

January 24, 2003

Cllr. Linda Barnes
Chair, Community Safety Committee
Richmond City Council

Dear Cllr. Barnes

Re: City of Richmond Community Safety Advisory Task Force Endorsement of the Home Safe Program

A primary goal of the Community Safety Advisory Task Force is to communicate with the citizens of Richmond concerning public safety issues. City staff have a pilot program in place that has had success in achieving this goal. This is the Home Safe Program.

The Community Safety Advisory Task Force would like the City to consider continuing with the Home Safe Program. In our deliberations concerning safety issues in Richmond one of the main underlying issues is the lack of sense of neighborhood in many parts of the City.

The building or rebuilding of the neighborhood was identified as a key component to the solution of the marijuana grow operation problem at a recent workshop co-hosted by the Task Force and the City of Richmond. The results of the discussions around the Street Racing issue also touched on the lack of neighborhood and community connectedness as a contributing factor.

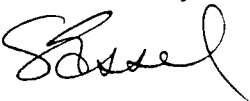
The Home Safe Program approaches the safety problem from exactly that perspective. It facilitates community involvement in a geographical area, breaking down barriers that have prevented neighbours from meeting each other and gives them a common goal – safety. The program is based on connecting neighbors with each other.

The Community Safety Advisory Task Force was designed to foster an integrated approach to involving the community in safety issues. The Home Safe Program involves the neighborhoods from the same integrative perspective. In other words the Home Safe Program is consistent with the Task Force objectives in its efforts to assist the neighborhood in identifying pertinent neighborhood issues before introducing an existing program. (ie. Block watch)

The Safety Advisory Task Force recognizes there are staff resource and funding implications to continuing the Home Safe Program. One of the ways to mitigate the costs of the program would be to have whatever resources the City can allocate to be supplemented with volunteer involvement. The Community Safety Advisory Task Force would like to form a stronger link with the Home Safe Program. Working together we can achieve our mutual goals. The Task Force is willing to help in any way appropriate to see this Program continue to help staff in this worthwhile endeavour, if the City will commit to continue with appropriate financial and people support.

Hopefully this input will be of assistance to the Community Safety Committee.

Yours truly,



for Bob Aldcorn
Chair, Community Safety Advisory Task Force