

Date: June 15, 1995

SUBJECT: BURRARDVIEW PARK - BABIES COTTAGE SECURITY

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A) THAT the Board approve the installation of a 2.45 metre chainlink fence with barbed wire surrounding Babies Cottage in a location that would be suitable to act as a future construction security fence. This fence to be installed by the Board and the cost to be recovered from the group renovating and restoring the building,
- B) THAT the Board approve the use of random security patrols for an interim period after the installation of the chainlink fence.

#### BACKGROUND

At the June 5 meeting of the Park Board, staff were directed to report on the alternatives for securing Babies Cottage in Burrardview Park through the summer months while review of potential users was being undertaken.

#### DISCUSSION

Babies Cottage, a designated heritage building, has been subject to significant vandalism over the last several months. Security lights were broken or removed, vandals accessed the roof stripping off shingles and throwing them around the park, bricks from the building's exterior fencing were removed and gathering of youths at the west side of the building has resulted in small fires and additional litter and broken glass.

Concern exists that this vandalism may worsen and permanent irreparable damage may occur prior to the successful resolution of discussions on the future longterm use of the building.

Several alternatives exist to attempt to protect this building over the next 18 months:

1. install a 2.45 m high chainlink fence with barbed wire around the building which would also be used as the construction site security fence during the building's renovation and restoration. Approximate cost: \$8,000 - 10,000,
2. random security patrolling between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am for one year. Approximate cost: \$7,000,
3. installation of the chainlink fence as in item 1 with random security patrolling for the first three months. Approximate cost: \$12,000,

4. security guard stationed on the site over night for one year.  
Approximate cost: \$35,000.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

The alternative of an overnight security presence in the park is expensive and may not completely deal with vandalism opportunities at other times.

A high fence with barbed wire, on the other hand, may be considered a challenge and an invitation to attempt further vandalism. This fence alternative may also prove unattractive in this park setting. A similar fence was installed at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden and Park.

Random patrols would not completely tackle the potential problem due to the very nature of the effort. Vandalism may continue to occur when a security patrol is not evident.

Doing nothing, however, is not a reasonable alternative given that the building is in such a vulnerable condition and has been previously vandalized.

The proposed alternative 3 combines a level of security through fencing and patrolling that would discourage the initial challenge of the fence while protecting the area for the interim until a proposed user begins work on the site. As an additional benefit to both the Board and the ultimate developer, the fence would serve as the construction security fence and the cost of its installation would be initially paid by the Board and recovered as a cost of the renovation/restoration of the building.

Prepared by:

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