

CITY OF BURNABY

FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**RE: RCMP DOG KENNELS
BURNABY RCMP DETACHMENT**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council authorize staff to pursue the siting and construction of a dog kennel facility at the Burnaby RCMP detachment as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** Council amend the Kennel Bylaw 1960 as outlined in Section 4.0 of this report.
3. **THAT** Council bring down a Capital Reserves Expenditure Bylaw in the amount of \$50,000 to fund the design and construction of this project.

R E P O R T

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2005 February 07, received and adopted the *attached* report outlining a recommended approach for the siting and construction of a permanent dog kennel facility at the Burnaby RCMP detachment.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Derek R. Corrigan
Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor Nick Volkow
Member

COPY: CITY MANAGER CITY SOLICITOR DIR. ENGINEERING DIR. PLNG. & BLDG. DIR. FINANCE ASST. CHIEF BLDG. INSP. CHIEF LICENCE INSP. O.I.C., RCMP
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TO: CHAIR & MEMBERS
FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2005 January 19

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**SUBJECT: RCMP DOG KENNELS
BURNABY RCMP DETACHMENT**

PURPOSE: To outline a recommended approach for the siting and construction of a permanent dog kennel facility at the Burnaby RCMP detachment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council authorize staff to pursue the siting and construction of a dog kennel facility at the Burnaby RCMP detachment as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council amend the Kennel Bylaw 1960 as outlined in Section 4.0 of this report.
3. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council bring down a Capital Reserves Expenditure Bylaw in the amount of \$50,000 to fund the design and construction of this project.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The RCMP Police Dog Service (PDS) consists of a National Training Centre and approximately 120 operational dog teams positioned throughout Canada, including the Burnaby detachment. Dog teams are consistently credited for apprehending criminals, locating caches of weapons, stolen property and illicit drugs, responding to bomb threats, and locating lost children. The success of the PDS would not be possible without the RCMP's Puppy Imprinting Program, which is a training program for puppies to become competent and effective adult working police dogs. The training program is lengthy, complex and arduous, and not all dogs-in-training necessarily "graduate". Proper training is expensive and working dogs are highly valued. The Burnaby detachment is extremely proactive in this imprinting program and has produced several high calibre working dogs.

It has been concluded that the operational necessity and effectiveness of the PDS dictates that the Burnaby detachment will continue to house a permanent canine unit irrespective of any movement towards integrating services. The detachment has also indicated it will continue to actively seek additional PDS positions due to increasing work demands.

2.0 PROPOSED DOG KENNELS

The Burnaby RCMP has identified a need to construct a permanent dog kennel facility at the detachment complex to support their puppy imprinting and the Police Dog Service programs. The kennels would enhance the quality of life of puppies-in-training and operational dogs and result in operational, environmental, and economic benefits.

- 1) **Puppies-in-training.** Burnaby detachment members raising force-owned puppies currently leave the animals in their private vehicles while on shift and during down time in training scenarios. The private vehicles are kept in the underground parking lot. Due to the need to park unmarked police vehicles underground, the personal vehicles must be relocated to a surface parking area. However, this would compromise the security of these expensive animals. Additionally, keeping the puppies in the underground parkade compromises their health and comfort.
- 2) **Operational dogs.** When dog handlers are conducting administrative duties at the detachment, the working dogs are usually kept in their police vehicles in the underground parkade, sometimes for extended periods. This not only is detrimental to the dogs' health and well-being, but also wastes fuel when vehicles must be left running with the air conditioning units on to keep the dogs cool during summer months. Additionally, when Burnaby dog handlers require service to their police vehicle, they must wait with their dog at the service center while the vehicle is being serviced, preventing them from returning to the detachment and conducting their administrative duties. Finally, when dog masters are conducting court duties in Vancouver, where secure parking is not available, working dogs must be left at home. When court duties are completed, the handler must retrieve the dog from home and then return to work in Burnaby. This is inefficient use of time, staff resources, and fuel.

The RCMP have indicated that the animals need to be kenneled for up to 24 hours, depending on the schedules of the members responsible for the puppies-in-training and the Police Dog Service members. On days when these members are not working, the kennels will not be used at all.

It is noted that the use of kennels would not be unique to the Burnaby detachment. Both the Surrey RCMP Detachment and the Vancouver Police Service have outdoor kennels for many of the reasons discussed above.

