



**CITY OF RICHMOND**

**REPORT TO COMMITTEE**

**TO:** General Purposes Committee

**DATE:** March 27, 2001

**FROM:** Greg Halsey-Brandt  
Mayor

**FILE:** -

**RE:** Task Force on Drugs and Crime One Year Work Plan

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT:**

- 1) the revised Draft One Year Work Plan for an interagency drugs and crime strategy for the City (as attached) be received for information; and
- 2) the proposed strategy and draft one year work plan be referred to the General Manager of Community Safety Division for a report back to the General Purposes Committee with a program impact statement and recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Halsey-Brandt".

Greg Halsey-Brandt  
Mayor

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

In January 2001 Council received the Task Force on Drugs and Crime's Draft One Year Work Plan for information, and approved a recommendation for Staff to present the draft work plan to community stakeholder agencies (Res. No. R01/1-6). Staff were directed to report back to Council through the General Purposes Committee with a final recommendation for the One Year Work Plan after meeting with community stakeholders.

ANALYSIS

Throughout January, February and March 2001 presentations and discussions on the Draft One Year Work Plan were conducted with a number of community stakeholder agencies. These agencies are either represented by staff on the Task Force, or they are interested in becoming involved in the work of the Task Force on Drugs and Crime. The consulted community stakeholder agencies (with corresponding presentation dates) are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1  
Consulted Community Stakeholder Agencies & Presentation Dates**

<b>Community Stakeholder Agency</b>	<b>Date of Mayor's Presentation</b>
Ministry for Children and Families (John Adamick, Associate Regional Executive Director)	March 1, 2001
Richmond School Board of Trustees	February 5, 2001
Richmond Advisory Committee on Policing	January 9, 2001
Vancouver / Richmond Health Board	January 29, 2001
Richmond Chamber of Commerce	February 6, 2001
Family Court Committee	February 7, 2001
RCMP Senior Staff Committee	March 15, 2001
Richmond Asia Pacific Business Association	March 1, 2001
RADAT (presentation was not scheduled; however a written response to the draft One Year Work Plan has been received from Jim Kelly, Executive Director)	no presentation
Ministry of Attorney General (presentation was not scheduled; however a written response to the draft One Year Work Plan was received from Allan Shoom, Regional Director, Corrections)	no presentation

During each presentation, attendees were invited to provide feedback on the work plan, including:

- a) response to suggested elements in the draft strategy one year work plan that directly impact the agency
- b) recommendations for inclusion of additional actions in the strategy
- c) interest in participating in an ongoing committee on drugs and crime

All agencies were also invited to submit a written response.

In general, the draft One Year Work Plan was well received. Most of the community stakeholder agencies are keen to be involved in implementation of the Work Program, they appreciate the City's leadership and coordination on this issue, and they provided some comments and suggestions regarding the development of particular actions contained the draft one year work plan.

Stakeholders' input has been summarized in Table 2. Copies of written responses from stakeholder agencies are included in Appendix 1.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Stakeholder Agencies' Comments about**  
**Richmond Task Force on Drugs and Crime's Draft One Year Work Plan**

