:00 pm time frame during days *when school is in session*. This item was referred to the Traffic Safety Committee, and is included in the current agenda.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

The issue of school zone hours was discussed in the attached report of the Traffic Safety Committee to Council. The staff report appended a draft UBCM resolution proposing a conformance between times during the day when the school zone 30 km/hr speed limit is in effect and the (current 'Dawn to Dusk') hours of operation for reduced speed limit zones adjacent playgrounds. Subsequently this report and associated recommendations were approved by Council and the resolution forwarded to the UBCM for consideration at their 2000 Convention.

## **3.0 DISCUSSION**

The planned amendment to section 149 of the Motor Vehicle Act will not allow the flexibility intended in the UBCM resolution.

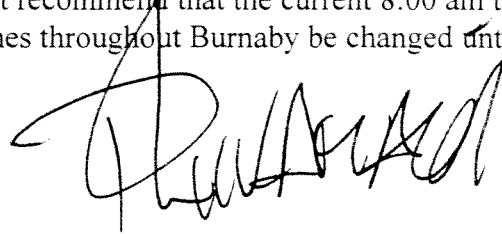
In particular it is noted that the proposed changes to the Motor Vehicle Act will only allow for extended school zone regulations on days when school is in session. Accordingly, the concern that school facilities are used in much the same way as playgrounds especially over weekends and summer holidays is not addressed. Further, enabling each authority the ability to tailor times when school zones are in effect may well create confusion for motorists travelling through neighbouring jurisdictions. The confusion would be exacerbated if the extended hours were selectively implemented in different jurisdictions. In all this potential for inconsistency throughout the region could well dilute the level of acceptance and compliance with reduced speed limits in school zones.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Impending changes to the regulations associated with school zones hours would permit local authorities greater flexibility to respond to isolated concerns. However, this ability to fine tune times when school zones are in effect has the potential to generate a significant level of inconsistency throughout the region.

Combining the negative potential of jurisdictional variations in school zone hours with the absence of any consideration for extending school zone hours to days when school is not typically in session, such as weekends and during the summer months, suggests that the impending changes to Section 149 of the Motor Vehicle Act falls significantly short of the desired changes endorsed by Council and the UBCM.

Therefore, staff recommend the Committee and Council reaffirm their support for the UBCM resolution as initially submitted, and resubmit the original resolution for consideration at the 2003 convention. In particular, we would support the concept of a common child activity zone signing and regulation at schools and parks where this is appropriate. Accordingly, staff do not recommend that the current 8:00 am to 5:00 pm time limits associated with school zones throughout Burnaby be changed until this issue is readdressed by the UBCM.



P. Liivamagi, P. Eng.  
ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,  
TRAFFIC & ENG. SYSTEMS

AE:  
Attach.

cc: City Manager

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SCHOOL ZONE HOURS

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REPORT  
2000 June 26

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
(TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION)

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**RE: SCHOOL ZONE HOURS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council approve the principle of expanding school zone hours (presently "8:00am to 5:00pm on a day school is regularly held") to bring them into conformance with the hours of Park zones (currently "between dawn and dusk").
2. **THAT** a UBCM resolution supporting this recommendation be approved.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the Minister of Transportation & Highways, the British Columbia Association of Police Chiefs (BCACP) Traffic Safety Committee, and the Burnaby School District.
4. **THAT** copies of this report be forwarded to Burnaby MLA's requesting their support.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Traffic Safety Division), at its meeting held on 2000 June 20, received and adopted the *attached* report responding to the direction of the Committee to review the conformity of school and playground zone hours.

The Committee requested that the recommendations be amended to include that a

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copy of the report be forwarded to Burnaby MLA's requesting their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Evans  
Chair

Councillor B. Der  
Vice Chair

Councillor G. Begin  
Member

**City of Burnaby**

**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**TO:** TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 2000 05 25

**FROM:** ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING, TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING SYSTEMS 55-13-02

**SUBJECT:** SCHOOL ZONE HOURS

**PURPOSE:** To respond to the direction of the Committee to review the conformity of school and playground zone hours.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council approve the principle of expanding school zone hours (presently "8:00am to 5:00pm on a day school is regularly held") to bring them into conformance with the hours of Park zones (currently "between dawn and dusk").
2. **THAT** a UBCM resolution supporting this recommendation be approved.

