



City of Richmond Report to Committee

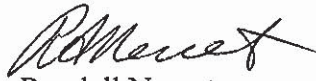
To: Community Safety Committee
From: Rendall Nasset, Superintendent
Officer In Charge,
Richmond RCMP

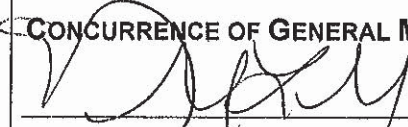
Date: February 21, 2011
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(11.26)

Re: Coastal Watch Report

Staff Recommendation

That the "Coastal Watch" report (dated February 21st, 2011 from the Auxiliary Constable Coordinator) be received for information.


Rendall Nasset
Superintendent
Officer In Charge
Richmond Detachment
(604)278-1212

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Origin

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the Coastal Watch Program.

Background

Coastal Watch is a community crime prevention program for anyone who lives, works, or spends time on or near the water; including recreational and professional boaters, fishers, dock attendants, vessel brokers, marine supply stores, etc. It is these individuals, familiar with local areas, who can best determine when suspicious people and vessels are present.

The two primary goals of Coastal Watch are to:

- Educate the public regarding what types of suspicious occurrences are of interest to the police;
- Encourage them to report these occurrences to the police, and;
- To gather, analyze and disseminate incoming information to the appropriate detachment, unit or agency.

Public education is integral to program success, as the participation of local citizens provide the driving force behind the program. In the marine community, as elsewhere, members of the public are best able to determine what type of activity is “usual” in their community. The educational aspect of Coastal Watch is similar to Block Watch, with educational materials, meetings and presentations.

Education provides an enhanced marine community awareness of the program’s priorities in relation to targeted marine activities:

- Drugs
- Migrant smuggling
- Terrorism
- Customs offences
- Environmental crime
- Homeland industry
- Criminal Code offences
- Vessels in distress

The reporting aspect of the program is similar to Crime Stoppers, as the promotion of the “Coastal Watch Hotline” will allow for increased public understanding of reporting procedures for marine-based activities of interest. The use of this hotline also provides for a consolidated process to gather and analyze incoming information, and disseminate the information to the appropriate detachment, unit or agency.

Note: The Coastal Watch program is not meant to replace 9-1-1 calls for active criminal occurrences in local areas.

Analysis

The primary focuses for the Coastal Watch Program in Richmond are the commercial fishing community and the recreational boating community.

Notable activities to date:

- With the support of the Steveston Harbour Authority, permanent Coastal Watch signage has been placed at visible public entrances to the Steveston harbour.
- Auxiliary Constables have been conducting "Dock Walk" foot patrols in the Steveston and Graybar areas with the primary purpose of public education. The "Dock Walks" also provide an opportunity to develop contacts in the marine community, and increase the visible RCMP presence in the area.
- Transport Canada has trained and certified several Auxiliary Constables as Boating Safety Volunteers. During the recreational boating season, these Auxiliary Constables conducted "Pleasure-Craft Courtesy Check" inspections at Richmond boat launches to increase compliance with equipment required by the Small Vessel Regulations. These inspections also allow for promotion of the Coastal Watch program to participating boaters.
- Participation in marine community events such as the Maritime Festival and the Vancouver Boat Show to promote the Coastal Watch program to the public.

Proposed Activities for 2011:

A significant increase in Coastal Watch activities is expected this year, primarily due to an increase in the number of Auxiliary Constables that have been trained in the Coastal Watch program. Activities may include:

- Establishing contacts with Richmond marinas, yacht clubs, harbour/port authorities and community groups with marine interests (such as Sea Cadets/Scouts, yacht clubs, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power Squadron, etc.) to increase awareness of Coastal Watch program.
- Promoting and delivering Coastal Watch presentations to all interested groups.
- Distributing information to individual boaters and organizations regarding new or updated laws, policies and regulations that pertain to the marine community. This will be done through a combination of on-site visits, presentations and "Dock Walks".
- Increasing the frequency of "Dock Walks" at marinas and commercial harbours to provide ongoing engagement with the marine community.
- Increasing the frequency of "Pleasure Craft Courtesy Check" inspections at boat launches to increase compliance with equipment required by the Small Vessel Regulations, and promote the Coastal Watch program.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the Coastal Watch program in Richmond, as the program is delivered by volunteer Auxiliary Constables, and promotional materials are provided provincially through "E" Division.

Conclusion

The Coastal Watch program provides a community-based educational crime prevention program which is well-suited to Richmond, given the size of the existing commercial and recreational marine communities.



Steve Ilott
Richmond Detachment
RCMP Auxiliary Constable Coordinator
(604-278-1212)