



To: Richmond City Council
From: Councillor Linda Barnes
Chair, Community Safety Committee
Date: July 16th, 2002
File: 5175-01
Re: **Community Safety Village**

The Community Safety Committee, at its meeting held on July 9th, 2002, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) That the concept of a Community Safety Village be approved in principle, on the understanding that there be no future cost to the taxpayer; and*
- (2) That staff report on the costs and feasibility of implementing this project.*

Councillor Linda Barnes, Chair
Community Safety Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following for Part (1):

- (1) That the concept of a Community Safety Village be approved in principle.

Staff Report

Origin

Public safety continues to be a priority of the City of Richmond's Council. As a result, members of the Community Safety Team and the Community Safety Division are jointly exploring the feasibility of creating a miniature safety village. The focus of the project would be education and life skills training to foster a holistic approach to public safety.

Analysis

The concept of a safety village is not new. In fact, several municipalities in Canada and the United States have created Children's Safety Villages with the focus of providing life safety education for children in Fire and Police programs. Municipalities of Windsor, Waterloo Region, Chilliwack, Denver and Washington County have created successful safety villages.

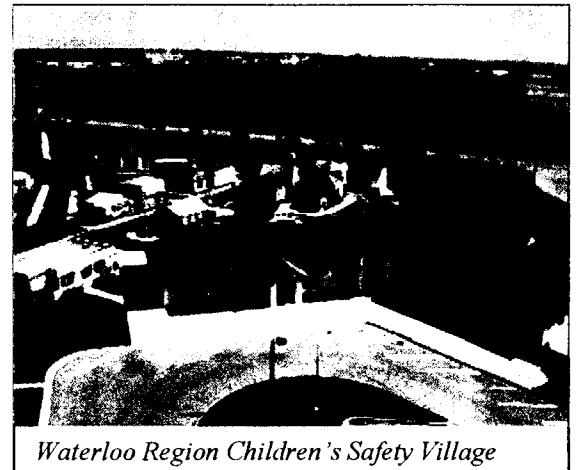
Opportunities:

Richmond has a unique opportunity to develop a more holistic approach to public safety due to our Community Safety Divisional structure. Potential programs could include:

- Fire Safety Programs: learn not to burn, risk watch, fire escape plan
- Police Programs: *Block Watch*, *Block Parent*, street safety, bike safety
- CPR and First Aid
- Emergency Preparedness
- Children's safety education programs from Kindergarten to grade 12
- Youth, adult and seniors education programs
- Cooking safely
- Home maintenance safety – protecting your home investment
- Safety orientation programs for new citizens

Public-Private Partnership:

A project of this magnitude will likely be very costly. However, there is an opportunity to significantly reduce costs to the taxpayer through public-private partnerships. For Example, in the Waterloo Region Children's Safety Village & Education Centre, sponsors purchased building lots for \$10,000.00, built their miniature, replica buildings and signed perpetual maintenance agreements for their building.



Waterloo Region Children's Safety Village



Classroom, Waterloo Region

Should Committee agree to proceed with the feasibility study, this funding model would require detailed exploration.

Location:

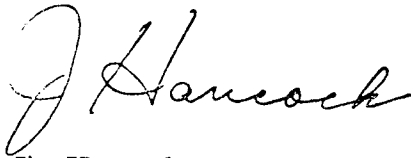
Although specific locations have not been researched at this time, the basic requirements for land would be; 3 to 4 acres, provide easy access for the public as well as neighbouring municipalities; adequate parking for buses, and room for future expansion.

Financial Impact

None at this time.

Conclusion

These facilities have been successful in other communities and have shown the benefit in creating livable and safe communities where the public takes responsibility for their personal safety and protection of their property.



Jim Hancock
Fire Chief



Gail Tremere
Chairperson, Community Safety Team

JDH:gdt