City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To Community Safety - Nov. 13, 2003

To:	Community Safety Committee	**Date:**	October 14, 2003
From:	Shawn Issel Manager, Policy Development & Corporate Programs	**File:**	~~5000-01~~ 0100-20-CSPA1-01
Re:	**Community Safety Advisory Task Force Final Report**		

Staff Recommendation

The Community Safety Advisory Task Force Final Report from the Manager, Policy Development and Corporate Programs be received for information, and

That, having fulfilled their mandate, the Community Safety Advisory Task Force be thanked for their work, and

That the areas of interest highlighted by the CSATF be referred to staff.

Shawn Issel
Manager, Policy Development & Corporate Programs
(4184)

Att. 1

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

1078296

Staff Report

Origin

The CSATF (Community Safety Advisory Task Force) was appointed in June, 2002 to identify public safety issues from a community perspective and to provide a public forum for community participation.

In support of this mandate the CSATF developed and implemented a plan to identify priority initiatives for the safety of the community, and to gather input from the community on those priorities. In addition, they have taken action to support a number of these initiatives. Having fulfilled their mandate, this final report is a summary of the CSATF's activities.

Analysis

The CSATF was thoroughly briefed by Fire Rescue, Emergency & Environmental Programs, Community Bylaws and the RCMP in the services provided to the community as well as current issues and initiatives underway. The CSATF was also provided with the findings of the Ipsos Reid Community Safety Focus Group sessions held in January, 2002. Using this information the CSATF focused on:

1. identifying priorities intended to bring the community back into taking responsibility for the general safety and welfare of Richmond through educating the public, and
2. supporting programs that make Richmond one of Canada's safest cities.

Identifying Priorities and Gathering Community Input

The most significant component of the CSATF's mandate was to develop and implement a strategy to gather community perspectives on priorities for safety. The CSATF identified the following safety priorities, which were then presented to community groups for input:

- **Home Safe Program** - CSATF endorsement of this program
- **Community meetings** - to present the CSATF safety plan to the community for input.
- **Business Watch** - Inviting the Chamber of Commerce to assist with community safety information for businesses
- **Virtual Community Safety Village** - endorse the proposal by City Staff for the virtual Community Safety Village, and assist in promoting the concept to community partners
- **Richmond Safe Communities Coalition** – assist in developing the business plan for membership to the national Safe Communities Foundation
- **Promoting volunteerism** - for various community safety programs, i.e. Blockwatch, crimewatch,
- **Educational Programs** – assisting the Community Safety Division in the development of programs and promoting to the community
- **Youth Strategy** – combined city program to encourage youth participation in safety issues
- **24 hour bylaw enforcement** – to address life quality issues, such as dogs and noise

In the Spring, 2003, the Community Safety Advisory Task Force began a series of presentations to community groups to gather input on the priorities identified. Those community groups were

the Richmond District Parent Advisory Committee, RCMP Community Police Station Volunteers, RCMP Community Consultative Groups, Minoru Senior Centre Executive, and the Richmond Amateur Radio Club.

In addition, the CSATF developed a brief, one page survey which was distributed during the presentations. At the end of each presentation attendees were asked to fill out the survey *(Attachment 1)*. Further, a presentation was held inviting the general public to provide input, and the survey was also made available on the City Website.

The intent of the survey was to gather community input on the initiatives the CSATF identified as important to the community's safety. In total, 69 surveys were completed. Respondents were asked to rate the initiatives identified by the CSATF by asking them *"if they could spend $100 on the priorities how they would allocate the money"*. The following list represents on average the dollars the respondents would spend in each category .

Educational Programs	$19.87
Youth Strategy	$19.21
Home Safe Program	$17.70
Promoting Volunteerism	$9.14
24 Hour Bylaw Enforcement	$8.54
Community Safety Village	$8.19
Business Watch	$4.83
Safe Communities Foundation	$4.61
Community Meetings	$3.95
Safety Website	$3.95
TOTAL	**$100.00**

Key findings from comments in the survey indicate interest in Home Safe and educational programs, particularly for youth and children. When asked what other safety issues needed to be addressed a significant number of comments indicate concerns in the area of traffic safety. The CSATF recommend that these three areas be referred to staff to determine the need to enhance current programs.