<b>Stakeholder Agency</b>	<b>Comments about Involvement in Interagency Committee on Drugs and Crime</b>	<b>Comments on Role and Contribution to Implementing the One Year Work Plan</b>	<b>Comments about Actions in the One Year Work Plan</b>
Ministry for Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Ministry's [Richmond Branch] would be most interested in participating in an interagency committee..."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "[The Ministry] is looking forward to working with the committee that would impact the development and implementation of activities that strengthen families and minimizes the risk of alcohol and drug misuse."</li> <li>▪ The Ministry is involved and directly responsible for service delivery regarding alcohol and drug for families, adults and youth through contract with RADAT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "We are very supportive of the approach that has been articulated in the draft [one year work plan]."</li> </ul>
Richmond School District (Board of Trustees)	<p>A resolution was passed by the Board for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuing participation in interagency committee, and</li> <li>▪ Adding a standing agenda item to the Council/Board Liaison Committee on the Task Force's work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ School Board looks forward to working with the City "to address this very real threat to our community and its youth."</li> <li>▪ School Board staff will prepare a report that includes suggestions on the draft work plan and suggests recommendations that may be pertinent to the School District's interests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supportive of 5 pillar approach.</li> <li>▪ School Board Staff report will provide comments on actions in the draft work plan.</li> <li>▪ Funding is needed immediately for drug treatment centres.</li> </ul>
Richmond Advisory Committee on Policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interested in continued representation on the Task Force committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ---</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the production of a community education flyer targeted at various age groups, e.g. youth as well as parents need to be better informed about drugs.</li> <li>▪ Possibility of installing security cameras in stores and public places could be explored.</li> <li>▪ Suggested a telephone assistance hotline with trained counsellors.</li> <li>▪ Suggested that (former) drug addicts could provide valuable input by participating in Task Force meetings.</li> </ul>

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<b>Stakeholder Agency</b>	<b>Comments about Involvement in Interagency Committee on Drugs and Crime</b>	<b>Comments on Role and Contribution to Implementing the One Year Work Plan</b>	<b>Comments about Actions in the One Year Work Plan</b>
Vancouver / Richmond Health Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The health board will continue to work with the Task Force and appreciates the work being done.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supportive of current harm reduction initiatives in Richmond.</li> <li>▪ The Ministry for Children and Families is responsible for drug/alcohol problems in Richmond, resulting in problems with adequate funding and coordinating treatment plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The different nature of drug problems and 'solutions' in east Vancouver versus Richmond is acknowledged.</li> </ul>
Richmond Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ---</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ---</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agrees with the simultaneous advancement of pillars in drug strategy</li> <li>▪ Resources from all levels of government and private sources are needed for implementation</li> <li>▪ Statistics on crime should be communicated to relevant groups (e.g. Chamber of Commerce) to raise awareness among membership</li> <li>▪ Curriculum on drug prevention should be made for Richmond schools with slight variations to make it meaningful for each school's student body</li> <li>▪ Citizen participation is essential in prevention</li> <li>▪ Drug education programs should draw on successes and communication techniques from other prevention campaigns (e.g. stop smoking)</li> </ul>
Family Court Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ---</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ---</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Studies on drugs courts in Ontario should be reviewed.</li> <li>▪ Harm reduction approaches must consider tapering of drug use; abstinence is not the only solution.</li> <li>▪ School prevention: effectiveness of the DARE program should be investigated thoroughly. Other prevention programs should be considered.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Agency	Comments about Involvement in Interagency Committee on Drugs and Crime	Comments on Role and Contribution to Implementing the One Year Work Plan	Comments about Actions in the One Year Work Plan
Richmond RCMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “[The interagency committee] is a key component ... Richmond RCMP are eager to participate in this type of committee.”</li> <li>▪ In addition to involvement on the Task Force, Richmond RCMP are involved in initiatives with other agencies: RCMP with Richmond Health to set up Needle Exchange, RCMP secondary school liaison officers with RADAT, and the RCMP Youth Intervention program refers youth at risk to other community agencies' programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Marijuana Grow Operations: Richmond RCMP has put forward a business case for more Drug Section resources (2 positions) to streamline investigation of grow operations.</li> <li>▪ The harm to the community (e.g. break and enters) resulting from heroin and cocaine addiction must be addressed. Richmond RCMP is investigating a program that has been successful in Vancouver for tracking break and enter culprits.</li> <li>▪ School Liaison Officers are engaged in 'Problem Oriented Policing' projects, e.g. drugs and gangs, patrolling to prevent theft from cars.</li> <li>▪ RCMP Federal Sections are also active in the community, e.g. Drug Awareness section analyzing drugs at raves, drug seizures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “The enforcement pillar has ... been relied upon ... [to address] drug related problems. Richmond RCMP embrace and support the other 4 pillars. The ability for a patrol officer to refer a substance abuser ... to a detox centre would be ideal. At present officers are frustrated when they are unable to properly deal with a person obviously in need of treatment. We are anxious to join in working groups to this end.”</li> <li>▪ Department of Justice's study on marijuana grow operations and resultant court sentencing will be useful when complete.</li> <li>▪ Resources are needed by Richmond RCMP for drug enforcement and adoption of the DARE program.</li> <li>▪ Programs dealing with parent education on drugs are needed. Also the 'roots' of drug misuse should be addressed. “Quite often people at risk for substance abuse are raised in that type of environment and, through no fault of their own, end up in that lifestyle.”</li> </ul>
Richmond Asia Pacific Business Association (RAPBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RAPBA would like to continue to be represented on the interagency committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A written response from RAPBA that includes this information is forthcoming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A written response from RAPBA that included this information is forthcoming.</li> </ul>
Richmond Alcohol and Drug Action Team (RADAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RADAT looks forward to working with The Task Force as it continues implementation of the strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RADAT will continue its work in the important area of raising awareness and educating the community about addictions and drug misuse, with other components of the strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RADAT fully supports the strategy and would be committed to work on any further strategies developed by the Task Force.</li> </ul>

