

TO: BURNABY CITY COUNCIL **A**
FROM: HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR D. R. CORRIGAN
SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF THE MUNICIPALITY - DOUGLAS P. DRUMMOND

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

Introduction

Burnaby City Council, at the 'Closed' meeting held on 2004 March 22, conferred the honour of Freeman of the Municipality upon former Councillor and Mayor Douglas Patrick Drummond.

Section 158 of the Community Charter Act of B.C. grants the Council of a municipality the authority to honour a distinguished person by conferring upon that person the title of "*Freeman of the Municipality*". From time to time, past Councils have recognized the outstanding contribution individuals have made to the community and have recognized those persons by honouring them as a Freeman of the Municipality. It is the unanimous decision of Council that this is an appropriate time to once again honour an individual who has made significant contributions to the community and honour Douglas Patrick Drummond with Freeman of the Municipality.

Background

Douglas Patrick Drummond was first elected to Burnaby City Council on November 15, 1975 and over the course of the next 27 years, became one of the most popular figures in local politics as well as one of the longest serving members of Burnaby's City Council.

During his 21-year tenure as City Councillor he was consistently one of the top vote getters at each election and the broad-based support he earned also won him two terms in office as Mayor of Burnaby. Doug spent his six years as Mayor continuing to promote and advance the work that he began as a member of Council; protecting the environment, increasing community involvement and park space, and creating sound financial programs to make Burnaby one of the most fiscally secure municipalities in the Province.

In 1975 Doug ran for City Council on a platform of improving the City's air quality, and he never strayed far from his dedication to the environment and to protecting and enhancing Burnaby's parks and waterways. Throughout the almost three decades of service he gave to the City, Doug sat first on the Pollution Committee and later on the Environment and Waste Management Committee for a total of eighteen years – ten of which he spent as Chair. Some of the most significant contributions he made with regards to environmental issues are as follows:

- in the 1980s he successfully lobbied the GVRD to install the world's most advanced 'scrubbing' systems in the Big Bend garbage incinerator in order to lessen the impact of emissions into the atmosphere;
- while serving as a director of the GVRD he was seen as a driving force behind the establishment of the regional air quality committee and the development of the nation's first air quality management plan;
- among the achievements for which he claimed to have to most pride was the work he did to ensure that the City would enjoy increased waterfront park space in the form of the Barnet Marine and Fraser Foreshore Parks;
- his commitment to create productive research partnerships between the City and Simon Fraser University was recognized in November 2002 as the University created an endowment fund named in his honour; and
- in July 2003 Doug was presented with an honorary doctorate from the B. C. Institute of Technology in recognition of his environmental and business initiatives.

The business acumen that helped Doug earn his honorary doctorate can also be seen in his many contributions to financial planning in the City of Burnaby. Some of the most significant include:

- proposing the idea to create the Burnaby Financial Advisory Committee in 1983. As a member, and later Chair of this committee, he went on to support and help develop the sound financial policies that led Burnaby to become one of only three debt-free Municipalities in the Province;
- during his tenure as Mayor, Burnaby eliminated all external debt-loads and saw the reserve funds grow from \$185 million to over \$300 million. These impressive economic feats have been in large part credited to Doug's foresight in encouraging and developing the numerous business parks initiatives which attracted \$1.6 billion in construction and investment between 1996 and 2002;
- as a direct result of Doug's work in long-term financial planning strategies, Burnaby became a haven for the high-tech, film, and bio-tech industries and by the time he left office in 2002, fully one-quarter of all the nation's bio-tech companies were based in Burnaby.

Apart from the work Doug has done in the areas of environmental and fiscal planning, there are also numerous other successful projects and campaigns that he led during his years of service to the community that should be noted. For example:

- one of the last major battles that he fought as Mayor was to lead the campaign against the Province's plans to reduce services and beds at Burnaby Hospital. Mayor Drummond appointed the Burnaby Hospital Service Committee – on which he included both local business and community leaders – to develop a strategy to encourage the Fraser Health Authority to maintain the current level of service at the Hospital. This committee, under his chairmanship, was successful and the government did not follow through with their initial plans;
- Doug was also considered to be “*instrumental*” in the planning and development of the Citizens Plaza at City Hall – a project meant to inspire wide-ranging community involvement and commemorate the connection between the City and its citizens.

Although resigning from public life in 2002, Doug was honoured for his public service record in February 2003, when he was chosen to be one of only 112 people to receive the Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This honour was bestowed upon him for his leadership service to the community and was presented at a ceremony at Government House in Victoria, presided over by Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo and Premier Gordon Campbell.

During his tenure as a member of Council, Doug served on the following Council Committees:

Advisory Planning Committee, Member 1979

**Bicycle Advisory Committee, Chair 1993 – 1996; 1999
Vice Chair 2000 – 2002**

Burnaby Hospital Services Committee, Chair 2002

Community Heritage Commission, Vice Chair 1995 – 1996

Council Procedure Committee, Chair 1989

Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee, Chair 1994 – 1996

Electronic Information Systems Review Committee, Member 1989

**Environment and Waste Management Committee, Member 1988 – 1992
Chair 1994 – 1996**

Executive Committee of Council, Chair 1990 – 1993

Exempt Staff Committee of Council, Member 1988 – 1989

Finance Advisory Committee, Member 1983 – 1987
Chair 1988 – 1989

Fire Services Committee, Member 1982 – 1985

Grants and Publicity Committee, Chair 1982

Hastings Street Advisory Committee, Member 1989

Heritage Advisory Study Committee, Chair 1985 – 1987

Heritage Advisory Committee, Chair 1988 – 1992
Vice Chair 1993 – 1994

Housing Committee, Member 1979 – 1987

Parks and Recreation Commission, Member 1981

Pollution Committee, Chair 1977 – 1978; 1980; 1984 - 1987
Member 1981 – 1983

Refineries Fire/Security Committee, Member 1978 – 1981

Simon Fraser Liaison Committee, Member 1997 – 1998

Sign Bylaw Review Committee, Member 1977

Traffic Safety Committee, Member 1976 – 1978
Chair 1979

Transit Committee, Member 1976 – 1977

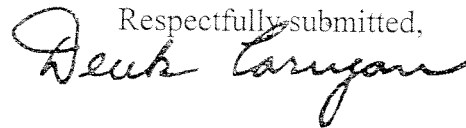
Transportation Committee, Member 1981; 1989

In the fall of 2002 Doug Drummond retired from civic politics after 27 consecutive years of service to his community.

Conclusion

Doug Drummond's vision for the City of Burnaby has created a lasting legacy of environmental awareness, park and green space, trail systems, business development and financial health that will benefit its citizens for many years to come.

It is a privilege to honour Douglas Patrick Drummond as this City's 16th Freeman of the Municipality.

Respectfully submitted,


Derek R. Corrigan,
Mayor

