
HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
January 8, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
George McLellan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: December 6, 2001

SUBJECT: Request to retain School Crossing Guard - Astral Drive

ORIGIN

At the November 6, 2001 session of the Halifax Regional Council, Councillor McInroy served a petition containing signatures of residents opposing the removal of the crosswalk guard at the Astral Drive entrance to the Astral Drive Elementary and Junior High Schools.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this location does not warrant the need for a school crossing guard.

BACKGROUND

The position which was manned at the school driveway was not fulfilling a crossing guard function within the mandate of the Crossing Guard Program. The assigned guard was only responsible to advise parents wishing to enter onto school property that they were violating school policy and signage. This fact was initially pointed out by several parents who have children attending the school and they indicated that a crossing guard performing this service was inappropriate, and would be better suited at an intersection requiring safe crossing of their children. School Crossing Guard Program staff performed an assessment which revealed that this was the case. Subsequent to staff's assessment, the Program Administrator made a personal visit and confirmed staff's conclusion. The guard was moved from the entrance to the school to a location further down the road where she is providing a crossing service within the mandate of the Crossing Guard Program. The guard is still within the Astral Drive school area servicing the same student population.

DISCUSSION

While encroachment on school property is a problem, it is not the mandate of the Crossing Guard Program to provide parking attendants to alleviate a self-generated situation, as most of the offenders are parents with children attending the school. It is the school's responsibility, in conjunction with local policing authorities, to ensure that drivers comply with the signage indicating no unauthorized entry.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As the crossing guard that was removed from this location was moved to another location within the same school area of responsibility, there is no change in budget.

MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL STRATEGY

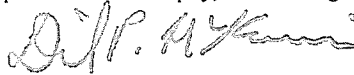
If Council chooses to place a crossing guard at this location the impact on the budget would be approximately \$5,000 per year.

ALTERNATIVES

The standards applied in this case are consistent with past practice; however, Council could choose to place a guard at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per year. If a guard is placed at this location it could cause a chain reaction in other areas where crossing guards have not been recommended.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Inspector David Murphy, Halifax Regional Police 490-5493



Report Approved by: _____ 490-6500
Chief David McKinnon, Halifax Regional Police