

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY  
CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND ALDERMEN

"D R A F T"

REPORT OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

"THAT this report be received for information."

SUMMARY

The report provides a synopsis of the Crime Prevention Committee's activities in 1988 and identifies the direction the Committee will take in 1989.

REPORT

Council, on 1987 November 09, adopted a report from the Crime Prevention Committee which established the short term actions and long term goals for the Crime Prevention Committee.

The short term actions are as follows:

1. Development of a brochure.
2. Encourage the implementation of 911.
3. Study the implementation of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design program.
4. Development of a pilot project (Block Watch Program).

The long term goals are as follows:

1. Identification and coordination of social programs and services.
2. Education as a means of preventing crime.
3. Identify sources of crime.
4. Investigate ways of improving police/community interaction.
5. Development of a community crime prevention plan.

As a result of the Committee's activities in 1988 many of the short term actions have been accomplished. Following is a synopsis of the Committee's activities in 1988:

- Success of the Neighbourhood Block Watch Program. The Crime Prevention Committee was instrumental in establishing a Neighbourhood Block Watch Program for Burnaby which at present has approximately one thousand eight hundred Burnaby residents involved including two hundred and fifty one block captains encompassing one hundred and eight total Block Watch teams. This program has resulted in an eighteen percent reduction in crime in these areas.

Thefts of over one thousand dollars from vehicles are down by sixty percent in the Block Watch areas, while the rest of the municipality experienced a ten percent increase from a year ago. Thefts under one thousand dollars from vehicles are down by twenty-nine percent in the Block Watch areas, while the remainder of the municipality experienced an eleven percent increase from a year ago.

- Alderman Nikolai and Staff Sergeant J.E. Bean attended an international symposium on vandalism: research, prevention and social policy in Seattle, Washington from 1988 April 20 to 22 inclusive. The symposium was designed to find out how vandalism is being approached through research, law enforcement, education, design, understanding human behavior, innovative ideas and programs.
  - Assistance in alleviating the youth situation at Greystone Plaza.
  - Establishment of three sub-committees, the purpose of which would be to research various projects by whatever means required and report back to the Crime Prevention Committee with recommendations. The sub-committees are as follow:
    1. Sub-Committee on Crime Prevention Education.
    2. Sub-Committee on Ongoing Problems.
    3. Sub-Committee on Business Interface.
  - Encouragement of the implementation of a Voluntary Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design strategy. The staff held a very successful orientation and training seminar on this subject on October 20 and 21.
  - Review/consideration of statistics and research relating to all video arcades in Burnaby.
  - The Burnaby Detachment of the R.C.M.P. is now reviewing possible office space requirements in Metrotown and how that may fit into the Municipality's total requirements for that area.
- With respect to the implementation of the long term goals of the Crime Prevention Committee, a workshop session was held on 1988 November 16 to further define and refine the following implementation strategies related to each of the five long term goals:
- Representation on Inter Agency Council. (It was agreed that the staff member from the Planning and Building Department who presently sits on the Inter Agency Council would form this liaison.)
  - Analyse programs and responsibilities of social agencies.
  - Identify and develop programs to heighten public awareness on crime prevention.
  - Keep public informed on an ongoing basis.
  - Review Young Offender's Act and lobby for effective changes.
  - Analyse crime statistics to determine possible causes and solutions.
  - Identify problems and shortcomings of existing legislation and to recommend a course of action to correct these.
  - Encourage development of cooperative police/community crime prevention initiatives.
  - Review and analyse different methods of policing with particular emphasis on the pros and cons experienced in other jurisdictions.

- Develop a mechanism to allow citizens to present complaints/suggestions with respect to policing to an independent third party (e.g. ombudsman).

- Develop and publish a Crime Prevention Plan for Burnaby.

The workshop session was extremely productive in that the Committee was able to reach a consensus on the implementation strategies. From these implementation strategies, the Committee is now in the process of determining the specific implementation actions that relate to each of these strategies. For example, the Committee worked through hinderance factors and consequently the following sample actions might be pursued with respect to the Young Offenders' Act:

Some hinderance factors

- Charter of Rights
- lack of public awareness
- apathy - don't care enough to do something about it
- possible retaliation
- lack of information on views of other interest groups
- lack of knowledge on what has to be changed

Some sample implementation actions

1. Crime Prevention Committee to get more comprehensive information on the Young Offenders' Act i.e.) enforcement problems.
2. Hold Public Meetings.
3. Hold seminars.
4. Speak at Community Groups i.e.) Parent Advisory, Block Watch Committee and District Parent Groups.
5. Articles in Community newspapers.
6. Raise issue at Inter Agency Council to get their views.
7. Recommend to Council - lobby for changes. i.e.) "Send to other municipalities for their collective support."
8. Invite other groups to present their views. i.e.) Bar Association and Crown Counsel.

These implementation actions will then form part of the ongoing work program of the Crime Prevention Committee in 1989.

This report was drafted and circulated to all Committee members for their comments by telephone to the Chairman, and for their approval prior to its submission to the Municipal Council. It reflects the consensus of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman E. Nikolai,  
Chairman

Alderman J. Young  
Member

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