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## Community Safety Committee

Date: Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
Place: Anderson Room  
Richmond City Hall  
Present: Councillor Linda Barnes, Chair  
Councillor Derek Dang, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt  
Councillor Bill McNulty  
Absent: Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt  
Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee held on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003, be adopted as circulated.*  
**CARRIED**

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

2. The next meeting of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for *Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003* at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room.

### COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ADVISORY TASK FORCE

3. It was moved and seconded  
*That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee Advisory Task Force held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003, be received for information.*

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The question on the motion was not called, as questions were raised about the proposed 'Safe Communities Foundation'. Advice was given that the Foundation would be a volunteer community program, part of a Canada-wide network, to support community safety issues and initiatives within Richmond. In response to further questions, advice was given that the Community Safety Advisory Task Force would be submitting a report to the Committee on the proposal within the next short while, as the project was currently a 'work in progress'.

Reference was made to the survey undertaken by the Task Force. In answer to questions, advice was given that the survey had been approved by the Committee as part of the Task Force's work plan, and that the purpose of the survey was to gather information from the community on safety issues.

Reference was also made to the 'life span' of the Task Force, and advice was given that the Task Force would be submitting its final report within the next one and a half months. Further advice was given that the proposed Foundation was a sub-committee and was expected to continue but at arm's length from the City.

Reference was made to the number of citizens who were interested in safety issues within the City and questions were raised about whether there would be any opportunity for these people to participate on future task forces. Discussion ensued on how the Community Safety Advisory Task Force came to be created, during which the comment was made that the final report could identify issues which might require the formation of another task force, which could provide another opportunity for members of the public to volunteer their services.

The question on the motion was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

### 4. **POLICE CHIEF BRIEFING**

(Oral Report) (30 Minutes in duration)

Supt. Ward Clapham introduced the Commissioner Gary Forbes to the Committee. Supt. Clapham then reported and responded to questions on the state of affairs of crime and other issues, including:

- o automobile theft
- o the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team
- o break and enter occurrences
- o the Auxiliary Constable program
- o a possible partnership with the City of Vancouver Police Department regarding domestic violence

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- o new officers coming to Richmond
- o the Green Team and 'grow ops'
- o the 'Positive Ticket' program
- o the Cst. Jimmy Ng memorial
- o the homeless in Richmond.

Prior to concluding the discussion, the Chair referred to the RCMP's successful 'Positive Ticket' program and presented Supt. Clapham with a bundle of coupons from Brent Kerr, of Riverport, for free shoes and two games of free bowling at Zone Bowling.

## 5. SAFETY VILLAGE UPDATE

(Oral Report)

Fire Chief Jim Hancock introduced Ms. Angele Beausoleil and Mr. Chris Gale, of EdQuest Interactive Corp. Ms. Beausoleil then gave a PowerPoint presentation to explain the proposed Virtual Safety Village. A copy of the material circulated by the delegation is attached as Schedule A and forms part of these minutes. During the presentation, the following information was provided:

- o the City was working on a P3 partnership with EdQuest and others to bring the 'Virtual Safety Village' to Richmond
- o there would be no cost to the City as the team would be finding sponsors for development of the program
- o students, six to twelve years of age, and their parents would be targeted.

During the discussion which ensued, reference was made to the proposed Safety Village, and advice was given that furthering of that project was not a priority at this time, as the focus was on the development of the 'virtual Safety Village'. Further advice was given that the program would be very flexible and could be delivered to any user on a CD-Rom. With reference to providing a link to the City web site, a response was given that this was an option which could be considered.

Reference was made to the search for sponsors, and the suggestion was made by the Chair that the development team should approach the City's Corporate Sponsorship Committee.

Discussion continued, during which in response to a further question about whether educators had been approached about the program, advice was given that an educator was a member of the development team and had tested the prototype for the program. The suggestion was made that the team contact the Richmond School District to determine if the new program would be something in which the District could participate, such as the District did with "Project Wet".

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During the discussion, staff and the delegation were congratulated on developing an excellent and exciting program.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair asked that staff keep the Committee apprised of their progress on the development of the program.

## 6. COAST GUARD UPDATE

(Oral Report)

Ms. Susan Pickerall, representing the Coast Guard, provided an update to the Committee on the Coast Guard's hovercraft and dive team. She spoke about the repairs currently being undertaken on the existing hovercraft 'Siyay', and stated that the vessel should be back in service by October 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Pickerall further advised that the backup vessel should be in the Coast Guard's possession by May, 2004, and would be used to provide service when the primary vessel, 'Siyay', required maintenance.

Ms. Pickerall also reported that the last group of divers were completing their training and would be available by the beginning of November. She added that the entire complement of divers would be able to respond to any type of water rescue. Information was also provided that 90% of the rescue calls received by the Coast Guard came from the Richmond area.

The Chair thanked Ms. Pickerall for her report, and during the brief discussion which ensued, Ms. Pickerall was asked to convey to her superiors, the desire of the Committee that the Coast Guard provide annual updates to the Community Safety Committee, or if an important issue arose, to feel free to appear before the Committee at any time.