3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the Minister of Transportation & Highways, the British Columbia Association of Police Chiefs (BCACP) Traffic Safety Committee, and the Burnaby School District.

## REPORT

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the last meeting of the Committee there was some discussion regarding school and playground speed zones and the difficulties created by the different times each is in effect. It was noted that the British Columbia Association of Police Chiefs Traffic Safety Committee had been dealing with the matter. Staff were asked to provide a report that further detailed the BCACP position and potentially supported that position

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

The legislation regarding schools and playground speed zones is to be found in the *Motor Vehicle Act* Section 147 which states:

#### ***"Schools and Playgrounds***

- 147** (1) *Every person driving, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on a day school is regularly held, a vehicle on a highway where signs are displayed stating a speed limit of 30 km/h or on which the numerals "30" are prominently shown, must drive at a rate of speed not exceeding 30 km/h while approaching, passing or in the vicinity, as indicated by the signs, of the school to which the signs relate.*
- (2) *A person driving a vehicle on a highway must drive the vehicle at a rate of speed not exceeding 30 km/h when approaching or passing, between dawn and dusk, a public play ground for children where signs are displayed stating a speed limit of 30 km/h, or on which the numerals "30" are prominently shown."*

### 3.0 BCAC P POSITION

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Enclosed is a copy of the BCACP resolution regarding this issue. The resolution requests "government to pass legislation which would combine school grounds and playgrounds into one type of play area and post them with a common sign' and further, that the sign have a tab beneath the identifying sign which would establish the 30 k/hr. speed limit, and also display the hours of 07:00 - 22:00 that the speed zone would be in effect, seven days a week".

Annexed to the resolution is a supportive letter from the office of the Attorney General.

#### **4.0 THE RATIONALE FOR CONFORMITY**

The rationale for conformity of hours is based on the fact that schools function outside of regular school hours, and that the school grounds are essentially similar to playgrounds in terms of usage particularly during summer months. In the past some local authorities, including Burnaby, replaced the school zone pentagons with playground signs during the summer break in partial recognition of this dual usage. The City dropped this program some decades ago because of the significant cost and logistics involved.

#### **5.0 OTHER ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

##### **5.1 Hours of Operation**

It is noted that there is a minor lack of consensus on the hours that playgrounds (and therefore schools) signing should be in effect. The current legislation states between dawn and dusk, the precise times of which vary from day to day by time of year. The letter from the office of the Attorney General suggests that the regulation be in effect all times for simplicity.

However, there may be merit in establishing regulations that directly address the issue in order to promote a wider respect for the regulation. For example, the difficulty, desirability and public acceptability of enforcing playground limits at 1:00 am may detract from the importance of the zone during needed hours. Thus the Police Chiefs have recommended that the hours be set as being from 07:00 to 22:00 which would capture the longest summer evening but extend well past dusk in winter months.



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Some would argue that, from a personal safety perspective, public use of parks, playgrounds and school grounds after dusk is undesirable.

However, of greater importance than the precise hours during which playground and school speed zones are in effect is the principle of their conformity.

## **5.2 Melding of the Zones**

The attached letter from the Attorney General's office the possible unification of playground and school zones to create a single "child activity" zone. Such a concept has obvious advantages and disadvantages but again it would be preferable to defer such consideration pending resolution of the hours of conformity proposal.

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6.0

## CONCLUSION

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We believe there is merit in extending the hours during school speed zones are in effect to bring them into conformity with playgrounds. The recommendation to council reflects this. As adoption of the regulation requires an amendment to the *Motor Vehicle Act* it is appropriate that the Minister of Transportation and Highways be enjoined to do so. As the wider support of other local authorities is desirable a draft UBCM resolution on this matter is attached.

P. Liivamagi, P. Eng.  
ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,  
TRAFFIC & ENG. SYSTEMS

**DRAFT UBCM RESOLUTION -  
EXTENDED SCHOOL ZONE HOURS**

**Whereas** the Provincial Government is responsible for the *Motor Vehicle Act* and its regulations and whereas the establishment of school and playground zones including reduced speed limits is intended to provide safety for children in the vicinity.

**And whereas** schools are frequently used by children within the community outside of regular school hours in much the same way as playgrounds.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the present applicability of school zones "between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm on a day school is regularly held" be brought into conformity with time limits for playgrounds, currently being "between dawn and dusk" but subject to extension (07:00 to 22:00 h is being recommended by the BC Association of Police Chiefs).

