

CITY OF BURNABY

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**RE: COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING SYSTEM**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

R E P O R T

The Social Issues Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2005 June 22 , received and adopted the *attached* report advising that the Community Asset Mapping System is now available on the City's web site. This interactive system lets users geographically link community information with demographic data from the 2001 Census. The maps generated through the system provide insight into the opportunities and challenges for planning, resource allocation and service provision in the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor L. Rankin  
Vice Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Member

COPY – CITY MANAGER DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULTURAL SERV. CHF INFO.OFFICER, INFO. SERVICES
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2005 June 14

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 17000-30

**SUBJECT:** **COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING SYSTEM**

**PURPOSE:** To inform the Committee and Council that the Community Asset Mapping System is now available on the City's web site.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 2003 April 7, Council approved the recommendations from the Finance and Civic Development Committee which authorized staff to pursue development of a Community Asset Mapping (CAM) system for Burnaby. Community asset mapping is a process to identify the community's assets and resources (e.g., community programs, services and facilities), as well as its gaps, to improve understanding of the current state of the community. Development of Burnaby's CAM system involved a significant inter-departmental team effort, as well as assistance from external departments and agencies. The system is now available online through the City of Burnaby's web site at <http://webmap.city.burnaby.bc.ca/publicmap/viewer.htm>.

The interactive system lets users geographically link community information with demographic data from the 2001 Census. Based on their particular needs or interests, users can overlay different layers of information, readily identifying the relative distribution of various types of services throughout the city.

This report provides a status update of the CAM system and identifies the next steps for further system refinement and publicity.

## 2.0 STATUS UPDATE

The CAM system has been developed as a resource for City departments, outside agencies and the community at large. As of 2005 June 2, the system has been live on the City's web site. Users can now access the system to inform their planning, programming and resource allocation decisions.

In developing the CAM system, staff identified 20 distinct CAM districts for the city, which also coincide with the 20 geographic units used for the UBC Human Early Learning Partnership Project. Each CAM district is composed of a number of Dissemination Areas (DA), the smallest standard geographic area for which Census information is disseminated (see Map 1, *attached*).

The Census layers available on the web site, shown at both the DA and CAM district levels, include the following:

- total population
- age distribution
- family structure
- population, aged 20 and over, with post secondary education
- population, aged 20 and over, without high school graduation
- population with English as a home language
- population with low income
- renters spending 30% or more of total income on rent
- population, aged 15 and over, unemployed during the week before Census Day 2001.

Community layers on the web site include the following:

- licensed child care facilities
- City operated facilities
- educational institutions
- Federal and Provincial Government and Fraser Health Authority Services
- non-market housing and care facilities
- community services
- religious institutions
- services for people with disabilities
- other non-profit organizations
- venues (i.e., community facilities available for rent)
- services for seniors.

The system's interactive format lets users choose which Census and community layers they would like to combine according to their particular needs or interests (e.g., a service provider interested in offering ESL conversation classes could combine the layer showing English as a home language with the community layer showing community services).

### 3.0 NEXT STEPS

Staff intend to continue to enhance and publicize the system through the following measures:

#### *Adding More Layers*

Now that the method has been developed to spatially display Census information, more Census variables can be added to the list of population characteristics available on BurnabyMap. Additional Census information (e.g., income, languages, housing,) can also be added to the Census profile that is available for each CAM district. In addition, staff will work toward further refining the display and classification of the layers of community data. Additions to the system will be made incrementally as time and resources permit

#### *Publicizing the System*

To publicize the system, staff will include an article on the system in an upcoming edition of InfoBurnaby, post a notice about the system under the “What’s New” section of the City’s web site and provide links to the system from various pages on the City’s web site. We will also offer hands-on training sessions to City staff and personnel from community agencies. In addition, we will produce a document which describes the system and highlights key findings about service provision in the city. It is anticipated that as more people become familiar with the system, further suggestions will be received on ways to improve the system.

#### *Maintaining the System*

The development of the CAM system is the result of an inter-departmental team effort. Now that the system is available on the internet, the inter-departmental team will work toward further defining the procedures for maintaining and updating the system. City staff will also work with the Burnaby Information and Community Services Society (BICSS) to update the community information. BICSS updates its Directory of Services for Burnaby/New Westminster once every 18 months. On receipt of the updates from BICSS, City staff will incorporate the information into the CAM system. We will also make updates on an as-needed basis (e.g., the Fraser Health Authority revises its list of licensed child care centres every six months; these revisions will be incorporated into the CAM system). Census data will be updated with each new Census (i.e., every five years).

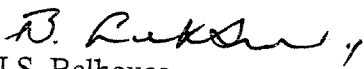
### 4.0 CONCLUSION

The development of the GIS based CAM system is a first of its kind in the Lower Mainland. It is the result of a significant team effort involving staff from the Planning, Engineering (GIS) and Information Services Departments. The system, which now is

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From: Director Planning and Building  
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available on the City's web site, provides a dynamic and interactive planning resource for City staff, outside agencies and the community at large. The maps generated through the system provide insight into the opportunities and challenges for planning, resource allocation and service provision in the city. To ensure its continued relevance and utility, the information contained in the system will be updated and enhanced over time.

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

  
for J.S. Belhouse  
DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa

Attachment

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Engineering  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Chief Information Officer, Information Services

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