

Present:

Chairperson – Councillor Hepner
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Gill
Councillor Martin
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Hepner

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

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Environmental Advisory Committee**

File: 5280-23; 0550-20-10

Members of the Environmental Advisory Committee ("EAC") were in attendance before Council to make a presentation regarding the Pesticide Control By-law. Following are comments made during their presentation:

- The EAC is cognizant of the potential negative effect of pesticides to human health and its interaction in harmful ways with the environment.
- There are few pesticides that will not affect any non-target species and there are some pesticides that have an impact on a wide range of species. These effects can cause mortality, behavioral changes, reproductive problems and other issues in populations of both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. That is not to say that all pesticides when used properly have a negative health or environmental affect. It is a fact that many farmers, forestry workers and other pesticide users view those chemicals as essential to their business.
- It is the opinion of all EAC members that where pesticides and pesticide use can be eliminated it should be eliminated.
- Due to health and environmental concerns 18 municipalities in BC and approximately 150 jurisdictions across the country have enacted bylaws to ban the use of pesticides for ornamental purposes.
- Surrey is one of the last municipalities in the lower mainland without such a regulation.
- The EAC members believe that the citizen of Surrey are ready for a pesticide bylaw, a fact supported by an Ipsos Reid poll done in 2008, which indicated that 74% respondents favoured such a bylaw and a survey conducted by the Surrey Leader in response to the recent article showed that 83% were in support, as well numerous letters to the editor supported the adoption of such a bylaw.
- The matter of public and private use of pesticides has appeared on the agenda of the EAC a number of times as far back as 2004. At the October 2007 EAC

meeting a delegation from the Surrey/White Rock Pesticide Free Coalition made an extensive and detailed presentation, however no recommendations or follow ups resulted. In September 2008, Council referred the information provided by two groups which had appeared before Council, namely LEEP - Love our Environment, Eliminate Pesticides and the aforementioned Surrey/White Rock Pesticide Free Coalition to the EAC for further investigation and a report back to Council. As well, Mr. Owen Croy, Manager of Parks presented the Annual Report 2007 of the integrated pest management on City land, the committee sprang into action this time, subsequent meetings were almost entirely devoted to an examination of pesticides, pesticides use and alternatives, as well as to listen to several experts in the field. EAC meetings in February, March and April were taken up by a thorough discussion and scrutiny of 3 different versions of a draft bylaw provided by City Staff. The EAC spent a better half of 12 hours working intensely on the project.

- The EAC asked that three different versions of the bylaw be brought forward, these bylaws were drafted from other existing bylaws that were already in effect, the version ranged from very relaxed to very strict, EAC decided that they would work from the relaxed version. EAC dealt with each clause within the bylaw before excluding it from the bylaw, rather than having a very strict version and never having to debate on those topics.
- This bylaw has a number of significant inclusions, ones that the EAC thought were reasonable. First, it does not impact commercial properties, agricultural, forestry operations; it does not restrict a very long list of what are deemed safe insecticides and pesticides, such as safer soaps; it protects people's homes and dwellings (if you have an ant infestation you can buy the product to protect your home); it allows for aerosol use to allow spot application; it allows for control of noxious weeds, management of invasive and exotic pests, and manage threaten eco-systems. There was a long list of exemptions to deal with hardships that may be presented to Surrey citizens.
- The EAC eliminated what they thought to be significant loop holes, one was to allow commercial operators that had done specific training on the use of pesticides and were willing to implement an integrated pesticide program to be able to come to your house and spray pesticides. Another was substantial loss or damage, and there was no definition as to what substantial loss or damage meant, so EAC eliminated this clause.
- An article in the newspaper stated that this would be a difficult bylaw to enforce and therefore should not be in place at all, EAC disagrees with this statement. EAC believes that philosophically there are many by-law that are difficult to enforce and that is not a valid reason for not having the bylaw in place.
- EAC was impressed with how effective Parks was, they advised that they have negligible use of pesticides in Parks, and have found other methods in which they can control, such as hot water, a little bit of salt, use of flame and course manual weeding.
- EAC also found that many large communities that have stop using pesticides have not incurred large costs, such as Vancouver, Burnaby, Ottawa, Halifax, White Rock, Port Moody has not used pesticides for over 15 years.
- The EAC took this issue seriously and put themselves on a tight timeline, and were thorough when reviewing each section, and now put our proposal to

Council. EAC believes strongly in this bylaw and urge Council to approve the bylaw.

- The source of the statistics regarding the effectiveness of the bylaw can be provided to Council.