Stakeholder Agency	Comments about Involvement in Interagency Committee on Drugs and Crime	Comments on Role and Contribution to Implementing the One Year Work Plan	Comments about Actions in the One Year Work Plan
<p>Ministry of Attorney General (Corrections)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Ministry of Attorney General (Corrections) welcomes the opportunity to actively participate on the interagency committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Substance misuse is addressed in the Corrections Branch's Strategic Plan, and the implementation of a Substance Abuse Management Program in institutions and the community supports a harm reduction approach to substance misuse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Corrections Branch's approach to substance misuse supports the Task Force's direction on harm reduction.</li> <li>▪ "Dr. Blatherwick cites treatment strategies in Vancouver and Richmond as models for BC."</li> <li>▪ The Ministry of Attorney General is involved in discussions about the Drug Court and treatment strategies. Corrections staff will likely be involved in this pilot project.</li> <li>▪ There is federal, provincial and municipal support (in the cases of Vancouver and Richmond) to review enforcement, legislation, and the judicial process related to drug addiction.</li> </ul>

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 'strategy development' phase for a strategy on drugs and crime is nearing completion. In order to proceed with the implementation of the strategy, resources are required for 'start-up' as well as sustained program implementation.

Key community stakeholders are contributing significant resources to the overall strategy that addresses drug misuse and related crime issues. In addition to the City's significant RCMP contributions toward this issue, examples of other agencies' contributions include the School Board's curriculum and prevention programs in schools, the Health Board's acute treatment and needle exchange services, RADAT's awareness and education programs, etc. In addition to providing programs and services in the Richmond community, these key agencies are committing staff resources and expertise to an ongoing interagency committee that advises the further development and implementation of the strategy for addressing drugs and crime in Richmond.

In addition to the contribution of resources from community agencies, further financial resources are required to implement the drug strategy over the next year. The approximate amount of required funding is \$180,000 (for a temporary drug program and policy coordinator, direct program costs, and consulting expertise).

The Task Force on Drugs and Crime has requested funds from City's Casino Fund, and identification of additional funding sources is ongoing (e.g. National Crime Prevention Centre, foundations).

## CONCLUSION

The draft one year work plan was well received by the consulted community stakeholder agencies; each of the agencies is supportive of the proposed approach, willing to be actively involved with an interagency committee / working group, and willing to contribute to implementation of actions therein.

As a next step, staff are recommending that this strategy be referred to the City's General Manager of Community Safety for a program impact statement with regards to the City's overall community safety strategy, and that appropriate recommendations regarding this matter be forwarded to the General Purposes Committee.

