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## COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Held October 10, 2002  
Meeting Room 2.002  
Richmond City Hall

**In Attendance:**

Robert Aldcorn (Chair), Mary Campbell, Cllr. Linda Barnes, Florence Gordon, Shawn Issel, Brenda Karp, Jim Lavery, Vince Miele, Max Tondowsky

**Also Present:**

Kari Huhtala, Gail Tremeer – representatives from the Community Safety Team, Jim Hancock – Fire Chief

**Adoption of Minutes**

*Jim Lavery \ Max Tondowsky*

*That the minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Task Force of September 11, 2002 be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

**Presentation from Community Safety Team members on Home Safe Program and Virtual Community Safety Village**

The Chair introduced representatives from the Community Safety Team (Gail Tremeer – Chair, and Kari Huhtala), advising that, following the Division's Department overviews it had been considered beneficial to receive a presentation of the role of the Community Safety Team. Gail outlined the Home Safe Program - a pilot study conducted over the summer months in three local neighbourhoods. Residents in these areas had chosen a topics that they wished to learn more about (Home Secure, Fire Safety, Youth Safety, Home Improvement), and a selection of staff had visited these neighbourhoods on a chosen evening, providing information to attendees.

These pilot meetings had been very well received, with residents coming out to meet their neighbours sometimes for the first time; the final location had organized a townhouse barbecue with staff included. The pilot program showed that the City could successfully go out into the community to relay information, and connect residents. The team was now preparing a report to the Community Safety Committee for determination of whether such programs should continue; an attachment would include evaluations received from participating residents. Gail further advised that Bellevue, Washington practised a more advanced and extensive version of the program, with that city's staff assigned to liaise with a specific area.

Fire Chief Jim Hancock then updated the group on the Community Safety Village proposal. One concept was for a plot of land to be acquired with buildings placed to 1/3 normal scale on the site (MacDonalds, Tim Hortons, fire station, etc) Classroom's could be built in a fire station area to stimulate various types of educational arenas – how to exit a window safely in the event of fire, prevention of choking, etc. The police could walk younger children through the village and teach them the safest way to cross a road; older children could be educated on drug prevention. Children would learn to "help themselves, and others" which would prove beneficial in the event of an emergency, and in carrying out life skills.

A further concept had recently been introduced – a Virtual Safety Village in which website users could move in and out of various virtual buildings, vehicles, etc. in which different communicative safety

messages would be shown. This would be an interactive program showing how to escape from a kitchen fire, how to put a fire out, etc. – very appealing to both children and adults, and as very little language would be used on the site, could connect well to those who had limited English (educating new immigrants who might not have good knowledge of life skills to use in emergencies). It could be beneficial to have the site split into various age groups to prevent adults being discouraged from “touring” the site if it was purely geared to younger participants. Funding opportunities to allow development of the concept were currently being sought by way of grants.

Discussion regarding the virtual safety village concept included:

- “links” were a critical component, which could get complicated and expensive
- answering a question regarding the report to Committee, Gail advised that the recommendation would request that the Home Safe Program continue, and that it become available to a more neighbourhoods
- additional resources would probably be required if the Program continued; the Task Force could assist in marketing programs and services, and be a feedback source if problems were known in a certain neighbourhood
- assistance from the Task Force would be beneficial when sponsors for the Community Safety Village, and the Virtual Village concepts were sought
- the group were cautioned that not everyone had access to the website – although statistics showed that Richmond had a high percentage of Website users, and an Internet café had been created in the local Seniors’ Centre with lessons provided
- an avenue was being sought in which to send information out to the media for the community to become more knowledgeable on safety issues (how residents could access Neighbourhood Watch, etc.)
- delivering the program to the business community would require “tailoring” to suit requirements – a balance of program delivery was required (eg. if a firefighter saw something in a commercial building that contravened bylaw regulations he/she was required to report that problem - as they would also be required to do in townhouse complexes, etc.

Jim, Gail, and Kari were thanked for their presentation, and left the meeting (6:25pm).

- the Chair advised that, when the report was prepared, group discussion was required regarding support of the concept - Cllr. Barnes advised that Council to date had supported a pilot project being undertaken; the Task Force was charged with the overall responsibility of directing where it believed community safety priorities lay in a more overall picture
- the community safety village/virtual village concept fitted into a number of the Task Force goals
- a letter of endorsement attached to the report, or separate distribution, advising that the group intended to increase community awareness, advertise safety initiatives, and were communicating with the community would be beneficial

Discussion on how to communicate the Task Force's goals to the community included:

- an internet site could be a large dollar investment - as other cities also had similar sites, could Richmond “link” to a site, adding Richmond specifics
- going out into the community to obtain input on what was perceived as a safety priority had previously been considered by the group as the best method of obtaining a perspective, and also to relay Task Force ideas
- a position report would be prepared for Committee information
- the Community Safety Advisory Task Force report summary (docs 869431), and Community Safety Services document were studied, with additions made – Shawn would amalgamate the reports into one document

Lisa Dorian entered the meeting (6:45pm)

- information from the amalgamated report would be used to gather community opinion on material being delivered, followed by an update report to the Community Safety Committee
- programs could already be in place but not all residents knew of their existence, and a dollar value should be included in presentations to the community
- a written survey was considered the best method of obtaining information (telephone survey could prove a language barrier, would have to be done in broad categories, lot of energy required in

organizing attendees of focus groups) – Shawn would study options; and as the Task Force had no budget a request would be made for funding to carry out the exercise – the report would however suggest options on how to distribute information to the community, and also contain the Mission and Goals of the Task Force

Cllr. Barnes left the meeting (7:00pm).

- ❑ the comment was made that there was no representation from the Asian community on the Task Force - Florence advised she would talk to Asian contacts in an attempt to obtain representation
- ❑ the survey could be completed by CAPP students, BlockWatch, Neighbourhood Watch, business areas, Parent Action Committee, Parent Advisory Groups, Seniors' groups, Richmond Family Place, etc. and could be displayed on the City website, newspapers, etc.
- ❑ the local universities had master students looking for projects, they, or Kwantlen students, could be approached to conduct a survey
- ❑ information received would be beneficial in providing the Division with a sense of what the community wished to see in Richmond regarding safety measures
- ❑ one drawback would be that a broad perspective would not be gathered if specific groups were surveyed, but the report could advise where information was gathered – a break down of the areas providing material would be necessary
- ❑ one question could ask "if you had \$100 to spend on a City program, where would those dollars be allocated", another would be to determine if the person lived in Richmond as concerns differed if a non-resident
- ❑ the same questions would need to be asked of each area surveyed in order to gauge requirements
- ❑ Brenda Karp volunteered to prepare survey questions, and would work with Shawn (a program was available from staff which collated material gathered from surveys)
- ❑ an update report would be prepared for presentation to the Community Safety Committee requesting dollars in order to conduct a survey. A PowerPoint presentation could be prepared, with members of the Task Force involved in its preparation.

#### **CSATF Representation at Staff Workshops on Grow-Ops and Street Racing**

Shawn advised that preparation for a one-day staff workshop was underway for November (date tba) to discuss solutions to Grow-Ops and it would be beneficial for a Task Force representative to attend the all day session.

A special Task Force was also to be created to deal with the issue of street racing.

#### **Next Meeting**

As schedules had again altered, a new meeting day was required and it was decided to hold the next meeting on **Monday November 18 at 5:30pm, Room M.2.002, Richmond City Hall**, with teleconferencing available.

When compiled, Shawn would e-mail the draft survey to the group for review and discussion at the November 18 meeting.