CSATF Support of Community Safety Programs

In addition to the community presentations, the CSATF actively supported a number of community safety programs. Members of the CSATF were involved in a staff grow ops workshop which provided an opportunity for citizen input into strategies on how to deal with property managers\owners. A letter from the CSATF was sent to Community Safety Committee endorsing the City's Pilot Home Safe Program. The CSATF is providing input to staff for the Safe Communities Foundation business plan and the virtual Community Safety Village. A member of the CSATF has been in discussions with the RCMP to enhance the Business Watch program.

Next Steps

Members of the CSATF have become very knowledgeable about the City's community safety services, issues and initiatives since the task force was formed. Although the mandate of the CSATF is complete, the task force members believe there is a benefit to having a pool of well informed citizens that would be available in an ad hoc capacity to participate in the development of specific initiatives and represent a community perspective. For example, a referral has recently been given to staff from the Community Safety Committee to prepare an Event Strategy and input from CSATF members could be beneficial.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the Ipsos Reid Community Safety Focus Group report was that the citizens in the focus groups felt, in general, that Richmond was a safe place to live and work. The mandate of the CSATF was to gather community input on community safety issues and provide a public forum for community participation. The CSATF findings reinforce the Ipsos Reid report .

The CSATF has fulfilled their mandate. The task force members are to be commended for volunteering their time on this initiative, and for their diligent and thorough effort throughout.

Shawn Issel
Manager, Policy Development & Corporate Programs
(4184)

SI:si

City of Richmond
Community Safety Division

Community Safety Advisory Task Force
Community Input Survey Results

1. If I could spend $100 on the following initiatives, I would allocate the money in the following way:

Each respondent divided their $100 according to what initiatives they thought were most important. The amount spent in each category was totalled, and then the total amount in each category was given a dollar value based on percentage.

Educational Programs	$19.87
Youth Strategy	$19.21
Home Safe Program	$17.70
Promoting Volunteerism	$9.14
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Comments

Education/Prevention

- Excellent Education and Safe Community with vibrant business opportunity.
- The Community Safety Village is an extremely smart idea. it's a fun activity for kids to participate in that will likely influence them in their decision later on in life.
- Home Safe Program – good for sharing info in case of emergencies
- I believe education is far more effective than enforcement in many areas, especially in immigrant communities
- Increase education in home invasion prevention
- Can Home Safe Program be done through Block Watch?
- Don't duplicate programs (similar) already in place, e.g. Block Watch

Youth/Children

- Kids and youth taught about safety issues so they will be more aware of what is happening and may be more vocal so the future will be changed
- Youth needs more attention... they are 'the future'
- Youth Strategy – peer pressure, education, restitution, community service projects, counselling
- Involve Youth as much as possible

Traffic Safety

- Speeding in school zones (Lord Byng School, Steveston)

Volunteers

- $30 should be allocated to get better (new) equipment for crime watch and like groups (speed watch, bike patrols, etc.)

Miscellaneous

- Better health services
- I'm sure there's $10 that needs to be spent elsewhere
- please do something about the shrill screaming automatic theft devices on cars

2. What Community Safety Services are being done well?

Twelve community safety services were listed. Respondents were asked to check off any Community Safety service they felt was being done well.

1.	Fire Prevention Education	15.56%
2.	Strategies to Discourage Street Racing	13.23%
3.	Safety at Special Events (Halloween, Tall Ships)	12.45%
4.	Responding to Medical Aid Calls	12.06%
5.	Crime Prevention	9.73%
6.	Emergency Preparedness Activities	9.73%
7.	Emergency Social Services	7.00%
8.	Eliminating Grow Ops	5.84%
9.	Drug Abuse Prevention	4.67%
10.	Eliminating Graffiti	4.28%
11.	Volunteer Recruitment	3.50%
12.	Pollution Prevention Activities	1.95%
	Total	100.00%

Comments

Crime, grow ops and street racing

- Richmond's greatest threat
- I'm not sure I would want to say which are being done well based on public media reports. However, I am fairly certain street racing is NOT being handled strongly enough.
- Encourage parents not to buy youth such fast cars or let them use their high powered cars. Judges too lenient to offenders and repeat offenders.

