

CITY OF BURNABY  
COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON STREET SAFETY IN BURNABY

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be forwarded to Council for information.

R E P O R T

The Community Policing Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2001 February 08, received and adopted the attached report providing information about a proposed roundtable discussion on street safety in Burnaby.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Evans  
Chair

Councillor G. Begin  
Vice Chair

<p>:COPY - CITY MANAGER - DIR. PLNG. &amp; BLDG. - DIR. PARKS, REC. &amp; CULT. SERV. - OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.</p>
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**TO:** COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE February 7, 2001  
**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.317.1  
**SUBJECT: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON STREET SAFETY IN BURNABY**  
**PURPOSE:** To provide the Committee and Council with information about a proposed roundtable discussion on street safety in Burnaby.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be forwarded to Council for information.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At the Community Policing Committee meeting of 2000 September 14 and the Council meeting of 2000 September 25, a progress report on the activities of the City's Task Force on the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth was considered and approved. That report noted that the Task Force intended to explore the feasibility of developing a "safe place" program with local businesses, as one vehicle for improving safety for young sex trade workers. Through such a program, owners of local businesses, where sexually exploited young people are likely to frequent to make purchases or use the washroom (e.g., convenience stores, service stations), would agree to provide those young people with access to a safe refuge from pimps and johns. A telephone for emergency calls, and information on resources would be made available to them. A decal on the store window would identify the establishment as a "safe place".

Since that report was considered, it has come to the attention of staff that a program with similar goals is operating in the Hastings Street/Rupert Avenue area of Vancouver. The *Safe Haven Program* is a Block Parent style program for businesses, whereby participating business owners, managers and their employees agree and are educated to assist people who are experiencing a temporary crisis situation on the streets. The Program is sponsored by the Vancouver School District through Hastings Community School, and the Vancouver Police Department through the Hastings North Community Policing Centre. It has also come to the attention of staff that businesses and service providers in the northwest area of Burnaby have been examining the Vancouver program and considering the merits of establishing either that particular program or a similar one in The

Heights. Given this interest on the part of others in Burnaby in a *Safe Haven*-type of program, staff have discussed with staff from the School District and from the Vancouver *Safe Haven Program* the advisability of the various parties getting together to share information and explore the need and opportunities for establishing a *Safe Haven*-type of program in Burnaby. It is the opinion of staff that this would be best done by holding a roundtable discussion on street safety to which a variety of stakeholders would be invited.

## 2. THE PROPOSED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

As noted above, the purpose of the roundtable discussion would be to share information on threats to safety on Burnaby streets, and to explore the viability of various options for addressing those threats. Included in those options would be the establishment of a *Safe Haven*-type of program. A wide variety of stakeholders would be invited to the discussion, including:

- representatives from the school district (e.g., community school co-ordinators, youth workers, parents advisory councils, and multi-cultural and first nations workers)
- representatives from the business community
- representatives from the RCMP
- representatives from the City (e.g., Community Policing Committee, Community Issues & Social Planning Committee, Task Force on the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, community co-ordinators, youth centre staff and seniors' services staff from Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services)
- representatives from a variety of community-based service providers
- staff from the constituency offices of Burnaby's Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly

As currently envisioned, the agenda for the session would be as follows:

- an overview of street safety issues in Burnaby e.g., (bullying, gang activity, sex trade recruitment, drug and alcohol use and abuse, assault, robbery)
- presentations from a panel of community members articulating the issues from the perspectives of particular groups e.g., seniors, youth/children, women, merchants.
- an overview of the Vancouver *Safe Haven Program* and how it is addressing street safety issues in the Hastings Street area
- breakout into small groups for brainstorming on ways to address street safety issues in Burnaby, the suitability of a *Safe Haven*-type program for Burnaby, the resources required and available to respond to street safety issues, and proposed next steps.

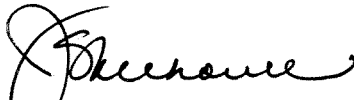
The roundtable discussion has been scheduled for March 28, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, at Schou Education Centre. For the purposes of issuing invitations, it is proposed that

the City of Burnaby co-sponsor the event. The Burnaby RCMP has already agreed to act as co-sponsor. Other than staff time to assist with organization, facilitation and follow-up, the proposed roundtable discussion will not entail the use of any City resources. Staff will provide the Committee and Council with a follow-up report outlining the results of the discussions and, if applicable, proposed next steps.

**3.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

A roundtable discussion on street safety in Burnaby is being proposed as a means for sharing information on threats to safety on Burnaby streets, and exploring the viability of various options for addressing those threats. A wide variety of stakeholders would be invited to the discussion. For the purposes of issuing invitations, it is proposed that the City of Burnaby co-sponsor the event with the Burnaby RCMP. The latter has already agreed to act as co-sponsor. The roundtable discussion is scheduled for March 28, 2001 from 9 a.m. until noon at Schou Education Centre.

This report is for the information of the Committee and Council.

  
y D.G. Stenson, Director  
PLANNING & BUILDING

JS/sa

cc: City Manager  
Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services  
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
OIC - Burnaby RCMP