



MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE CKF BOARDROOM
LANGLEY CITY HALL
20399 Douglas Crescent

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024
AT 6:04 P.M.

- Present: Councillor Delaney Mack, Co-Chair
Suzan Gorgis, Social Services Representative
Jeff Jacobs, Member at Large
Don Osborne, Member at Large
Heather Giuriato, Downtown Langley Business Association
Jayde Marno, Youth Representative
Tanya Gabara, Chamber of Commerce
Fraser Holland, Social Services Representative
Mary Kydd, Member at Large
- Staff: Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer
Dave Selvage, Manager of Community Safety
Sgt R. Wick, RCMP
- Regrets: Councillor Paul Albrecht, Chair
Lew Murphy, Member at Large
Ken Edwards, Member at Large
Stefan Jones, Indigenous Peoples Representative
Nathan Balasubramanian, Member at Large

The Co-Chair began by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations.

1) **AGENDA**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the July 25, 2024 agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

2) **MINUTES**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the May 30, 2024 minutes of the Crime Prevention Committee meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3) PRESENTATION

- a) 529 Garage
Rob Brunt, Chief Outreach Officer
Vancouver Police Department

Mr. Brunt shared his background and explained his interest in deterring bike theft. He advised that during his time at the Vancouver Police Department bicycle theft in Vancouver was second only to New York City per capita. In 2015, the financial and community impacts of that level of theft inspired him to champion the creation of a registration and tracking system for bikes to deter theft. He did extensive research to source programs in the country that had an electronic system for tracking and registering bikes and no such program existed. He partnered with a technology expert, and they created software to track bicycles electronically and launch Garage 529 in October of 2015.

Results were immediate and he reviewed the recovery statistics from 2015 to the present, noting that in the first year, bike theft was reduced by 30% in Vancouver. It has steadily decreased over 10 years, down 70% to date. When it became clear that the police had a system to identify bikes, thieves stopped taking the bikes with the 529 shield.

Mr. Brunt summarized how the program and mobile app work noting the following:

- Users register their bike on the app, only needing to provide an email address, no other personal information is required.
- Provide information to identify your bike
- Registration of the bike stays with the bike for the life of the bike. If you sell the bike, you can transfer the registration information to the new owner.
- The program is powerful because it engages the public.
- If a bike is stolen, you can alert anyone on the app within 15 kms of the location it was stolen – you have immediate eyes on the street.
 - The public are responsible for one-third of bike recoveries.
- When a bike is recovered by police, they can return it to its owner if it is registered in the 529 system.
- The cycling community is very involved in recovering and spotting stolen bikes.
- The provincial government funds the program. There is no cost barrier to register with the program, users can use it for free.
- Bike theft leads police to bigger crimes and higher-level criminals.
- The program has extended beyond Canadian borders and has a global uptake now.
- Program statistics are available online for each community through the 529 website.

There was general discussion about how to register, where and how to get a shield sticker, program funding, and how best to promote and encourage the program in Langley City.

IT WAS MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council provide \$1625 in funding to the Crime Prevention Committee to purchase 500, 529 Bike Shield stickers to promote bike security in the community over the next 12 months.

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED it was noted that as a way to promote and encourage the program the City could purchase the 529 shield stickers and residents could join the program for free. Promotion and registration in the program can be encouraged at community events and neighbourhood meetings.

CARRIED

It was noted that Mr. Brunt will send his presentation to staff and he provided consent to share it publicly. He further noted that he can provide RCMP members with program training by request.

4) STANDING ITEMS

- a) RCMP Crime Map Analysis – March 2024
- o Property Crime Map

Sgt. Wick noted that between May and June there was a decrease in property crime. He attributed some of the improvement to grant funding that allowed two extra foot and bike patrol shifts which focused on property crime hot spots. He advised that Langley RCMP has received a second cycle of funding and will be utilizing that shortly.

Sgt. Wick advised members about the Repeat Violent Offender program noting it focuses on monitoring repeat violent offenders.

ACTION: Sgt. Wick will provide updated Block Watch statistics and report out at the September meeting.

It was noted there will be a new Block Watch coordinator in the fall.

There was general discussion about crime trends and the seasonal impact on statistics (summer/fall etc).

ACTION: The Co-Chair requested some general data from the RCMP about differentiating whether crimes are more often committed by people known to each other as opposed to random victims.

5) SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK OUT SESSION

- a) Opportunity for subcommittees to have a 30-minute meeting.

The subcommittees determined the session was not required at this meeting.

b) Sub-Committee Updates when needed / appropriate:

- i. Business Watch
Tanya Gabara, Heather Giuriato, Ken Edwards, Suzan Gorgis

Ms. Gabara advised that work is continuing on the business questionnaire and targeting October to distribute to the DLBA members.

- ii. Know Your Neighbour Campaign
Lew Murphy, Mary Kydd, Jeff Jacobs, Don Osborne

Mr. Jacobs advised that the group is working on a pilot project with 54A Avenue residents. They are aiming for a fall event.

The Co-Chair advised that Council awarded the Know Your Neighbour subcommittee \$500 in grant funding for the event. She further noted that City staff are working on a policy to standardize consideration of grant applications to fund neighbourhood barbeques.

- iii. Increase Social Media Presence
Stefan Jones, Jayde Marno

Ms. Marno advised that the subcommittee created a questionnaire to determine what social media resources are available to them from the City. She will forward it to the Deputy Corporate Officer to send to the Communication staff for consideration.

- iv. Bike Security
Don Osborne

- v. Block Watch – currently inactive
TBD

- vi. Cyber Awareness (education initiative) – currently inactive
TBD

- vii. Crime Prevention Mural
TBD

6) FOR INFORMATION

- a) 2024 CPC Work Plan

7) **ROUND TABLE**

The Co-Chair advised that she and the Chair attended a Crime Severity Index (CSI) conference in February. She was appointed to a steering committee to look at how data is collected and processed. At the end of the process it was determined that the information is not statistically accurate and Statistics Canada has acknowledged this and will no longer be ranking communities based on that data. They are awaiting the latest release of data to see what the report looks like now.

It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:15pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
pk

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER