City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To:	Community Safety Committee	**Date:**	June 20, 2016
From:	Rendall Nesset, Superintendent Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP	**File:**	09-5000-01/2016-Vol 01
Re:	**Richmond RCMP Block Watch Program**		

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond RCMP Block Watch Program" dated June 20, 2016 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be received for information.

Rendall Nesset, Superintendent
Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment
(604-278-1212)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

At the Community Safety Committee of March 15, 2016, a presentation was provided and a referral was requested that staff report back on the Block Watch program.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

> *Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.*

Analysis

Block Watch Program Update

Since the last memorandum on Block Watch dated February 9, 2016 titled Richmond RCMP Block Watch Survey there have been significant steps taken to review, adjust, and enhance this program.

- A job posting was initiated through City of Richmond Human Resources to locate a permanent Block Watch coordinator for the program. The posting ran internally from February 17, 2016 to February 25, 2016 and externally from April 19, 2016 to May 1, 2016. A total of 77 applications were received. The resourcing process is close to completion.

On May 9, 2016 a new auxiliary, who served on the board of the Block Watch Society of BC, was hired to review the program, identify strengths and weaknesses, and initiate adjustments where appropriate.

The Richmond staff and volunteers are working to ensure that Richmond Block Watch is aligned with the objectives and parameters set out for the program.

The following are some of the changes and that have been implemented to the program.

- Block Watch pamphlets have been reviewed, edited and refocused to specifically align with the program.

- A Chinese language Block Watch pamphlet has been designed to enhance contact and communication in local neighbourhoods.

- Adjustments have been made to the Block Watch website ensuring further alignment with the program.

- The Block Watch application process has been streamlined for greater efficiency

- A training session for Block Watch captains was developed and implemented in the community. The session was well attended and well received.

- Emergency Preparedness was included in cooperative training during the Block Watch training sessions.

- Three of five scheduled Block Watch training sessions have so far been delivered to the community.

- An email alert system is currently undergoing changes through the streamlining of message delivery. This change is currently evolving in response to feedback from the community.

- There has been an integration of internal Criminal Analyst's activities and data that will permit direct population of the crime statistics and maps. This has resulted in reduced data entry demands for Block Watch staff as well as improved accuracy of crime data mapping for the public.

- A Rural Watch program, pamphlet and a unique logo have been designed
  (See Attachment 1 and 2) to address Richmond's unique rural crime prevention needs.

- Staff were also present to promote the Block Watch Program and answer questions at the Public Works Open House on May 14, 2016.

It is anticipated that over the next several weeks the following adjustments to the program will be implemented:

- The manufacture and deployment of Rural Watch signage in the community.

- Upon approval, an official roll out of the Rural Watch program.

- An audit of Block Watch subscriber data.

- The hiring of a permanent Block Watch Coordinator.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

This report provides information on the Richmond RCMP's Block Watch Program and steps taken in relation to reviewing, adjusting, and enhancing this program. It is anticipated that over the next several weeks further adjustments to the program will be implemented to make this program more effective to the community.

Edward Warzel
Manager, RCMP Administration
(604-207-4767)

EW:jl

Att. 1: Rural Watch Logo
       2: Brochure

RURAL
WATCH

All suspicious activities
reported to police

What is required of Rural Property Owners?

• Each area will require a Team Lead and, ideally, an Assistant Lead to assist.

• All Leads and Assistant Leads will undergo a security check by police in advance of attending the free training session and crime prevention workshop.

• The Rural Watch Program Application form can be obtained from one of our Community Police Stations or online at www.richmond.ca/blockwatch

• The program does not require a lot of your time nor is it a major responsibility. It is easy to organize.

• It is not necessary to be at your property all the time to be a Lead or Assistant Lead.

• There are no patrols – just go about your daily life.

How do I get Involved?

To get involved in Rural Watch in your area, contact the Crime Prevention office at 604-207-4829 or email blockwatch@richmond.ca

Richmond Rural Watch

For more information, please contact:
Richmond Crime Prevention
Phone: 604-207-4829

Fax: 604-270-9377

Email:.........blockwatch@richmond.ca

RCMP (Emergency).......................9-1-1

RCMP (Non-Emergency) 604-278-1212

To leave a tip on any crime, please email

Richmond_tips@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Or to remain anonymous,
Call Crime Stoppers at
1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visit

www.solvecrime.ca

Follow Richmond RCMP on Twitter:
@RichmondRCMP/GRCdeRichmond

Richmond RCMP
Crime Prevention Team
11411 No. 5 Road
Richmond, BC V7A 4E8

May, 2016

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Richmond

RURAL WATCH

All suspicious activities reported to police

WWW.RICHMOND.CA/BLOCKWATCH

Committed to Safe Homes, Safe Communities

Rural Watch

Safe Properties, Safe Communities

What is Rural Watch?

Rural Watch is a free community based program to help neighbours in rural areas watch out for neighbours. It aims to get citizens involved in preventing crime at the local level. The ultimate success of Rural Watch depends largely on a commitment to cooperate between area residents and the police – and more importantly, between property owners themselves.

A healthy community is everyone's responsibility.

How does it work?

Your neighbours know who you are, what type of vehicle you drive, and may be the first to notice a suspicious person on your property. A police officer patrolling the area may not recognize a stranger in your yard – but your neighbour will.

By simply knowing the neighbours around you, you'll be able to recognize someone or something that's suspicious. When neighbours work together, they can combat crime in their area in the most effective way – before it starts. Rural Watch encourages active participation in crime prevention.

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Benefits

As part of the program, you can learn:

- How to make your property less inviting as a target for thieves;
- How to participate in marking your equipment;
- How to recognize and report suspicious activity in the area;
- How to increase your own personal safety;
- How to prevent equipment theft/tampering and wire theft;
- How to share pertinent information with other property owners and the police; and,
- What's happening in community crime prevention through our newsletter

The City of Richmond will post signs in your area to alert would-be thieves that they are being watched.