

October 25, 1995

RE: RETIRED CITY OF VANCOUVER POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, effective January 1, 1996, the Board discontinue the policy that retired City of Vancouver police and firefighters, at age 60, are eligible for the seniors' rate to Park Board facilities.

BACKGROUND

On April 1, 1985 the Board resolved to allow retired City of Vancouver police and firefighters, at age 60, to be eligible for the seniors' rate to Park Board facilities.

DISCUSSION

The request in 1985 by the City of Vancouver's Retired Firefighters Association and Vancouver Police Union originated from the fact they faced mandatory retirement at age 60, whereas the majority of the workforce (including all other City of Vancouver personnel) were allowed to work until age 65.

In 1985 seniors were able to purchase an annual golf pass which enabled them to play unlimited golf on weekdays throughout the year for a very reasonable fee (\$171). In addition, seniors benefited from similar discounts at our facilities which they receive today (50% of the adult rate). The request to the Board, however, was largely due to the fact that many firefighters and police wanted to purchase a seniors' golf pass upon their retirement.

In 1990 the Board discontinued the seniors' annual pass and replaced it with a 50 round punch card. This card was progressively increased until a round of golf reached the level of a seniors' green fee which in 1995 is \$15.00 (50% of the adult rate).

The following is the number of seniors eligibility cards that have been issued since 1985 to retired firefighters and police:

1985	31
1986	23
1987	8
1988	15
1989	10
1990	5
1991	7
1992	1
1993	4
1994	3
1995 (to date)	3

Today there are many other sectors of employees who have for a variety of reasons either taken early retirement voluntarily or been laid off before reaching the age of 65. In order to be equitable to all users, it is felt that our fees and charges policy should be consistently applied throughout our system. In addition, the demand for this card has declined considerably over the past few years. In 1993 and 1994 eighty-eight police and firefighters retired and seven cards were requested. This represents only 8% of the retirees.

It is recommended that cards will still be available until the end of this year but that they be discontinued effective January 1, 1996.

JUSTIFICATION

The Board's present policy of allowing retired City of Vancouver police and firefighters the seniors' rate at age 60, rather than 65, is not equitable to all users, and it is believed our fees and charges policy should be consistently applied throughout our system.

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