



# City of Surrey

## *Council-in-Committee*

### *Minutes*

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2003  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

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#### **Present:**

Chair: Councillor Priddy  
Mayor McCallum  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Councillor Tymoschuk  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Watts  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Higginbotham

#### **Absent:**

#### **Staff Present:**

City Manager  
Acting City Clerk  
General Manager, Planning & Development  
City Solicitor  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

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## **A. DELEGATIONS**

### **1. Al Madryga LMS 3267 Strata Residents Committee Silver Pond Estates #20, 3387 King George Highway File: 5460-01; 0550-20-10**

Al Madryga, LMS 3267 Strata Residents Committee, Silver Pond Estates was in attendance to review the placement of a "traffic channelization" obstruction located at their driveway leading to their townhouse complex.

Mr. Madryga introduced fellow resident, Richard Wood, who then provided the following comments:

- That the residents of Silver Pond Estate request the review of the placement of a traffic channelization obstruction located at the driveway leading to their townhouse complex.
- That this obstruction currently represents a safety hazard.
- That there was no need for channelized entrance and exit to the property, no significant traffic hazard in the past.
- That there were a number of residents from Silver Pond who opposed the traffic channelization.
- That there should have been more direct contact to ascertain the true opinions of the residents and would-be residents of Silver Pond Estates.

Mr. Madryga then offered the following comments:

- That he has to turn into the entrance of the Timberland Hotel from King George Highway, wait for traffic to clear, before he can cross the road into his complex.
- That he did not know how much longer Timberland Hotel would allow the residents to do this.

- That a legal left-turn access lane at the intersection for traffic coming from the north would enhance the safety concerns.

2. **Renee Kennedy, R.N. & Wendy Billingsly, R.N.**  
**Registered Nurses of the South Fraser Valley Region**  
File: 0460-30; 0550-20-10

Renee Kennedy, R.N. & Wendy Billingsly, R.N., Co-Chairs, Registered Nurses of the South Fraser Valley Region, were in attendance to discuss the document proposing major health cuts to their area.

Ms. Billingsley was in attendance and provided the following comments;

- That the Registered Nurses of the South Fraser Valley Region have concerns with respect to the proposed health cuts by the Fraser Health Authority.
- That they request Mayor and Council meet with the Fraser Health Authority to voice collective concerns and provide a written report.
- That the RNSFVR requests Council form a Health Care Committee to address these concerns.
- That the RNSFVR advocates daily on behalf of patients living in Surrey, Delta, Langley, and White Rock.
- That there is a potential loss of 76 acute care beds from a total of 401 presently in Surrey.
- That the system is not working and cannot accommodate the acute care patients now with what is available.
- That Peace Arch Hospital will lose 75 to 100 acute care beds, Delta will lose all acute care beds, and Langley will lose 75 to 120 beds of 150 acute care beds.
- That these acute care patients would have to attend Surrey Memorial Hospital, which is not equipped to take the extra patients and would suffer a tremendous impact.
- That the Surrey Memorial Pediatric Ward would not be able to accommodate children from Langley, White Rock and Delta, meaning that children would not be able to be looked after in their own community.
- That downsizing at Peace Arch Hospital Maternity Ward would mean an increase in the use of birthing units at Surrey Memorial Hospital.
- That the minutes of an FHA Board of Directors' meeting in June 2002 stated that the financial picture had to be brought under control, and until this happens, it would be difficult to focus on quality patient care.
- That contracting out security, housekeeping and health inspections is a recipe for disaster.
- That closing extended care facilities, reducing the Meals-on-Wheels program, and reducing staff that cares for seniors is immoral.
- That at the last FHA Board meeting of March 4, 2003, Mr. Bob Smith confirmed that the FHA would close 875 acute care beds in the whole of the Fraser Health Authority area and that of those, 265 to 335 beds would be from the South Fraser Valley area.

- That on any given day, there are currently 25 to 75 admitted acute care patients waiting for beds.
- That the Fraser Health Authority has only had two open board meetings since its inception.
- That despite ten communication people on staff, information on changes and respectful dialogue with health care professionals is not happening.
- That Surrey is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada and with the influx of acute care patients from neighbouring municipalities, Surrey will not be prepared.
- That there is a dire need for increased acute care facilities to address epidemics such as the Norwalk and West Nile viruses.
- That Surrey has the only hospital in the South Fraser region that has ample room and the negative pressure room capabilities, which would see an increase in patients.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by Councillor Hunt  
That the information submitted by

Ms. Billingsly be received.

