



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: January 29, 2002

From: Linda Barnes
Councillor

File: -

Re: Richmond FCM Municipal Drug Strategy Update

Staff Recommendation

The update regarding the Richmond FCM Municipal Drug Strategy be received for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Barnes".

per
Linda Barnes
Councillor

Staff Report

Origin

The Community Safety Committee was advised, at the January 15, 2002 Community Safety Committee meeting, that a report regarding the FCM Municipal Drug Strategy – Pilot Project would be presented at the February committee meeting.

This report provides an update of the activities carried out since the inception of the pilot project in December, and outlines the work the staff working group plans to undertake over the next few months.

Analysis

Roundtable Planning Session

Phase II of FCM's Municipal Drug Strategy began with a roundtable planning session in December. This brought together the eight municipalities participating in the pilot program, as well as professionals from a number of agencies involved in drug abuse strategies. The roundtable was an opportunity to find out about other cities' concerns and the strategies they have developed. It was evident from the discussions that Richmond is already in a leadership position, due in large part to the work of the previous Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Drugs.

The next Roundtable is scheduled for the month of June. FCM has approached Richmond in regards to hosting the event, which will bring together approximately forty people from across the country for the two-day wind up of the pilot project. This is an opportunity to demonstrate Richmond's continued leadership in this area.

Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Drugs

In order to bring closure to the Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Drugs, members of the Task Force were invited to attend a wrap-up meeting on February 1st. The Hon. Greg Halsey-Brandt attended the meeting; members were thanked for their contributions to the Task Force and were given an overview of the pilot project.

Staff Working Group

A staff working group has been formed to work on the pilot project. Members of the working group are – Councillor Linda Barnes (Council Liaison); Corporal Davis Wendell, RCMP (Chair of the working group and Drug Policy Coordinator); Hilda Ward, Ted Townsend, Heather Evans, Shawn Issel, and Dr. Ann Vogel (Richmond Health Services). The role of the group is to act as a steering committee, overseeing the development of a 'tailored to Richmond' drug strategy work plan and managing the implementation through an external stakeholder group.

The group has several immediate tasks:

- **Richmond Drug Strategy -Work Plan** - develop a work plan to carry out the tasks identified in the pilot project. This includes developing strategies for community consultation, education and prevention, identifying specific criteria to assess progress. The

work plan will be tailored to meet Richmond's needs, recognizing the need for cooperation with other agencies.

The work of the Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Drugs, provides a solid foundation to build on, allowing us to move quickly through the nine steps outlined for the development of the pilot project.

- **New External Committee** – the staff working group recognizes the need for an external stakeholder group representing the different agencies involved in this area. The group is considering the use of the Community Safety Advisory Task Force model as a template to develop the Terms of Reference for an external group.
- **LMMA** – The LMMA recently released the “Regional Action Plan to Reduce the Harmful Effects of Alcohol and Drug Misuse”. The purpose of the plan is to offer municipalities a framework for action to reduce the damage alcohol and drug misuse can cause in a community. The staff working group will be reviewing this document as part of the pilot project and will make recommendations to Council regarding a response.

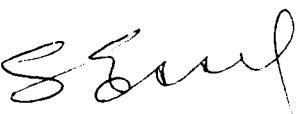
The staff working group will provide Community Safety Committee with regular updates on the progress of the workplan, and make final recommendations upon completion of the plan.

Financial Impact

None at this time.

Conclusion

The FCM Municipal Drug Strategy – Pilot Project gives the City of Richmond the opportunity to play a leadership role in the development of a plan, which meets the needs of the community. The staff working group will continue to work in support of this objective.


per Linda Barnes
Councillor