3.0 RECOMMENDED SITE

The dog kennels have been indicated as a permanent programming need. While the kennels could be located inside the RCMP building or outside in a service area (i.e. parking lot), the RCMP has emphasized that outdoor kennels are required for the health and safety of the dogs, thereby precluding indoor kennels as a viable option. However, finding a suitable location for the kennels outside in a service area has also been problematic as the rear parking lot is mainly occupied by police vehicles and storage trailers.

The RCMP and the Planning Department have reviewed alternative sites and have identified the north side of the RCMP building as a feasible outdoor location for the kennel facility at (see attached Sketch #1 and Photos 1 & 2). This location was initially proposed by the RCMP because:

- It is considered the most secure location on site for the animals;
- Trees abutting the site will provide some shade for the animals;
- It is not located near any residences, thereby precluding any noise complaints (i.e. barking);
- Dog squad members will be able to keep an eye on the dogs during their shifts and have easy access to animals through the emergency exit;
- There is nearby access to a water tap for cleaning.

The Building Department has located a sanitary manhole and a 6" sanitary sewer line approximately 80' northwest of the proposed kennel, either of which would be connected to the kennels by means of a gravity feed in order to deal with disposal of the wash down of the dog wastes. Cost estimates for the new line and connection range from \$3,500 to \$4,000. The Planning Department's main concern regarding this site relates to the kennels' siting in a front yard area of a civic building. However, through proper urban design, the shed-like kennels can be mostly screened by a new wall feature and by existing landscaping.

4.0 DESIGN CRITERIA

Since the more viable location for the kennels is in a front-yard area of a civic building with a strong, high-quality, terraced, brick and concrete, contemporary architectural appearance, a low-key kennel structure made of good-quality building materials compatible with the existing building architecture will be pursued. It has been determined that four kennels (rather than three) should be built to accommodate future growth of the Police Dog Service, and that general design criteria should be as follows:

- Each kennel should be a minimum of 5 ft. wide, 8 ft. deep, and 7 to 8 ft. high at the roof's peak.

- The kennels should have access to a fresh water supply, a drain and connection to a sanitary sewer line to ensure cleanliness and in keeping with the Watercourse Bylaw.
- Solid roofing material should be used to ensure weather protection for the animals.
- Building material for the sides of the kennels should allow for adequate circulation of air.
- Flooring should be constructed of solid, heated concrete slabs to allow ease of cleaning and not permit any direct drainage into the ground, and to ensure comfort of the animals during cold weather.
- Patio stone walkways should be constructed from the adjacent emergency doors to each kennel.
- Existing landscaping should be augmented to more fully conceal the kennels.
- The kennels should be well lit and properly secured.

This project would be led by the City's Project Manager, reporting to the Major Civic Buildings Project Coordinating Committee.

5.0 PROPOSED KENNEL BYLAW AMENDMENT

It is noted that the Kennel Bylaw 1960 does not currently allow for the siting of dog kennels on parcels of land that do not contain a single-family dwelling, and that it may not be feasible to meet some of the general regulations specified in the Bylaw (e.g. ceiling height, provision of open air run and hot water supply) due to site constraints. However, since these kennels are an outdoor and accessory use, and given the Police Dog Service is a necessary and effective component of the Burnaby RCMP, it is recommended that Section 8 of the Kennel Bylaw be amended to exempt the RCMP kennels from the provisions of the Bylaw, similar to the exemption already in place for the City Dog Pound as follows:

The provisions of this bylaw shall not apply to the Dog Pound operated by The Corporation of the City of Burnaby or to the kennels operated by the Burnaby Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachment.

6.0 FINANCING

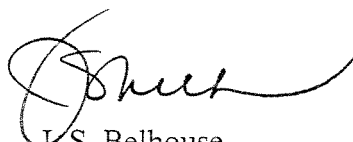
The Building Department has estimated design and construction costs of this project to be approximately \$50,000. This amount is provided specifically for new dog kennels in the Police section of the 2005 - 2009 Provisional Capital Program.

7.0 CONCLUSION

This report has provided a brief overview of the need for a permanent kennel facility at the Burnaby RCMP detachment complex for the puppy imprinting and the Police Dog Service

programs. Based on a review of possible locations for siting the kennels, the north side of the RCMP building is preferred as it is economically and functionally feasible.

It is recommended that the Finance and Civic Development Committee request Council to authorize staff to pursue the siting and construction of a dog kennel facility at the RCMP detachment complex in line with this report.



