



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

To Com Ser Ctte - Mar 14/00

TO: Richmond City Council
FROM: Greg Halsey-Brandt
Mayor
RE: Task Force on Drugs and Crime

DATE: March 3, 2000

FILE: 0000-20-DCR11

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City of Richmond establish a Task Force on Drugs and Crime as set out in the attached Terms of Reference, and that the Task Force provide an interim report back to City Council, through the Community Services Committee, by November 30, 2000.

Greg Halsey-Brandt
Mayor

Att 1

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting be adjourned (8:35 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the
Minutes of the meeting of the Community
Services Committee of the Council of the
City of Richmond held on Tuesday, March
14, 2000.

REPORTORIGIN

It is evident that in most large cities over the past 10 or 15 years, there has been a growing and significant correlation between the amount of crime in a community, and the use of illicit drugs. The Greater Vancouver area is not immune from this phenomena.

At present there are two ongoing crime and drug prevention initiatives that affect Richmond. The first is the development of a **Crime Prevention and Drug Strategy** by the Lower Mainland Municipal Association (LMMA). The objectives of the LMMA strategy include:

- To identify and review existing programs in the region
- To identify service and program needs in the region
- To increase the number of partnerships between service providers, health care providers, the community, police, local governments and the judiciary in crime prevention
- To increase public awareness, participation and education in crime prevention measures
- To increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of crime prevention and drug treatment services and programs in the region

The LMMA strategy is organized into three main phases:

- Phase 1: Part 1 – Development of a Comprehensive Inventory
 Part 2 – Needs Assessment
- Phase 2: Development and Implementation of the Regional Crime Prevention and Drug Strategy
- Phase 3: Evaluation of the Strategy

Phase I of the strategy has now been completed, and the inventory is now being set up on a computer database. The inventory is a list of alcohol and drug-related programs and services, as well as crime prevention enforcement activities. A survey of service providers was conducted to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the system. Phase II of the LMMA strategy is to begin this year.

The second initiative is the **Vancouver Coalition for Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment**. This Coalition has over 60 public and private sector groups and agencies who meet together in a forum setting, to look at ways of improving crime prevention and drug treatment. Examples of the Coalition's activities include: a Youth Autocrime Prevention Program; a Drug Prevention Awareness flyer distributed to over 220,000 households in Vancouver; an international Symposium on Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment; and co-sponsorship of an application to the National Crime Prevention Council for 5 million dollars to fund the Downtown Eastside Community Revitalization Program.

I have attended a couple of the Coalition Forums, and have found the discussion sessions concerning the various issues and solutions around drugs and crime very useful. One reoccurring point that was brought forward by the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department is that the majority of the individuals involved in crime and drug problems come, in fact, from outside the City of Vancouver. It is abundantly evident that surrounding municipalities must all contribute our resources and expertise in working towards a solution to the ongoing problems that plague the downtown Vancouver east side.

ANALYSIS

At a recent discussion of issues which need to be addressed by the City in this Council's term of office, Councillors identified crime and safety as the number one issue. One significant aspect of this subject matter is that of crime and drugs, and their relationship to criminal activity.

Although the crime statistics from the Richmond RCMP detachment over the past year indicate a gradual decline in a number of categories such as business and residential B & E's, there is evidence of an increase in the number of robberies, along with theft from autos. Drug enforcement statistics remain reasonably stable. However, the Richmond detachment estimates that approximately 75% of the Robbery/Theft/Break & Enter crimes are related to illegal drug usage and drug trafficking. This criminal activity is carried out either by drug users who are desperate to finance their habit, or the drug traffickers, who are controlling the production and distribution of illegal drugs.

The City spends about \$18 M per year on our police force, which responds to the day-to-day effects of the drug trade. The impact of the activities relating to the drug trade, in both human and financial terms, is felt throughout the community, including gang influence on our young people, the businesses that are robbed, and to owners of the homes and cars that are broken into. Although we must continue with the enforcement side of the problem, there appears some urgency in placing a larger emphasis on prevention activities. Experts in the field appear to agree that the long-term solution is to deal with the underlying social problems.