Lani Schultz,  
Manager, Corporate and Strategic Planning



# Appendix 1

## Written Responses from Community Stakeholder Agencies

### on the Task Force on Drugs and Crime's Draft Strategy and Draft One Year Work Plan

Community stakeholder agencies' input on the Task Force on Drugs and Crime's draft strategy and draft One Year Work Plan has been summarized in Table 2 of the report (pages 4 to 7).

Written responses to the draft strategy and draft One Year Work Plan were invited from *all* stakeholder agencies and have been received from *some* stakeholder agencies. For reference, copies of response letters that have been received are included in this appendix:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ▪ Richmond School Board of Trustees:         | letter from S. Bourque, Chair of the Board               |
| ▪ Richmond Chamber of Commerce:              | memo from E. Simm  |
| ▪ Ministry for Children and Families:        | letter from J. Adamick, Regional Director                |
| ▪ Richmond RCMP:                             | letter from K. Hildebrand S/Sgt and<br>A. Speevak, Insp. |
| ▪ Ministry of Attorney General, Corrections: | letter from A. Shoom, Regional Director                  |
| ▪ Richmond Alcohol and Drug Action Team:     | letter from J. Kelly, Executive Director                 |



BOARD OF  
SCHOOL TRUSTEES

February 26, 2001

Mayor G. Halsey-Brandt  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

**Sandra Bourque**  
Chairperson

Dear Mayor Halsey-Brandt and Members of Richmond City Council:

**Susan Halsey-Brandt**  
Vice Chairperson

**Re: Richmond Task Force on Drugs & Crime**

**Chak Kwong Au**  
Trustee

On behalf of the Board of School Trustees I would like to thank you for your personal presentation to our public meeting of February 5, 2001 on the draft five-tier work plan for the Task Force on Drugs & Crime.

**Christine Evans**  
Trustee

**Annie McKittrick**  
Trustee

We know you are presently apprising stakeholders of the Task Force's work to date and seeking input and commitment to continue participating in the on-going interagency Committee on Drugs & Crime. As you know, the Board passed the following resolution in that regard:

**Gerry Retallick**  
Trustee

**Donna Sargent**  
Trustee

*27/2001 THAT the presentation of the Richmond Task Force on Drugs & Crime be forwarded to the Personnel & Finance Committee for discussion and report back to the Board on or before the March 5, 2001 public meeting of the Board.*

**CARRIED**

**Chris Kelly**  
Superintendent of Schools

Tel: 668-6081  
Fax: 668-6006

As a result of deliberation in committee, the Board passed the following resolution at its public meeting of February 19, 2001:

**K.L. Morris**  
Secretary-Treasurer

Tel: 668-6012  
Fax: 668-6161

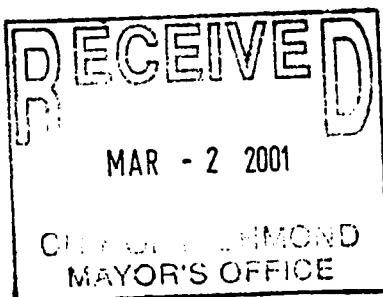
*85/2001 THAT the Board of School Trustees (Richmond) continue its participation in an on-going Inter-Agency Committee on Drugs & Crime;*

*AND FURTHER THAT the work of the Task Force be added as a standing item on the Council/Board Liaison Committee Agenda in order for interaction to take place at that level;*

*AND FURTHER THAT staff be asked to prepare a report, including a response to the Drug Strategy suggestions, and any recommendations that might be pertinent to the interests of the district.*

**CARRIED**

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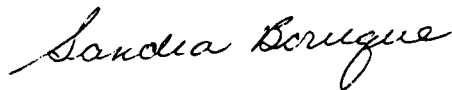


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The Board commends the City on its proactive initiative on this Task Force. We look forward to working with you to address this very real threat to our community and its youth.

Sincerely,

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Bourque".