J. S. Belhouse
Director Planning and Building

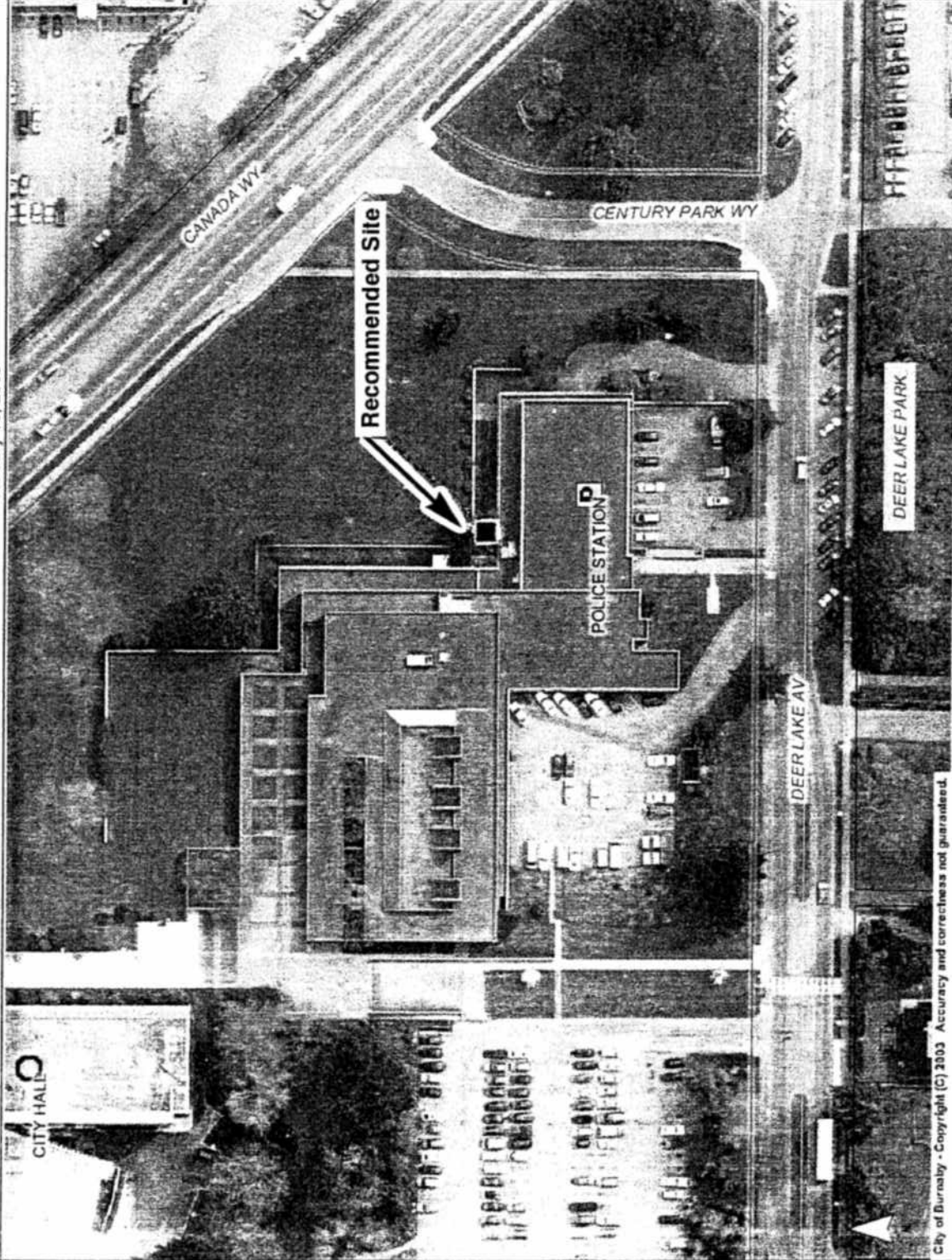
KH:gk
Attach

- cc: City Manager
- City Solicitor
- Assistant Chief Building Inspector, Project Management
- Chief Licence Inspector
- Director Engineering
- Director Finance
- Office-In-Charge, RCMP

RCMP Dog Kennels FCDC report_v2.wpd

Proposed RCMP Dog Kennels

January 13, 2005



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| Selected Features | Roads |
| Places | Local |
| Garage | Collector |
| Police | Arterial |
| Fer | Freeway |
| Library | Colour 2002 |
| Cemetery | Parks |
| School | PARKLAND TO BE ACQUIRED |
| Civic | Other |
| Library | Boundary |
| Hospital | |
| Mail | |
| Parks and Rec | |
| Addresses | |
| Lot | |
| Street Intersection | |
| Traffic Signal | |
| Speed Humps | |
| Speed Humps | |