While the LMMA Crime and Drug Strategy is looking at the broad situation from Whistler through to Hope, and while the Vancouver Coalition is looking at specific problem in their city, we in Richmond must review our own situation to determine the extent of the problem, and to find solutions that are relevant to our community.

COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force should include key stakeholders of the community, including: Richmond School Board, Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, RCMP, Ministry of the Attorney General, Youth Advisory Council, Advisory Committee on Policing, Social Service agencies such as RADAT and Richmond Youth Services, a member of the business community, the Mayor and another member of Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Task Force members will volunteer their time. City staff will be assigned through a secondment processes. However, there may be requirements for surveys and further studies that may require outside consulting assistance. Therefore, an allowance of \$25,000 should be provided for the work of the Task Force. Initial funding should come from the gaming revenue account. We should also apply to the Ministry of the Attorney General for funding from the Proceeds of Crime program. (This source of funds is drawn from proceeds of crime, collected by the RCMP, and turned over to the Ministry of the Attorney General for distribution to municipalities.)

APPENDIX A

TASK FORCE ON DRUGS AND CRIME - TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONCLUSION

Council has identified addressing crime and safety issues as their top priority during this term of office. The establishment of a Task Force on Crime and Drugs would go a long way towards both identifying and coming up with solutions to these problems. Therefore, Richmond should establish a Task Force on Drugs and Crime to bring forward recommendations on how we might deal with the drug and crime-related problems in our City. These recommendations will not only assist us in dealing with the local problems, but could also help shape part of the strategies being developed by the LMMA and the Vancouver Coalition.

Greg Halsey-Brandt
Mayor

Objective

The objective of the Task Force on Drugs and Crime is to advise City Council on:

1. The extent and seriousness of drug use, trafficking, and drug production in the City.
2. The relationship between drug use, trafficking and production and the type and level of criminal activity in the City.
3. To survey and review drug-related programs, and crime prevention and enforcement activities within the City, to identify any gaps in these services and to recommend any additional programs.
4. To present recommendations that will reduce the drug abuse, trafficking and production problems in Richmond, and which, in turn, will result in lower crime rates.

Membership

The Task Force should have representation from the following areas:

- a representative from the Richmond School District
- a representative from the RCMP
- a representative from the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board
- a representative from the Ministry of the Attorney General
- up to five representatives from a range of community agencies
- a representative from the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing
- a member of Council
- the Mayor

The Chair of the Task Force will be the Mayor

APPENDIX A**TASK FORCE ON DRUGS AND CRIME - TERMS OF REFERENCE****Introduction**

The increasing use of illicit drugs, drug trafficking and production of drugs in the City of Richmond, has led to an increase in the amount of criminal activity necessary to support drug related activities. While the City has steadily increased policing resources to deal with the criminal aspects of the drug problem, no sustainable reduction in this type of crime can be achieved until the underlying problems associated with drugs are addressed. The RCMP estimate that up to 75% of robberies and break-ins in Richmond are related to the illegal usage and trafficking of drugs.

Because of the numerous agencies and levels of government that deal with and are responsible for drugs and crime, a Task Force comprised of various stakeholder representatives is proposed as a vehicle to analyze the problem and bring forth recommendations. The Task Force should consult with a wide cross section of Richmond individuals and groups to identify issues and solutions. In addition, work on drugs and crime being carried out by the Vancouver Coalition and the Lower Mainland Municipal Association should be reviewed and integrated into the Richmond context.

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- a member of Council
- the Mayor

The Chair of the Task Force will be the Mayor

The Task Force will be supported by the following resources from the City of Richmond:

- a facilitator
- a temporary full-time research and recording individual

Communication

All communications representing the position of the Task Force will be initiated by the Chair. Task Force members will have an opportunity to receive information as it becomes available, discuss the issues and forward comments to Council.

Schedule

It is expected that an interim report will be submitted through the Community Services Committee to City Council by November 30, 2000. The Task Force will meet monthly, or more often, in order to meet the interim report deadline. If the November 30 deadline cannot be met, the Task Force shall report to Council as to the reasons and request an extension.

Meeting space and support services

The City of Richmond will provide the meeting space and produce minutes of the meetings, and other organizational responsibilities.

[Handwritten Signature]
 Dave Sample
 Director, Parks
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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Routed To: Business Liaison and Development.....Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE