



# City of Surrey

## *Council-in-Committee*

### *Minutes*

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008**  
Time: 5:20 p.m.

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#### **Present:**

Councillor Villeneuve - Chair  
Mayor Watts  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Gill  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Hepner  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Higginbotham

#### **Absent:**

#### **Staff Present:**

City Manager  
City Clerk  
Deputy City Manager  
General Manager, Planning & Development  
City Solicitor  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance & Technology  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
General Manager, Human Resources

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## **A. DELEGATIONS**

### **1. Bill and Dianne Mitchell** File: 8200-30; 0550-20-10

Bill and Dianne Mitchell and Sandy Rise, were in attendance to express their concerns with respect to the Gurta-Gaddi Parade (Nagar Kirtan Parade) held on September 13, 2008 and the impact the parade had on their neighbourhood. A photo, taken from the neighbouring property of the delegation, provided a clear depiction of the extremely large number of attendees. Comments were as follows:

- The location for a parade as large as this, with attendance of approximately 40,000, is inappropriate for many reasons:
  - Adequate notice and/or consultation was not provided to the residential neighbourhood. One week notice is certainly not sufficient and would have created chaos and stress for anyone who had been planning a celebration such as a family reunion, a child's birthday party, a wedding or an anniversary at their home, along the parade route, on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - The parade forced road closures of 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 148<sup>th</sup> Street and 152<sup>nd</sup> Street. Road closures for the parade created a situation where many residents were unable to either leave or return to their home (examples were given). Cars were attempting to leave once the floats had passed, which was dangerous considering the number of pedestrians and excited children running everywhere.
  - Although the neighbourhood were assured that professional cleaners had been hired to clean up along the parade route after the event, residents continued to clean up garbage in the area for days following.
  - Sanitary facilities (a total of six) were extremely inadequate for the number of attendees to the parade and residents were asked a number of times if they would allow their bathroom to be used.

- There was a lack of respect demonstrated towards the gardens and lawns of private properties of those who live along the parade route.
- Safety was jeopardized as emergency vehicles would have been unable to access any of the homes within the area of the parade. Furthermore, many of the homes along the route were providing food for participants by cooking in their garages with propane fueled deep fat cooking vessels. Not only is this dangerous and a fire hazard, but there is also a health concern with regard to meeting food safety standards.

In response to Council questions, the following comments were made:

- There were notices in the local paper and there were flyers that were distributed through the event organizers. In future, the distribution of flyers will be handled differently with the City retaining control over the distribution of notices to the local neighbourhoods. Notice will happen more in advance, with an even greater advance notice for parades.
- The streets were blocked at 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- An application, which anticipated 7,000 to 10,000 people attending the parade, did go through the Fest Committee and received a complete review by various departments prior to the event.
- Upwards of 30 RCMP officers were on site to manage the parade.
- There was a debriefing after the event addressing the issues that have been brought forward by the delegation. Should an event like this come forward again as a request (recognizing this was a specific 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary) there will be a number of measures to look at changing to manage an event of this nature, including the location.
- Part of the Fest Committee's role is to mitigate and manage events that become more popular than originally planned. The Committee works closely with RCMP and often provides staff beyond what might be the original estimate of individuals coming to an event.
- In a parade setting it is very difficult to anticipate and/or control the number of individuals that attend an event. These are events that are not ticketed and not controlled with an entry/exit point, which is a challenge.
- Concern was noted regarding a future application for a Vaisakhi Parade along the same route.
- Utilizing some of Surrey's major parks instead of going through neighbourhoods should be considered for events such as this.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation and for pursuing this issue, noting that a Staff report will be provided to Council in due course, of which the delegation will be copied.

## **B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

**D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

**E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Councillor Villeneuve, Chairperson