Carried

**3. Chris Bostwick,  
BC Government and Service Employees' Union**  
File: 2710-01; 0550-20-10

Chris Bostwick, BC Government and Service Employees' Union was in attendance to present issues around the privatization of BC Liquor stores.

Mr. Bostwick provided the following comments:

- That the provincial government is introducing significant changes in liquor licensing policies including hours of operation, licensing types, and new licensees that have planning, zoning and regulatory implications for municipalities.
- That the government has also announced plans to close all government liquor stores and distribution centres and turn over all beverage alcohol sales to private companies.
- That the government has committed to doing a "community analysis" before government liquor stores are closed and that there is no provision for community consultation.
- That the government has not disclosed what factors are considered in these community analyses. The Liquor Distribution Branch has refused to release the analyses, saying they are confidential advice to the minister.
- That similar changes in alcohol policies in Alberta led to a dramatic proliferation of liquor stores which can change the nature of communities forever.

- That Calgary police reported in January 2003 that despite education programs, the city's drinking and drive rates continue to steadily increase while in other parts of Canada, drinking and driving rates are falling.
- That increased access to alcohol may also have an impact on policing costs for local governments.
- That the World Health Organization ranks alcohol as the third-highest killer, more deadly than tobacco.
- That some experts in addiction prevention and treatment are concerned that approval of hundreds of new liquor stores will send a dangerous message that the government does not consider alcohol to be a problem.
- That there are more than 500 applications for new private liquor stores being considered and that close to 100 rural agency stores have already been approved.
- That consumers may not benefit from privatization of all alcohol sales; studies indicate Alberta's changes have led to higher prices, more stores with smaller selection of products, marginalized workers, a host of social problems, and decreasing government revenues.
- That the B.C. Liquor Distribution (BCLDB) staff is trained, experienced and have clear directions to refuse service to people who are underage or intoxicated. With over 75 years, the BCLDB has evolved over the last 75 years to meet the need to balance consumer convenience with community values and social responsibility, has huge efficiencies of scale that keep down prices for consumers, and maximize profits returned to the government.
- That in the last five years, the BCLDB has earned a profit of \$3.1 billion, plus \$1.5 billion in sales and excise taxes, to help pay for vital public services for British Columbians.
- That there is no indication that the public is calling for a radical change in liquor policy, consumer satisfaction surveys conducted by the LDB report 90% of British Columbians feel the LDB meets or exceeds their expectations.
- That UBCM and BCGEU responses have been slow or minimal with regard to the proposed changes.
- That research indicates that government monopolies have more rigorous enforcement of regulations of minors and intoxicated individuals.
- That Surrey needs the stable employment that BCLDB provides to ensure consistent, responsible use of alcohol and prevention education.
- That the BCLDB supports Dry Grad, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Safe Ride Home, Twin Bear 24 Hour Relay for Kids, community services and many other worthwhile causes.
- That there are many studies indicating dangers of proliferating private liquor stores such as one conducted in Vancouver with respect to rice wine sales.

Marnie Hewlett then provided the following comments:

- That she is a Registered Nurse, mother of two sons, and has been a resident of Surrey for 16 years.

- That she supports the BCGEU and its concerns around privatization of liquor retail outlets.
- That drugs and alcohol go hand in hand with crime and the strains on social services, judicial, health care, and policing systems would be enormous should privatization proceed.
- That the City of Vancouver supported the BCGEU recommendations.
- That government controls keep public health goals in mind and a private model would remove those critical controls.
- That research on alcohol consumption for profit indicates a direct relationship to alcohol related injuries in motor vehicle accidents, boating accidents, and even death.
- That alcohol is a major contributor to suicide and homicides.
- That a study in New Mexico indicated a higher density of private liquor retail outlets in low-income areas.
- That these outlets target these areas and younger kids.
- That there is already a critical situation in the Fraser Health Authority with the shortages in emergency and acute care beds and there is not time to increase availability of programs dealing with alcohol-related problems in our communities.
- That the regulations in place were developed for the public good, order and health and that nothing compels private vendors to uphold these values.
- That she is in agreement with the resolution put forward by the BCGEU supporting a moratorium on privatization of retail liquor outlets without public consultation and input from health care professionals who specialize in alcohol abuse.