Sandra Bourque  
Chairperson of the Board

/af

c: C. Kelly, Superintendent of Schools  
K.L. Morris, Secretary Treasurer

Date: February 21, 2001  
From: Erika Simm, Richmond Chamber  
To: Gary Cohen  
And to: Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt, City of Richmond

**Re: Richmond Task Force on Drugs and Crime  
(Draft one-year plan)**

**1. OBJECTIVES Information Dispensation**

Comment: Separate information of crime statistics into categories that are relevant to the different groups involved, i.e. the Richmond Chamber would be interested in the impact to business, the cost to business, the areas of crime to business in Richmond, etc.

The Richmond Chamber then can be interactive with its membership and can inform members, and ask for member input for instance.

**2. CURRICULUM**

Comment: A curriculum should be developed that is tailor-made to Richmond schools, with a few variations depending on school location and crimes committed/or to be prevented, should be the same in all schools.

**3. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Comment: Raise awareness among general population and educate our community about crimes and drug abuse in Richmond, and ask for citizen participation in prevention!

**4. COMMUNICATION**

Comment: A “stop crime” and “stop drugs” campaign using successful examples of other campaign models, using media to educate and communicate, would be of advantage. Such a campaign could be graphic if necessary! For example, the “stop smoking” campaign.

**5. COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES**

Comment: A steady commitment of resources from all levels of government and private sources (such as Vancouver Airport, Richmond banks etc.), is necessary to make this a successful plan.

**6. RE-EVALUATION AFTER ONE YEAR – EVERY YEAR!**

**7. DEVELOPMENT OF A “SLOGAN”**

Comment: A slogan should be developed which is short and to the point, together with a recognizable logo.

For example, one slogan could address kids, i.e. “Drugs Suck”, and one for everyone, i.e. “Crime and Drugs Hurt Everyone” (these are just examples and not good ones!)



March 7, 2001

**Greg Halsey-Brandt**  
**Mayor, City of Richmond**  
**6911 No. 3 Road**  
**Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1**

Dear Mayor,

It was a pleasure to meet with you and Hilda the other day, regarding Alcohol & Drug Services in Richmond.

As per your letter of February 1, 2001, the Ministry (Richmond branch) would be most interested in participating in an Inter-Agency committee on Drugs and Crime.

As we discussed, our Ministry is directly involved and responsible for Alcohol and Drug services delivery for Families, Adult & Youth, through our contract with RADAT. To this end, we are very supportive of the approach that has been articulated in the draft planning document you forwarded.

Both Holden and I are looking forward to working with the committee that would impact the development and implementation of services that strengthen families and minimizes the risk of alcohol and drug misuse.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity in meeting with you. I look forward to working with the City in this common goal.

Sincerely,

**John Adamick**  
**Associate Regional Executive Director**  
**Ministry for Children & Families**

Pc: Holden Chu

JA:kd

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Ministry for  
Children & Families

JOHN ADAMICK  
Associate Regional  
Executive Director

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Vancouver, B. C. V6H 3X8

Tel: 278-1212  
Fax: 276-4223

March 16, 2001

100-3

Mayor G. Halsey-Brandt  
City of Richmond

Dear Mayor Halsey-Brandt:

**RE: The Richmond Task Force on Drugs & Crime  
Presentation of the Draft One Year Plan**

In response to your request with regards to the "Draft One Year Plan" we have the following to offer:

**Interest of the RCMP in participating in an ongoing Inter-Agency committee on Drugs & Crime.**

This is a key component to the first pillar of the Richmond Drug Strategy. Richmond RCMP are eager to participate in this type of committee. We have also participated in meetings with Richmond Health to help initiate the needle exchange program in Richmond. School Liaison Officers work with RADAT in the secondary schools. Our Youth Intervention Program continues to divert youth at risk to various agencies and programs.

