



To: Richmond City Council
From: Councillor Harold Steves
Chair, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Committee
Date: May 6th, 2003
File: 3000-01
Re: **NEW DIRECTIONS IN CRISIS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE INITIATIVE
(CHIMO)**

The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee, at its meeting held on April 29th, 2003, considered the attached letter and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) *That the City enter into a partnership with CHIMO with respect to “Crisis Prevention and Response: New Directions in Richmond Initiative”, (in accordance with the terms outlined in the correspondence dated April 23rd, 2003, from Ms. Joan Cowderoy, Executive Director); and*
- (2) *That the matter be referred to staff for comment and the process to follow to implement Part (1) above.*

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

Attach.

April 23, 2003

TO PRCS - Apr 29, 2003
3000-01

Harold Steves
City Councilor and Chair
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Rd.
Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Harold Steves:

Re: Crisis Prevention and Response: New Directions in Richmond Initiative

Following recent discussions with Kate Sparrow, Director Recreation and Cultural Services and involvement of numerous City staff in planning sessions during the past year, I am submitting, for the Committee's consideration, a summary of the New Directions for Crisis Prevention and Response Initiative. This project will create a different partnership among several key agencies and institutions in the City that have been involved in preventing and/or responding to crises for many years. This demonstration project is designed to build on the good work that is already being done in communities in Richmond.

We would like to invite the City, and particularly City Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to become a formal partner in this unique and exciting initiative. We believe that by working together collaboratively, we can maximize synergy, minimize cracks in services, and avoid duplications in the current systems of crisis prevention and response in Richmond. And, working alongside the natural helpers and leaders in local neighbourhoods, we can create a greater range of activities to build strong, healthy, safe and resilient communities for everyone – children, youth, singles, couples, families and seniors.

We believe this initiative will also help the City further strengthen neighbourhoods, enhancing what already exists. Some examples of current activities in which the various partner organizations are already involved include:

- Neighbourhood safety programs run throughout the City
- CHIMO's suicide prevention and stress management workshops in high schools
- Stepping Out, a seven session program series, also operated by CHIMO, to help build emotional resiliency among pre-adolescents
- Roots of Empathy, operated in elementary schools by Richmond Health Services
- Community police stations and various community programs arising from these

The "New Directions" initiative would invite Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff such as area coordinators, youth outreach workers and library staff to continue to be part of the collaborative community processes in which many are already involved, and to further strengthen and deepen these processes.

Funding for year one of this initiative, beginning this month, is already in place from United Way of the Lower Mainland, the Vancouver Foundation, the National Crime Prevention Centre and CHIMO Crisis Services. Funding will be sought for the second and third years of the project during the next several months. As with all partners, City Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services would be asked to contribute "in kind" resources, such as use of facilities for community meetings and volunteer training.

Along with CHIMO Crisis Services, Richmond School District, Richmond RCMP and Richmond Health Services are confirmed formal partners in the New Directions initiative. We invite City Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to become a formal partner in this project as an important step in further supporting the City's vision of strong, healthy, safe and vibrant communities.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan Cowderoy".

Joan Cowderoy
Executive Director

Attachement
cc Kate Sparrow

Crisis Prevention & Response: New Directions for Richmond Initiative

Introduction

This paper outlines a three-year demonstration project to strengthen crisis prevention and response in Richmond through a partnership among key agencies and institutions in the City.

The overall goal of this initiative is strong, health, safe and resilient communities

The Issue

Most people in crisis turn to an informal network of family, friends and neighbours for help. These are what are called 'natural helpers'. When these informal supports are unable to provide what is needed, people turn to/are referred to the 'formal' crisis response services.

In Richmond, the 'formal' network includes: The City of Richmond, Richmond RCMP and the Fire Department, Richmond Hospital and other parts of Richmond Health Services, Richmond School District, Ministry of Child and Family Development, CHIMO Crisis Services, and the Ministry of Human Resources.

The 'formal' crisis response services find themselves increasingly less able to respond effectively to the demand. There are many reasons for this, including:

- Increasing demand
- No increase or a decline in funding for services
- Restructuring, reductions and changes in provincially provided/funded services
- Inappropriate or repetitive usage of the services
- Minimal coordination of the 'formal' crisis response services
- Increasing complexity of a diverse cultural/language population

The Opportunity

During the past year, representative of CHIMO Crisis Services, the City of Richmond (Recreation and Cultural Services, RCMP, etc.), Richmond School district and Richmond Health Services have been meeting to find ways to work more collaboratively to enhance the capacity of the Richmond community to prevent and respond to crises.

The 'formal' crisis prevention/response services have agreed, in principle to form a partnership to maximize synergy and minimize cracks and duplications in crisis prevention and response in Richmond. To support this direction they will jointly sponsor a ***New Directions for Richmond Initiative***.

The Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes of the New Directions project are consistent with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services benefits and outcomes adopted by City Council in 1998. They include:

- Neighbourhoods that are safe, healthy, and resilient; places where crises are transformed into opportunities for change and renewal
- Individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities who have a greater capacity to both prevent and respond well to crises
- Reduced self-destructive and anti-social behaviour among children and youth
- Children and youth who have a greater capacity to prevent and respond well to crisis
- A 'formal' crisis response system that is effective and functional
- The 'formal' and 'informal' crisis prevention/response systems working in partnership

Possible Actions

The project proposes to enhance the crisis prevention and response capacity in Richmond in several ways:

- Prevent bullying among children/youth by enhancing interaction skills
- Foster cultural and racial harmony
- Build social skills among children and youth
- Increase positive youth activities and reduce negative ones
- Enhance neighbourhood connections and strengthen families
- Mobilize the community around emerging community issues
- Enhance community resources to be efficient, economic, effective and harmonized
- Promote appropriate and efficient use of emergency services' emphasizing prevention and early intervention

First Steps for the New Directions Initiative

- Design and fund a three-year project which will enhance the capacity of both 'formal' and 'informal' crisis prevention and response systems
- Build a comprehensive database of the current services,, programs and personnel providing crisis prevention and response services to Richmond residents
- Generate data on the incidence of diverse crises by neighbourhood
- Coordinate the 'formal' crisis response services into an effective functional network/system
- Decentralize the 'formal' crisis response network into local neighbourhoods, concentrating on one local neighbourhood in the first year as a demonstration project and adding two more neighbourhoods in the latter two years
- Get agreement of 'formal' services to dedicate existing personnel to work together to enhance the capacity of residents to resolve crises through building awareness, education and strengthening the capacity of 'natural helpers'
- Secure stable funding for the three-year project

The Partners in the Initiative

- CHIMO Crisis Services (Lead agency, confirmed)
- City of Richmond Recreational and Cultural Services (To be confirmed)
- Richmond RCMP (Confirmed)
- Richmond School District (Confirmed)
- Richmond Health Services (Confirmed)

Other Potential Partners

- Ministry of Child and Family Development
- Richmond Family Place
- SUCCESS