2. **Chris Friesen and Kathy Sherrell**
Immigrant Services Society of BC

File: 4815-01; 0550-20-10

Chris Friesen and Kathy Sherrell, Immigrant Services Society of BC were in attendance before Council to make a presentation regarding the report "At Home in Surrey? The Housing Experiences of Refugees in Surrey, BC". Following are comments made during their presentation:

- This study was commissioned by the City through a grant from BC Housing.
- The Immigrant Services Society of BC ("ISS") is a large multicultural services agency, among many programs that the Society provides in this province, all government assisted refugees destined to BC come through our organization, and ISS is a subcontractor of the federal government.
- There were 1 in 4 government assisted refugees settling in Surrey in 2007, now it is 1 in 3, making Surrey the number one destination for all government assisted refugees coming into BC.
- Two research questions framed this study; the first was "What are the current housing need of the refugees in Surrey?" (Note: when using the term *refugees*, it is meant as conventional refugees as opposed to refugee claimants), the second question was "How are refugees being supported by settlement services and housing services and/or programs?"
- The methodology included key informant interviews, individual interviews and focus groups. ISS targeted refugee populations from Sudan and Karen, the two predominant groups that are settling here in Surrey. It involved a total of 44 households and 250 individuals that were impacted through this study.
- Within this presentation there will be numbers referenced, the numbers refer to the individual interviews only; this is because within focused groups the same level of detail is not collected.
- When talking about housing, issues revolving around income security are intimately tied to the issue of housing. In our study ISS found high unemployment and an increase in lay off amongst the refugees studied. At the time of the interview 8 of the 24 interviewed were employed, 5 on a full-time basis and 3 on a part-time basis. In some cases people were working multiple jobs in order to make the rent and pay their bills. Recently in the period right before the interview 3 of the people spoke of having been laid off and this is certainly something that was echoed within the focus groups.
- Within all the respondents ISS noticed low employment participation and increasing layoffs. At the time of interviews social assistance and employment were the two main sources of income of those within the study. ISS sees affordability challenges within the respondents were widespread.
- At the time of the interviews 15 of the 22 who provided affordability information allocated 50% of their income to housing placing them within critical housing stress, 7 of the 22 are spending over 75% of their household income on housing every month placing them at extreme risk of absolute homelessness. Anecdotal evidence in focus groups and in individual interviews

indicated sofa staying or staying with friends and family is on the rise. These stays are from a week or two, and in some cases up to a year.

- The difficult financial situation is aggravated by the need to repay the government transportation loan. When refugees arrive in Canada they have two loans to repay and this covers cost associated with transportation, their medical costs and admission fee.
- The majority of respondents are living in overcrowded conditions indicated in both the individual interviews and the focus groups. For example, 3 of the 24 households are families of 4 and 5 living in one bedroom units, 8 of the 24 are households of 6 to 8 living in two bedroom units, and 4 of the 24 are households of 5 to 7 living in 3 bedroom units. 1 in 3 of the units that interviews were conducted had beds in the living room or the dining room.
- A majority of the families have been able to access assistance with: housing; interpreters; transportation; and this has been done through organization such as ISS, churches, family and intercultural communities.
- The barriers that people spoke of in terms of housing were: difficulties of reconciling low incomes with very high rents; the size of households as many landlords are unwilling to rent to large households and this is common for those seeking smaller units in order to offset the issue of affordability; and, there was also the lack of knowledge regarding BC Housing, how to apply to the BC rental assistance program as well as about the City of Surrey itself.
- Respondents were asked to reflect on their experience since coming to Canada and make suggestions as to what would have helped, the 3 that were identified were increased access to English language and employment based training, both at the pre-arrival in the camps, as well as within the first year of arrival; a need for Surrey based settlement counselors (with a direct link to vital information); and to have arranged housing prior to arrival.
- The recommendations being provided today will be focused only on Surrey, as there are recommendations for both the provincial and federal governments as well.
- The short-term recommendations for Council's consideration are: increased education on refugee issues from municipally funded services; encourage greater community understanding; promote the community bridging host program; letters of welcome for newcomers; post the report that ISS has provided today on the City of Surrey website and/or disseminate to key stakeholders. These are the short-term recommendations for Council's consideration.
- On the long-term: consideration for publishing a new newcomers guide (not only is the refugee population but the immigrant population is growing in the City); creating a multilingual rotating welcome sign on the website; and further that Council consider adopting a resolution to provide increased support to refugee families and support the elimination of the transportation loans.
- The refugees that were part of this study are part of a government assisted, national humanitarian program that has been going on now for 3 decades as part of Canada's commitment to the United Nation.
- ISS can provide to the City of Surrey a list of Provincial and Federal key stakeholders that Council may want to distribute a copy of the report to, as part of the advocacy piece.