**Response to the Drug Strategy suggestions that impact the RCMP, among them B&E's, crime prevention programs, drug production & trafficking, utilization of RCMP resources etc.**

Marihuana grow operations continue to be a problem. Although there is not as much media attention, grow operation calls are at the same levels as 2000. Because of the large number of grow operation files received in 2000 the officers on the road are now very familiar with these types of investigations. Patrol officers can now deal with grow operations quicker and more efficiently. This office is in the process of stream lining response to these investigations even further. The burden of these investigations has switched from the Drug Section to General Duties (Patrol Members). This has put a strain on front line policing as officers on patrol often have to wait hours for a search warrant to get signed. A business case has been put forward for more Drug Section resources, two more positions, to deal with this long term problem.

The harm, to the community, resulting from addiction to heroin and cocaine needs to be addressed. This is evident in the increase in property crime for the year 2000. The Richmond RCMP Drug Section is beginning to direct its energies towards heroin and cocaine investigations in an attempt to change this trend.

The Break and Enter (B&E) Section remains very active and successful in enforcement. There continues to be a trend of culprits coming from outside the municipality to do business B&E's here in Richmond. At present Richmond RCMP is joining a pilot project that tracks property sold to second hand stores and pawn shops. This project, started by the Vancouver Police Department, is proving to be very effective in identifying people who do a lot of transactions. Members of the B&E Section have had a look at this program and are very excited about it.

Other crime prevention programs are continuing. The School Liaison Officers (SLO) have several Problem Oriented Policing projects (POP) going. These were designed to deal with drugs and gangs in schools and parks. One POP project is directed at youth who traffic drugs in schools. Perpetrators are identified through contacts in schools and surveillance. They are then targeted for enforcement in an effort to curtail their activities. Equipment such as smoke detectors are used in places where marihuana is smoked by high school children. The School Liaison Officers continue to provide lectures on "Drug Use" in the schools. This Detachment is attempting to get the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program going in the schools to discourage youth at risk from using drugs. The Block Watch coordinator continues to offer programs on "How to Identify Grow Operations". The Richmond RCMP Bike Patrol was recently successful in identifying a group and charging a person responsible for thefts from cars. These thefts involved breaking into rental cars outside Richmond restaurants. Quite often expensive lap top computers were taken. These people were from outside the community and are drug abusers. This was a POP project directed at an identified problem in the community.

The RCMP Federal Sections are also active in our community. The Drug Awareness Section is very active with Rave parties. This section continually gets samples of ecstasy from Rave party security and analyses the drug to establish trends. The RCMP Federal Drug Section does invest a lot of time in our community as well. This is evident in the charge of a Richmond resident in a very large marihuana seizure in the valley at the beginning of March.

#### **Other RCMP recommendations for inclusion in the Strategy**

The enforcement pillar has traditionally been relied upon in the past for drug related problems. The Richmond RCMP embrace and support the other four pillars. The ability for a patrol officer to refer a substance abuser, drugs or alcohol, to a detox centre would be ideal. At present officers are frustrated when they are unable to properly deal with a person obviously in need of treatment.

We are anxious to join in working groups to this end. The Department of Justice is completing a study of marihuana grow operations and the resulting court decisions. We hope this study will help with enforcement in this area by increased sentences. We have a need for some bolstering in our resources for drug enforcement and adoption of the DARE

Program in Richmond. This could provide a sound foundation for crime and drug prevention

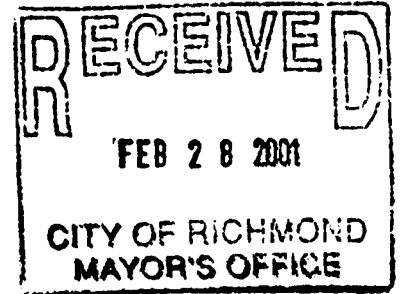


among youth. Consideration should also be given to family values as well. Programs dealing with parenting should be looked at. Quite often people at risk for substance abuse are raised in that type of environment and, through no fault of their own, end up in that lifestyle.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Task Force and for your request.

