



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2001
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor McCallum
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Bose
Councillor Watts
Councillor Higginbotham

Members of Council entering as indicated:

Councillor Steele

Absent:

Councillor Eddington
Councillor Hunt

Staff Present:

City Manager
Acting City Clerk
K. Swaele, Administrative Assistant

A. DELEGATIONS

1. **Linda Tylor** File: 0065-012

Linda Tylor was in attendance to voice concerns regarding the deteriorating problems of their neighbourhood with respect to child safety, the ever-increasing problems of drugs and prostitution coupled with the escalation of very undesirable people in the area.

Linda Tylor 8078 King George Highway, briefly commented on the order of speakers, and topics they would discuss.

Parm Grewal, stated he would give a historical perspective of the problem, and noted:

- That in September 1997 a group was formed called the Whalley Residents & Merchants Association to create a positive element for Whalley.
- That they met with politicians, RCMP, and Surrey staff to look at ways to deal with the problems.
- That members of the community participated by reporting drug use and prostitution.
- That the Whalley Residents & Merchants Association was dissolved and they have now established the Whalley Business Improvement Association.
- That the keep Whalley Clean and Safe initiative has helped move drug users and prostitutes out of the City Centre.
- That the problem has been pushed from Whalley to Cedar Hills, and also to Green Timbers and Fleetwood.
- That there have been a number of marches and protests by residents.
- That marches and protests push the problem further down King George Highway.
- That they do not want prostitution to spread down King George Highway to Crescent Beach.
- That they realize that drug addicts are also victims and need help.

Karen DiSilva, 9011 Sky Place, thanked Council for taking the time to listen to residents concerns, and stated she was speaking as a parent of the community. Ms. DiSilva commented:

- That she has noticed a continual deterioration in the community.
- That there are prostitutes who stop with their customers at her fence every day.
- That there are drug dealers working at the back of the school.
- That one house in the area was rented out to a man and a group of prostitutes.
- That there was an attempted child abduction in the area.
- That any females walking in the area are automatically assumed to be prostitutes.
- That there is a home across from the school that prostitutes and their customers are going in and out, which is unsafe and dangerous for the children living in the area.
- That she understands that the girls working the street are victims and require help.
- That she hopes Council can affect a resolution which will solve the problem.

Howard Martin 9034 Sky Place, was present to discuss the issue of drugs and prostitution in the area, and stated:

- That his son was the victim of an attempted abduction, in front of a house where there is prostitution and drug use.
- That if these houses are allowed to stay there will be a further deterioration of the City of Surrey.
- That he hopes Council will immediately act to resolve the problem.

Robert Chin, was present to discuss the issue of drugs and prostitution in the area, and stated:

- That he operates a gas station at 8014 King George Highway.
- That the prostitutes, drug addicts and pushers come into his business on a daily basis.
- That they had to demolish an adjacent building to discourage them from using it.
- That his employees have been robbed several times by prostitutes and drug addicts.
- That he hopes Council can do something to solve the problem.

Linda Tylor, 8078 King George Highway read a letter from Mrs. G.M. Davison, a long-time resident who moved out of the area because of the prostitution and drug problems.

Rod Cairns, 9021 – 135A Street read a poem relating to the problem of prostitution and drugs in the area.

Linda Tylor, 8078 King George Highway, displayed condoms and needles, which are what residents see when they go for a walk, and stated:

- That residents moved to Surrey to be part of a vibrant city of parks and a safe place to raise children.
- That they expect their right to safety to be respected by Council.

Stephanie DeRapp, 9075 – 135A Street, was present to discuss the issue of drugs and prostitution in the area, and stated:

- That the community is aligned with the mission and goals of City Council, which are for a safe and clean city.
- That residents have taken what steps they can to reclaim their neighbourhood.
- That they pick up condoms and needles to protect their children.
- That their children are prisoners in their home because of the people who walk by with injectables.
- That she appreciates the efforts Council has made so far.
- That Council must give the same consideration to their area as was given to other areas with the same problems.
- That they recognize the Public Safety Committee and some of the initiatives, but these are not enough.
- That the prostitutes are moved out, but they come back.
- That City streets should not be littered with condoms and bloody needles, which gives the message that residents do not care.
- That programs such as Adopt-a-Street do not work in their neighbourhood.
- That a 15-year old girl who went to buy pop, was followed by a vehicle which waited for her to come out of the store.
- That the girl was upset and had to be helped home by other residents.
- That they would like the City of Surrey to institute an aggressive campaign against men who utilize prostitutes.
- That these men are preying on drug-addicted women.
- That they would like dedicated City staff time to work with the By-law Department to reclaim neighbourhoods one street at a time.
- That they are looking to Council to create by-laws that deal with infractions in a severe fashion.
- That they are asking Council to meet with neighbourhood organizers, and to have increased policing around hot spots.
- That there are many people who cannot walk to a bus stop, because prostitutes will tell them to get off their turf.
- That they want Council to take quick action and whatever steps are necessary to actively enforce bylaws.
- That they would like Council to institute a bubble zone.

- That the ideas they are bringing forward are short term strategies.
- That they would like Council to work with Provincial MLA's and Federal MP's to lobby for necessary money and services, for more long term solutions.

Council held a discussion with the residents to look at ways in which the problems could be dealt with.

The Mayor advised that within the next 10 days, a meeting would be held between a small group of community representatives and the RCMP, Fire Department, By-Law Department, the City Manager, and Council representatives, to look at solutions to the problems.

Acting Mayor Higginbotham thanked the residents for taking the time to speak with Council and advised that within 3 to 4 weeks staff would present a report, which would look at residents' concerns, and hopefully provide ways in which to handle the problems.

B. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Tymoschuk
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Chairperson