
Monday, March 12, 2001

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.

Monday, March 12, 2001

Time: 5:06 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Eddington, Chairperson
Mayor McCallum
Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Bose
Councillor Watts
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Members of Council

Entering As Indicated:

Councillor Villeneuve

Staff Present:

City Manager
Acting City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
Land Development Engineer
S. Palmer, Administrative Coordinator

A. CORPORATE REPORTS

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Richard Kosterman

Slipstream Entertainment

File: 0065-012; 0023-4200; 8020-001

The delegation was not in attendance at Council-in-Committee.

2. Scott Blessin, Operations Manager

ER PLUS Safety Services Inc.

File: 0065-012; 0023-4200; 8020-001

Scott Blessin, Operations Manager, ER PLUS Safety Services Inc. was in attendance to discuss Rave parties.

Mr. Blessin spoke to the issue of Rave parties with the following points being raised:

- ER PLUS Safety Services Inc. started working with Rave parties in 1997 and has provided safety at Raves in Victoria, Whistler, Penticton and the Lower Mainland.
- The level of safety at these events initially was quite low with no communication between

promoters and municipal governments.

- ER PLUS has provided security for over 200 events ranging from 500 to 12,000 people, and works closely with police forces.
- Staff are trained in the basics of drug awareness, and have an understanding of the types of drugs which are used.

Councillor Villeneuve entered the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

- There is very little violence at Rave events, and very little liquor.
- ER PLUS has worked hard to eliminate drugs, but because there is no alcohol allowed, some people do turn to drugs.
- There has been a reduction in terms of drug related first aid calls in the last year.
- The City of Richmond has a permit process, and during the last two years RAVE organizers have paid for policing costs provided by the RCMP at these events.
- ER PLUS does pat downs and patrols the interior to look for drug dealing or possession, and to ensure the safety of those who may have taken drugs.
- ER PLUS would like to see a dialogue with municipalities, the RCMP and promoters to look at the social issues and security for these events.
- That without municipal regulation, there is no control on the level of safety at these events.
- That municipalities can set the standard for these events, limit the number of people attending, and have interaction on the concerns.
- Raves will continue, and it is better to work with them proactively.

In response to questions Mr. Blessin stated:

- That the average number of participants at a Rave party can range from 2,000 to 3,000, and that the largest amount of participants had been 12,000.
- That ER Plus has 20 security staff, and additional first aid staff.
- That Raves go all night, with only half of the people being there at the 8:00 a.m. close, which provides gradual exit times.
- That ideal locations for these events are away from immediate housing and closer to industrial areas, such as arenas, concert halls, and large parking areas.
- That these events are popular and occur because the market is there, and that Council should set the standards and create a venue for them.
- That recent incidents in Vancouver are disturbing, but can happen at any public event, and though unfortunate, these events are not indicative of Raves.
- That they have had only one individual transported to hospital by ambulance in the last two months.
- That due diligence is a large aspect of what ER PLUS does, and the company has a 5 million dollar insurance policy.
- That water for outdoor events is obtained from a supplier, and indoor events have running water.

3. Richard Dunn, B.C., LLB.

The Q Palace Internet Café/Billiards

File: 0065-012; 2152-001

Richard Dunn, B.C., LLB., was in attendance regarding the proposed youth centre (Pool Hall) at 17674 - 58 Avenue, before a license is granted.

Mr. Richard Dunn advised that he is a resident of Frances Manor, one of the petitioners against the Q Palace Internet Café/Billiards, and stated that he would like to speak to the petition and express the concerns and objections of residents.

Mr. Richard Dunn stated:

- That there is the potential for interference with parking, vandalism, noise and disturbances to a quiet neighbourhood.
- That there is a potential to attract drugs, drinking and theft.
- That there is a potential for depreciation and devaluation of properties.
- That there are three other petitions in opposition from other seniors in the area.
- That the diagram of the proposal shows 8 pool tables, virtual video games, 10 computer stations, and Counsellors room.
- That the proposal appears to be a pool hall, and not a youth centre.
- That there are numerous facilities available to youth in the Cloverdale area.
- That the RCMP may have concerns in that the facility does not comply with the principles of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED).
- That this is a facility which is totally inappropriate for the area.
- That there is a problem with parking.
- That Council does not have to issue a business licence, and Section 659 of the Local Government Act provides that Council can reasonably refuse this licence.
- That Council would be well within reason to reject this application on the grounds of the petitions and supplemental material being filed.

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by Councillor Higginbotham
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