Mr. Dave Moles, Chair of Local 503 Retail Stores and Warehouse of BCGEU, was in attendance and commented as follows:

- That he lives near a Skytrain station and that when the bars close, there is increased noise and cars racing.
- That alcohol is attributed to 18,000 deaths in Canada per year
- That 59 other municipalities have passed the same motion raised by the BCGEU.
- That alcohol is a drug.

**4. Carmen Maretic, President,  
Compensation and Accountability to  
Soaked Homeowners (CASH) Society**  
File: 0125-20; 0550-20-10

Carmen Maretic, President, Compensation and Accountability to Soaked Homeowners (CASH) Society was in attendance to discuss defective construction such as leaky condos and working towards solutions to deal with root causes and building better accountability in housing.

Ms. Maretic was in attendance and provided the following comments:

- That the B.C. Real Estate Association (BCREA) represents 12 real estate boards and approximately 12,000 realtors throughout B.C.
- BCREA provides an extensive communication network, required licensing and continuing education courses, standard forms and government relations for Realtors.
- That since 1983 many Lower Mainland condominiums have been built using defective building practices resulting in thousands of dollars in repair costs and lost value for owners, and many repairs have turned out to be faulty.
- That the Municipal Insurance Association or self insured local governments' ability to protect and serve their municipalities is weakened as liability payouts, premiums, deductibles and/or exemptions continued to increase.
- That warranty providers are lobbying the provincial government to reduce requirements under the legislated warranty programs.
- That, generally speaking, developers are still creating shell, site-specific and numbered companies.
- That in 2001, BCREA made several recommendations to the provincial government that could help alleviate further erosion of consumer confidence in the condominium market, however, the situation remains unresolved and municipalities throughout the Lower Mainland continue to evaluate options for dealing with the "leaky condo" problem.
- That the BCREA supports endeavors that identify the root problems and potential solutions to this issue which may be found in its Leaky Condo discussion paper, available on line at [www.bcrea.bc.ca](http://www.bcrea.bc.ca).
- That re-establishment of the Building Standards Branch as part of a unified Housing Ministry, financial assistance for owners, and review of construction practices are among the recommendations.
- That the Liberals promised CASH Society to create a stakeholder table to develop move forward strategies, instead the Premier appointed a taskforce (LLCC), and to date, there have been no recommendations.
- That the provincial government, despite known concerns, are not adequately responding to the severe shortage of skilled workers, are attempting to limit recovery to victims through proposed Civil Liability reforms, and not adequately protecting the housing consumer through the registration and licensing of contractors.
- That the Community Charter would allow local governments to create their own building codes and enforcement.
- That municipalities would compete to attract development while attempting to balance quality of construction.
- That CASH Society requests the City of Surrey and all B.C. municipalities to take on a leadership role through the UBCM and/or MIA to address these concerns by passing a resolution stating that the City of Surrey request the MIA and/or UBCM create a stakeholder table with representation from all affected stakeholders to advance solutions to: defective construction; increased exposure to and unfair distribution of

compensatory damages; and protect the future health of the construction industry, local economies and building users.

**5. Elizabeth (Liz) Harris**  
**Revenue Development Coordinator**  
**Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon Division**  
File: 0250-20 (C); 0550-20-10

Elizabeth (Liz) Harris, Revenue Development Coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon Division was in attendance to make a video presentation and overview of the Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life scheduled for June, 2003.

Ms. Harris was in attendance and provided the following comments:

- That the Canadian Cancer Society is hosting the Relay for Life celebration for Survival, which is a tribute to the lives of loved ones and a night of fun, entertainment, friendship, and fundraising to beat cancer.
- That the Relay for Life event involves teams of 10 people who participate in an overnight, non-competitive relay.
- That participants take turns walking, running or strolling around a track.
- That there will be a luminary ceremony consisting of candles placed in white paper bags around the track.
- That teams consist of people representing corporations, communities and families.
- For more information please call 1-888-222-2240, extension 313 or visit the website at [www.bc.cancer.ca](http://www.bc.cancer.ca).

**B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

**D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

**E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Tymoschuk

Seconded by Councillor Hunt

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

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Chairperson