K.M. Hildebrand, S/Sgt  
A.OIC OPS Support  
Richmond Detachment

A.R. Speevak, Insp.  
A.OIC Richmond RCMP



February 21, 2001

Mr. Greg Holsey-Brandt  
Mayor and Chair  
Of Richmond Task Force on Drugs & Crime

**Re: Input on the Richmond Task Force on Drugs & Crime  
One year work plan**

Mr. Mayor

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the above noted report. I have also forwarded it on to the Provincial Director of Community Corrections. As Manager of the Vancouver Region (which includes Vancouver City) I was very impressed by your comments at the initial task force meeting describing Vancouver's downtown eastside as downtown British Columbia. The challenges facing the downtown eastside must be recognized by all of British Columbia and Richmond's Task Force is a positive step in that direction.

While I have been kept up to date by Wes Hawkes, Local Manager of the Richmond Community Corrections office, the report provided a detailed analysis of the comprehensive work that has been done in your community. In view of the work that is being done in Vancouver, and the most recent provincial/federal announcement regarding Drug Court, the task force's work comes at an opportune time.

As I am sure you are aware the Corrections Branch has also addressed substance misuse in our Strategic Plan. The implementation of a Substance Abuse Management (SAM) program in the institutions and community (facilitated by institutional and community staff) supports a harm reduction approach to substance misuse.

In consultation with Wes Hawkes the Richmond Community Corrections Office welcomes the opportunity to participate as an active member of the interagency group offering input into the Task Force's strategic plan. The Corrections Branch's approach to substance misuse supports the Task Forces direction regarding harm reduction.

*Protecting Communities, Assisting Families*

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Ministry of  
Attorney General

Corrections Branch  
Vancouver Community  
Corrections Regional Office

Mailing Address:  
401-4603 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4M4

Telephone: (604) 660-7368  
Facsimile: (604) 660-7370



It appears there is provincial, federal and municipal (in the case of Vancouver and Richmond) support to review enforcement, legislation and the judicial process as it relates to drug addiction. The Ministry of Attorney General has been involved in discussions regarding Drug Court and treatment strategies for the past several years. It is my understanding community correction staff will play a role in the Drug Court pilot. The extent of our role has not been fully explored, however, this project will be of particular interest to the Richmond Task Force. The 5 pillars described in the Task Force report coincide with the 4 pillars illustrated by the Vancouver Regional Health Board's response to substance misuse. Dr. Blatherwick cites treatment strategies in Vancouver and Richmond as models for British Columbia.

Again, I would like to commend the City of Richmond for the efforts that have been made in regards to establishing a Task Force to address a problem that is so broad in scope and a challenge to all communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are specific issues or concerns that you would like to discuss.

Yours Truly

Allan Shoom

cc Don Demers, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corrections Branch  
Rob Watts, Provincial Director, Community Corrections  
Wes Hawkes, Local Manager, Richmond Community Corrections

*Protecting Communities, Assisting Families*

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**Ministry of  
Attorney General**

**Corrections Branch**  
Vancouver Community  
Corrections Regional Office

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401-4603 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4M4

Telephone: (604) 660-7368  
Facsimile: (604) 660-7370



## RICHMOND ALCOHOL & DRUG ACTION TEAM

#170 - 5720 Minoru Boulevard, Richmond, B.C. V6X 2A9

Tel: 270-9220 • Fax: 270-9245

March 26, 2001

Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt  
CITY OF RICHMOND  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC  
V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Halsey-Brandt,

**RE: RICHMOND TASK FORCE ON DRUGS AND CRIME**

This letter is to inform you that the Richmond Alcohol and Drug Action Team (RADAT) fully supports the strategy for the Task Force on Drugs and Crime and would be committed to work on any future strategies developed by the Task Force.

RADAT fully supports raising awareness and educating the community about addictions and drug misuse and would continue its work in this area with other components of the strategy. This is an important facet of the strategy, both for other members of the Task Force and other community agencies and advocates.

On behalf of RADAT I look forward to working with the Task Force as it continues its implementation of the strategy.

Yours truly,

RICHMOND ALCOHOL & DRUG ACTION TEAM SOCIETY

per:

James J. Kelly,  
Executive Director

