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**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** July 2, 2003  
**From:** Kate Sparrow **File:** -  
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
**Re:** **New Directions in Crisis Prevention and Response Initiative (CHIMO)**

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**Staff Recommendation**

1. That the City of Richmond provide support in principle for the CHIMO New Directions in Crisis Prevention and Response Initiative; and,
2. That staff report back to Council following the Fall Forum on the future requirements of this initiative.

Kate Sparrow  
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
(4129)

Att.

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**CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER**

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the April 29, 2003 meeting of PRCS Committee, Ms. Joan Cowderoy, Executive Director of CHIMO Crisis Services made a presentation outlining the "New Directions in Crisis Prevention and Response" initiative and invited Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to be part of this collaborative community process along with CHIMO Crisis Services (lead agency), Richmond School District, Richmond RCMP and Richmond Health Services.

At the June 4, 2003 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee Meeting, staff recommended that the City of Richmond enter into a partnership with CHIMO Crisis Services, Richmond School District 38, Richmond Health Services and RCMP on the "Crisis Prevention and Response" 3 year demonstration project.

After considerable discussion, it was moved and seconded that the report "New Directions in Crisis Prevention and Response Initiative (CHIMO) be referred to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Community Working Group, to be included as a part of their review of the delivery of services to the community.

On June 6, 2003, Mayor Brodie received a letter from CHIMO and followed up with a meeting to clarify issues with regards to the New Directions Initiative. (Attachment 1) The Mayor, after consultation with Councillor Steves, Chair of the PRCS Committee, has requested that this issue be brought back to General Purposes Committee for further discussion.

### Analysis

CHIMO has indicated that the New Directions Project is going ahead, focused initially in Steveston. Funding for the first year is already in place and a project leader has been assigned to work at the local level with citizens, community associations, neighbourhood groups, businesses, and the staff of non profit and public agencies.

The project is beginning with a Community Listening Process (June – September) to identify community issues and resources available in the community. This will be followed by a Community Forum to affirm, clarify and prioritize emerging community issues, assets and resources available and to develop a Community Plan for linking organizations and resources to focus on the community issues. Following this initial phase of the project, the desired roles of specific organizations will be more clearly identified and a report back to Council will be made.

CHIMO has indicated that the City's support in principle would be a valuable contribution at this time, as well as the ability of city staff to contribute within existing resources until such time as a more clearly defined direction for this initiative has been developed and the review of the PRCS delivery system is completed.

July 2, 2003

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**Conclusion**

The city recognizes that this is a very important initiative and also needs to ensure flexibility to consider changes that may result through the PRCS Master Plan and Service Delivery Review.



Kate Sparrow  
Director, Recreation & Cultural Services  
(4129)

Attachment (1)



**CHIMO**  
Crisis Services

CHIMO

120 - 7000 Minoru Blvd., Richmond, B.C. V6Y 3Z5

June 6, 2003

Malcolm Brodie  
Mayor  
City of Richmond  
6911 No 3 Road  
Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie:

I am writing to clarify the issues with regards to the New Directions in Crisis Prevention and Response Initiative being led by CHIMO, which was discussed at the meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Committee on June 4, 2002.

For many years, CHIMO has received and appreciated funding support from the City of Richmond. These monies have been key to our continuing to provide crisis services to the community. Over this past year, the City has been supportive again in CHIMO's efforts to build the new Nova House. We have a long history of informally working well together to create a healthier, safer, and more vibrant Richmond community, a history that goes back to CHIMO's founding in 1973. CHIMO's founding Executive Director, Mona Jurczyk, was often a co-leader in working with City social planning staff to identify service gaps and develop responses. Our current Executive Director, Joan Cowderoy, plays a parallel role, working in partnership with City, School Board, RCMP, Richmond Health Services, and other community agency staff.

The New Directions Project is going ahead, focused initially in Steveston. Funding for the first year is already in place. The project leader, Lynn Savoie, will be working at the local level with citizens, community associations, neighbourhood groups, businesses, and the staff of non profit and public agencies. As the project proceeds, we will continue to keep you, City Council, and City staff well informed.

We are disappointed that the City has chosen not to formally partner with us on this important prevention and community development initiative. From our perspective, it fits well with the City's own desire to create vibrant and healthy neighbourhoods. City staff at all levels have been integrally involved in the project design. Our invitation to the City was not about money, nor about resources. It was, quite simply, an invitation to collaborate together.

I, and other members of CHIMO's Board of Directors, would be happy to meet with you if you wish to discuss these issues further. In the meantime, I want to assure you that CHIMO values its working relationships with the City of Richmond. The new Nova House will be completed and in full operation by September. The crisis prevention project has already started.

Please let me know how best we can continue to keep you well informed.

Yours sincerely,

Eileen Anderson  
Chairperson, Board of Directors  
CHIMO Crisis Services

*June 10/03  
- you advised that  
June 25th 2003 is to  
would be best for her  
board meeting to all  
attend. She will advise  
of her plans to meet. SA & MDE.*

City of Richmond  
RECEIVED  
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MAYOR'S OFFICE