Recommended Site: North Side of RCMP Building

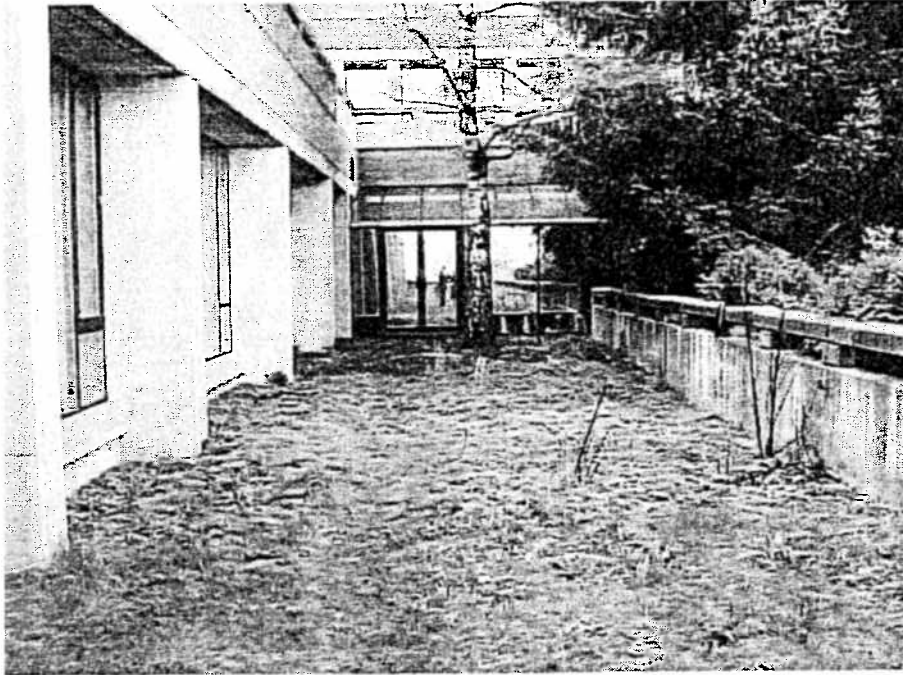


Photo 1: West Facing

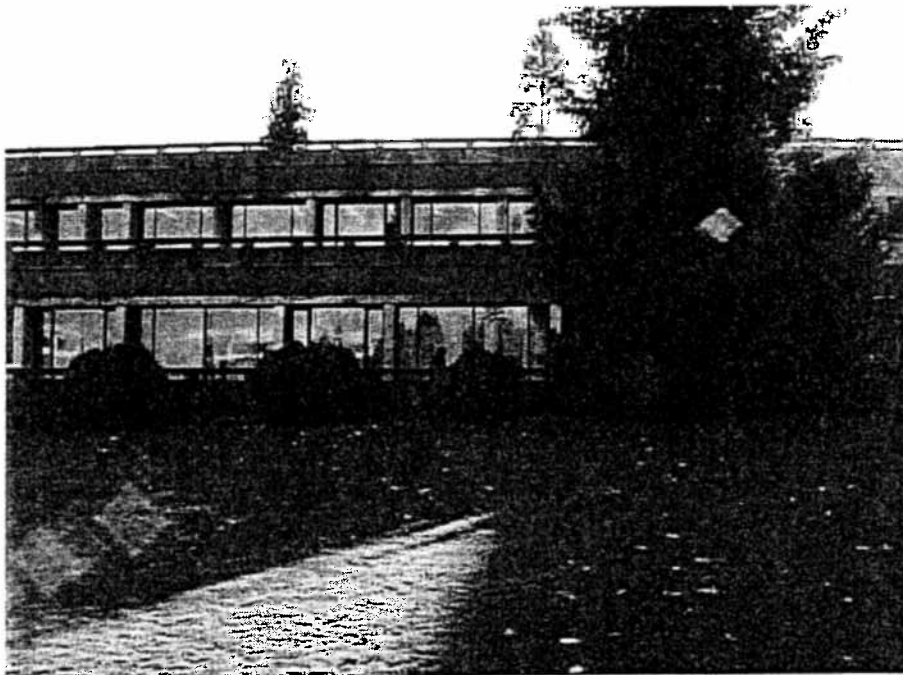


Photo 2: South Facing