## 7. DISASTER RESPONSE ROUTES

(Report: Sept. 24/03, File No.: 5125-01) (REDMS No. 1069887)

The Manager, Emergency & Environmental Programs, Suzanne Bycraft, reviewed her report with the Committee. She also introduced Allan Galambos, Ministry of Transportation, and Doug Allan, Joint Emergency Liaison Committee Project Manager.

Discussion ensued among Committee members, staff, and the delegation, during which, in response to questions, the following information was provided:

- o designation of the Disaster Response routes would mean that City staff could advise City works crews that these roads had to be cleared of debris before anything else
- o the purpose of the signs was to allow the movement of supplies into an affected area, and if necessary, the evacuation of people

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- o erection of the Disaster Response Route signage along the designated routes would allow City staff not only to set priorities but to also advise the Provincial Ministry where the City's designated routes were located
- o the Airport's emergency disaster route was located within Richmond and therefore was an important component of the initiative, the purpose of which was to provide a link to the Abbotsford Airport
- o Richmond was the only community in the Lower Mainland which did not have designated emergency response routes
- o staff were not aware of any funding which might be available to help offset the cost of erecting the signs, but would pursue that option further
- o if Council gave its support to the proposal, staff would ask the Emergency Planning Committee for direction on who should receive special identification which would be required in the event of an emergency occurring.

During the discussion, concern was expressed about whether bridges, etc., which lead to surrounding municipalities would be road worthy after an earthquake, and questions were raised about whether collection areas had been identified. In response, advice was given that residents would go to community centres and that these muster points had been identified.

It was moved and seconded

*That Disaster Response Routes and associated signage be approved along Alderbridge Way from the Highway 91 interchange, south on Garden City Road to Granville Avenue, west along Granville Avenue to No. 2 Road, along No. 2 Road from the airport to Steveston Highway, west on Steveston Highway to No. 1 Road, and south on No. 1 Road, (as shown on Attachment 2 to the report dated September 24, 2003, from the Manager, Emergency & Environmental Programs).*

**CARRIED**

## 8. **COORDINATED APPROACH TO MOSQUITO CONTROL IN THE GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT**

(Report: Sept. 16/03, File No.: 6125-04-01) (REDMS No. 1066230)

Ms. Bycraft reviewed her report with the Committee. Introduced were Dr. James Loo, Chief Medical Health Inspector, and Kelvin Higo, Chief Public Health Inspector.

Mr. Higo reported that the City's 2003 program was very intensive, and that the City had participated in a special study to determine if a new chemical might be beneficial in preventing the West Nile Virus in the coming year. He also provided information on regular meetings held with all health authorities on the subject of mosquito control. Mr. Higo advised that British Columbia had 91 cases of the virus however, every case had originated from other areas.

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With reference to the proposal now being considered, Mr. Higo stated that he did not have any problems with the project, but added that even with the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) providing a coordinated approach on a regional basis, Richmond would still be responsible for maintaining its own mosquito control program. He added that even though the virus had not been a problem in 2003, it was expected that the virus would finally arrive in British Columbia in 2004.

Discussion ensued on the proposal, during which support was expressed for the proposal, however it was felt that Richmond should play a lead role and continue to spray for mosquitoes, even if the GVRD did not. The request was also made that funding be included in the 2004 budget if the City intended to undertake mosquito control work on an annual basis. In response to financing of the program, advice was given by Mr. Higo that it was his understanding that the Provincial Government would be providing funding to municipalities to initiate a partial program of spraying.

During further discussion on the GVRD proposal, advice was given that the GVRD had forwarded the proposal to Lower Mainland municipalities because it had been approached by municipalities which had GVRD parks located within their boundaries. Ms. Bycraft stated that staff were wanting to ensure that the cost of mosquito control was fair, but at the same time, did not want to turn control of the City's program over to the GVRD.

Reference was made to the need to educate the public about the West Nile virus, and advice was given that pamphlets and other educational materials would be prepared and distributed to community centres for area residents. The comment was made that if residents took the appropriate precautions, then 95% of the work would be done.

In concluding the discussion, it was noted that coordination of the mosquito control program through the GVRD would provide the benefit of coordination and consistency by allowing municipalities to continue with their own existing programs in a more coordinated manner or, alternatively, to have the GVRD carry out a mosquito control program on their behalf.

It was moved and seconded

*That the Greater Vancouver Regional District Board of Directors be advised that Richmond Council supports a coordinated approach to mosquito control, with voluntary participation by member municipalities, to control the spread of West Nile Virus.*

**CARRIED**

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## ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded  
*That the meeting adjourn (5:31 p.m.).*

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

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Councillor Linda Barnes  
Chair

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Fran J. Ashton  
Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office

SCHEDULE A TO THE MINUTES OF  
THE COMMUNITY SAFETY  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2003.