- With some of the provincial funding that has been provided, ISS is trying to outreach to Surrey based agency that have been providing settlement support on an ongoing bases.
- The lengths at which people will go to repay transportation loans is extreme, in some cases 60% of the household income was dedicated to rent and people are going over and above to repay the loan, and the amount of stress that is placed on the family during those critical years is immense.
- Approximately 800 to 900 individuals arrive every year in BC, and from that number approximately 44% are 18 years of age and younger.
- ISS has been working closely with the School Board particularly in the last three years. With the consent of the refugee family ISS is providing more information on the school age children, and therefore the School Board is receiving information more quickly on which neighbourhoods and schools will be impacted.
- A majority of respondents desired larger living units due to the overcrowding of the household.
- In the last six months, all providers across the country that work with government assisted refugees have sent two letters to the Minister, one regarding the transportation loan, and one regarding the federal amount of funding. The response regarding the transportation loan was essentially that it is under review, and a cap of 10,000 dollars will be introduced. The child poverty coalition has also taken on the transportation loan issue. The amount of funding for this UN humanitarian program has remained static since 1998.
- Historically, Canada's entire immigrant integration framework is based on adult immigrants. It has been the provincial jurisdictions that have taken the lead role in settling children and youth (ie. schools); however, this is now changing.
- The provincial government is working on increasing support and resources to help children stay in school including refugee kids (ie. settlement workers in schools program.) Also, the Minister of Advance Education is reviewing investment around refugee children and trauma (ie. mobile trauma support services with a multilingual team); many children are arriving with post traumatic syndrome, which is compounding their learning ability.
- ISS will be able to provide the number of refugee children in the City of Surrey as of end of 2008; what programs are available; what programs are being developed; and another report regarding the accumulation of a one year consultation on refugee immigrant teenagers.

It was suggested that issues regarding the refugee transportation loan be reconsidered by Council to consider sending a letter to the Government of Canada.

It was noted that a speaker will be coming forward to the Social Planning Advisory Committee regarding lobbying the federal government regarding changes to the transportation loan.

It was suggested that once the information is received regarding the number of refugee children in Surrey and the availability of programs, that this issue be addressed at the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

3. **Shirley Gust, Chair**
Corporation of Delta Representative
South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee
File: 0540-01; 0550-20-10

Shirley Gust, Chair, Corporation of Delta Representative, South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (SFFCYJ) was in attendance before Council on behalf of the South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee, representing the City of Surrey, Township of Langley, The Corporation of Delta, the City of Langley, and the City of White Rock, to present the Committee's 2008 Annual Report outlining the 2008 accomplishments and the goals and objectives for 2009, and to further familiarize Council with the work of the SFFC&YJC and answer any questions Council may have. Following are comments made during their presentation:

- The SFFCYJ Chair provided a sincere apology for proposing alternative and changes to the terms of reference regarding Council members not having a vote. It was not in any way meant to be disrespectful.
- SFFCYJ rely on Council members to be liaisons, advisors, and guides throughout everything that SFFCYJ does. SFFCYJ is now operating under the original terms of reference, with the addition amendment that Council members have a vote.
- A subcommittee of SFFCYJ is reviewing the history of the SFFCYJ, with regards to the work that it has done and the terms of reference. This subcommittee will report back to SFFCYJ with recommendations to consider, and then through the minutes for further approval of the individual Councils.
- The SFFCYJ met its goals in 2008. Stories were published in 15 newspapers locally and will continue to be published with a view that the readers are very private and perhaps are afraid to seek out help and will read the stories of others who have sought help and achieve reaching the other side of the violence and developed better lives for their family. These stories also went throughout the province to every agency that works with family violence.
- SFFCYJ now has their own letterhead; this letterhead incorporates all the participating municipalities' logos or crests.
- In 2008 SFFCYJ developed a youth/police subcommittee to explore the possibility of a police sponsored youth clubs.
- Also in 2008 SFFCYJ focused on youth and families, particularly in the area of protecting children that are using drugs.
- Another item that SFFCYJ is considering is a one-stop website in which all services throughout the country can be accessed.
- Bullying of course is another main issue and SFFCYJ has developed a subcommittee to address the issues revolving around bullying.
- SFFCYJ is please to have the police forces at the table as they keep SFFCYJ informed of what is happening in every community.
- SFFCYJ is not requesting any funding this year as SFFCYJ did not spend money in the previous year and there was a large carry over.
- SFFCYJ has provided to Council the revised budget.

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 Martin
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

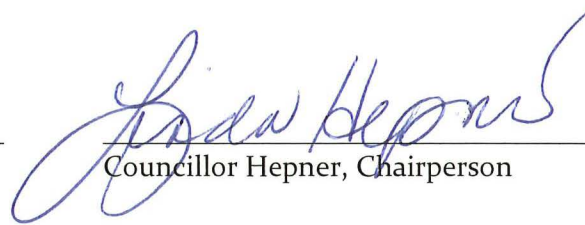
now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:42 p.m.



Jane Sowik, City Clerk



Councillor Hepner, Chairperson