Education

- Crime Prevention Education should be mandatory for all citizens in areas that have been classified as "high risk" by the RCMP. Officer or volunteer inspections of "underground" parking facilities, especially in Richmond Centre.
- Community Police Stations

Emergency Preparedness

- Not enough information is available in the event of an earthquake, where shelters will be set up
- My impression is that Richmond lags behind other municipalities such as Vancouver and the North Shore in emergency preparedness. Rather than reinventing the wheel, we should adopt a successful model that is being used elsewhere (e.g. Vector)

Substance Abuse Prevention

- Not enough counselling, rehab. etc. for youth, families. RADAT provider counselling only if the user/alcoholic is enrolled in the program. That only leaves ALANON. Not enough being done in the school with honestly good teachers.

Not Sure

- Unless you actually need a service you really do not know effectiveness unless someone describes each area in detail
- Have no idea
- I find it very hard to answer as I am not very aware of any of these services and how well they are being done
- Not sure

Miscellaneous

- The gardens are excellent, the city is very clean
- Most of them
- Good Work!
- More of the same
- Can the two local newspapers donate space to have this survey to a larger part of the population?
- Too much talk not enough do

3. Are there any other safety issues which need to be addressed?

Respondents commented on any other safety issues which had not be been addressed either in the presentation or by their comments elsewhere in the survey. The principle area of concern was traffic safety overall.

Comments

Traffic Safety

- Street racing. I would be VERY willing to work in a volunteer effort to combat street racing.
- Need for late night/early morning public transportation
- Speeding in residential areas especially around parks and popular tourist attractions like Moncton Street in Steveston. The city should install large speed bumps or other devices to slow the street racing and lower the speed limit during all hours of the day.
- Speeding in school zones – usually by the parents
- More pedestrian crosswalk signals
- Speed of vehicles in the City
- Irresponsible driving
- excessive speed on Steveston highway and elsewhere in the City , reckless drivers
- No. 3 & Westminster Highway – jaywalkers that get off buses and run behind buses
- Issue tickets for illegal crosswalks.
- Help drivers to remember to stop and be sure no one is in the crosswalk when they are making a right turn
- Cell phones should be banned while driving
- Students from Richmond High crossing anywhere at their own leisure on Minoru, and not using crosswalk provided
- The flashing orange for pedestrian crossings are still not safe or safe than without. People need information on the use of them – both drivers and pedestrians
- Home security
- Traffic enforcement, longer yellow lights
- More left turn signals at busy streets

- Dangerous parking, e.g. on both sides of a minor street where it meets a major street (non-locals who park and then take a bus)
- Enhanced traffic law enforcement
- Jay walking on streets
- Speeding on residential streets
- General traffic safety (school zones, buses, crosswalks, speeding) – not just street racing

Perception of Safety

- Street safety...the ability to walk in Richmond, evenings and still feel safe. Property crimes are too high...public needs to be educated
- House and car break-ins
- Home security (break-ins, etc)
- Poor lighting in some park areas with attract loitering

Youth/Children

- Youth groups and gatherings
- Increase in gang activity
- Youth on streets, youth violence
- Reinstatement of block parent program (closed temporarily) and clear education (safety, etc.) for children

Prevention/Education

- First aid – everyone with a basic CPR certificate, public AEDS
- continuation of receptive, proactive reactive police officers, firefighters, ambulance, community policing) and that is where the money is best spent... manpower more so then pamphlets, stickers that don't get read or thrown out

Lobbying

- Think the police and courts try hard but how do we alter laws for strong sentencing for drugs, road racing, etc.

Better Communication

- More information needs to be broadcasted when there is a community concern. The more people that know and maybe things will get better.

Quality of Life

- SPCA and vicious dogs.
- Monitoring altitude of low flying aircraft over residential Richmond
- dumping of aviation fuel by aircraft over Richmond

Grow Ops

- In my opinion there needs to be more done about Grow Ops

Health

- Ban of cosmetic pesticides
- Health issues awareness, i.e. SARS

Volunteering

- Identification for assisting safety in community

4. I am interested in helping the CSATF in implementing these initiatives.

Yes	17
No	31
Did not answer	21
Total number of surveys	**69**