## Richmond's Virtual Safety Village™

*For children fourteen and under, the number one health risk isn't drugs or disease; it's injury. Each year accidental injuries kill over 6,000 children and permanently disable 120,000. In Canada injuries are the leading cause of death for children over one year of age.*

*Through the exceptional leadership, vision and support of the City of Richmond, we are leading the way to establishing the value of a Virtual Safety Village in the community.*

### What is a Virtual Safety Village™?

A Virtual Safety Village (VSV)™ is an interactive, digital representation of what is offered in a 'real life' community safety village. Similar to existing safety villages, the virtual village contains buildings, streets and roadways and offers access to local events, courses and demonstrations that enhance understanding of safety. It is a virtual community where parents, children, senior citizens and community members can learn, interact and share safety tips, experiences and knowledge.

The VSV is a two- and three-dimensional community where it's people, young and old work through a variety of interactive simulations of real-life safety scenarios. You are confronted with a series of choices that result in consequences. Maximizing the proven benefits of current multimedia technology, the VSV will provide users with an engaging educational experience that will help foster greater understanding of community safety.

The first stage of our VSV will be a Children's Safety Village experience that is a fun, entertaining, and safe place for children of all ages to learn important safety issues. The VSV is created and customized for each and every community in Canada, supplying citizens entertaining and interactive ways of learning about community safety issues.

### Virtual Safety Village Benefits:

- Improve children's safety education through a Virtual Safety Village
- Reach kids through a medium they embrace and is proven as educational aid
- Offer a rich, simulated environment where users learn through engagement
- Position the City, Police and Fire as innovative leaders for community safety
- Delivery of a web-based and CD-ROM product for promotion safety prevention, that is branded and customized for your city's local safety leaders e.g. Fire Rescue, RCMP, etc.
- Safety education when you want it or need it, and at your own pace.
- Dramatically reduce the cost, time and efforts to build, maintain and/or improve a physical safety village.

### Community Benefits:

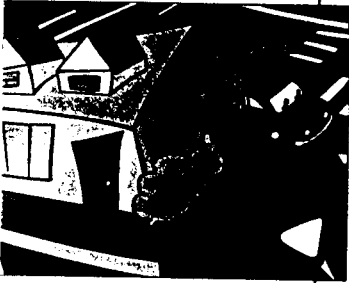
- Increased public safety education in the City of Richmond
- Reduction of preventable safety related problems.
- Increased distribution and delivery of safety programs in the City of Richmond
- The web-based component acts a centralized portal for community safety issues in the City. Families, children, seniors and immigrants will have access to interactive simulations to enhance their understanding of community safety issues.
- Full credit on the production of the product and promotion of the City of Richmond as an innovative community.

### Features

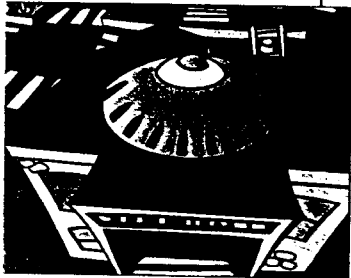
- Interactive
- Simulations
- Educational
- Entertaining
- Animations
- Video clips
- Sound Effects
- Multilingual



## Product Details

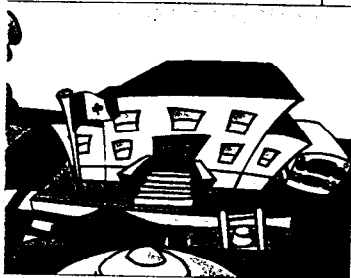


The Virtual Safety Village™ for children will be available to all communities across Canada for integration into their existing web page or portal. The VSV offers original content, created from sourced assets, embedded in rich media technologies that include: flash animations, real sound effects, video clips, interactive Q&A sections, simulation shockwave games, multiple language options, safety quiz/ puzzles, web cam of the city area, VRML capture of real Community Safety Villages, supervised chat area for parents, interactive map of safety areas in the community, and online/offline activities such as building their own fire escape plans, print out docs, cut outs and online colouring.



The proposed Basic Package will include:

- Choice of Urban or Rural model
- High quality safety village graphics and animations, complete with Village Hall, School, Houses, Streets, Roadways, Car, Bike and Signs.
- Approved and endorsed Safety Module Content
- Fire Safety, Road Safety; Bike Safety; and Appropriate use of 911
- Simulation games for each safety module
- Creative activities, Educational quizzes and tests
- Certificate of completion of Safety Education
- Printouts on "Safety Tips" for the Home, School and Playground
- Parent and Teacher areas
- And much more



Examples of additional Safety Modules:

- Urban Model:

Playground Safety; Stranger Danger; Water Safety; Railroad Safety; Seatbelt Safety; Storm Preparedness; Kitchen Safety; Backyard Safety; Internet Safety; Electrical Safety; Bullying, etc.

- Rural Model:

Farm Safety; Water Safety; Stranger Danger; Animal Safety; Burn Safety; etc.

It is expected the VSV will be offered as a comprehensive, yet customizable Internet product in combination with CD-ROM technology. Targeted to municipalities and safety organizations, the VSV offers communities an innovative and cost effective means of providing their citizens the necessary tools to live safely.

**For more information contact:**

**ed**

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<http://www.edquestinteractive.com/demo/>