

Subject: Bylaw 7295 Dog Licences

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Dear Mayor & Council:

Dec 17, 2001

Bylaw 7295 Dog Licences

I support the sale of dog licences, as I understand the revenue is used to fund our local dog pound & animal shelter. It's also practical as a numbered dog tag helps to reunite stray animals with their rightful owner.

However during Council's debate surrounding the establishment of a District operated dog-pound, it was revealed that only **20% of District residents purchase dog licences**. I contacted the Director of Bylaw Enforcement, Mr. Sigston regarding this abysmal situation but once again, he chose to ignore my inquiry & did not to respond.

I believe the current situation is an affront to the law-abiding citizens of the District. Clearly all dog owners should pay their fair share. Yet I have never seen the lack of compliance addressed in any communication by the District, be it a notice with the tax assessment, signage in parks or the District Dialogue. I am under the impression that this situation has gone virtually unchallenged for years.

Therefore to increase the licence fees for 2002 by 18% is clearly unfair & unacceptable to those members of the public who do buy licences. Rather, much greater effort should be made on enforcement. If compliance were increased from 20% to 40%, revenues would increase 100% rather than the paltry 18% resulting from this recommendation.

The District's solution is so very typical. Instead of addressing the root cause of the problem, the District takes the easy way out & sticks it to taxpayer. I believe the contempt for the public purse by this Municipality continues.

As such, in the New Year I will press for a full public inquiry into the mismanagement of the Dollarton re-alignment and why construction was allowed to begin before the land assembly was complete. We have millions of dollars tied up in useless asphalt instead of collecting interest in the bank. I reckon we've lost well over \$100,000 because of a lack of due diligence by the District. I want accountability regarding this substantial loss of public money.

Thank you, Dave Sadler