



MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION TASK GROUP

HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021
AT 6:01 P.M.

Present: Councillor Nathan Pachal, Chair
Councillor Paul Albrecht, Co-Chair

Ken Dennis, Chamber of Commerce
Mary Kydd, Senior Representative
Don Osborne, Member at Large
Scott Thompson, Member at Large
Lew Murphy, Member at Large
Natalie Selvage, Youth Member
Heather Giuriato, Downtown Langley Business Association

Staff: Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer
Dave Selvage, Community Safety Manager
S/Sgt Dave Brown, RCMP

Regrets: Andrew Brumby, Member at Large
Valerie Frolander, Member at Large

The 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 February 24, 2022 agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2) MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the January 27, 2022 minutes of the Crime Prevention Task Group meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3) **DISCUSSION**

- a) Annual Work Plan
 - i. Confirm & prioritize actions items
 - ii. Assign action items

The Chair reviewed the content of the annual workplan derived from the brainstorming session that took place at the January meeting. He suggested that members take ownership of actions that interested them and work with others in a subgroup to improve efficiency in tackling the initiatives.

He advised the subgroups would have the support / resources of the whole Crime Prevention Task Group and staff as needed.

The group discussed the option of conducting a door-to-door versus a pop-up event for the 2022 Know Your Neighbour campaign. Majority agreed that a pop-up event may be more palatable by the public considering that COVID still needs to be considered.

Discussion continued about how to recruit volunteers to work a booth/tent at a pop-up event.

Ideas included:

- Social media, newsletter, website
- A flyer which includes a link to more detailed information

Action Item 1: Know Your Neighbour Campaign pop-up event subgroup was created and included:

- Ms. Giurato,
- Ms. Kydd,
- Mr. Murphy
- Mr. Thompson
- Co-Chair Albrecht.

ACTION: Report progress coordinating event details at the March 31 CPTG meeting. Determine what resources are needed and the membership can make a request to Council.

It was determined that the KYN event should occur as part of, or in addition to, another larger community event that will be drawing attendance. Staff will inquire what events are planned for spring and summer.

Further discussion ensued about different aspects of the campaign including:

- Contact strata presidents/managers and ask them to forward an invitation to the event to their residents (can pick up 20-30 households through one contact person)
- Information package content – staff will forward the package content used in the last campaign (2019) for information.
- Give-aways / draw for prizes - entice resident attendance and campaign volunteers

- Use existing crime prevention distribution list, Chamber & DLBA connections to fan out information about the upcoming campaign and/or to recruit volunteers to work the booth at the event.
- Consider other outreach ideas to reach volunteers and attendees
- Include business related crime prevention ideas/content

It was noted that the most popular item from 2019 was the foldable trail map.

ACTION: Staff will inquire if there is enough trail map stock to use them again this year.

Action Item 2: Innovative Crime Prevention for Business subgroup was created and included:

- Mr. Dennis
- Ms. Giuriato
- Mr. Brumby was appointed in his absence as he has previously expressed interest in the content.

The group was tasked with considering ways to support crime prevention related to business. It was noted by the Co-Chair that he Co-Chairs the City's Economic Development Task Group and he will advise of any opportunities where the groups can assist one another to tackle 'big picture' items.

Action Item 3: Social Media subgroup was created and included:

- Natalie Selvage
- Scott Thompson

The group was tasked with considering ways to use social media presence in a general sense related to crime prevention education and ways to effectively share crime prevention information electronically. Increase community engagement in crime prevention.

Action Item 4: Mail Theft Reduction Program.

The Chair noted that Council is considering an amendment to the Crime Prevention Task Group terms of reference in March and this item is proposed to be added to the mandate of the group.

ACTION: Therefore, this item was deferred to a future meeting for discussion if the new Terms of Reference are adopted by council.

Action Item 5: Relate crime analyst property crime statistics (map) to broader trends in the region. Create messaging to counter anticipated crime.

SSgt Brown noted that there would be a benefit to task group members to hear the perspective of the crime analysts, who create the statistics map for the group.

ACTION: Staff will arrange a presentation.

Determining flyer topic ideas was deferred to the March meeting.

ACTION: At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair suggested that each subgroup meet to discuss their respective topics and determine what action they would like the group to take, and then report back at the March 31 task group meeting.

If task group members haven't volunteered to a subgroup and would like to they can contact staff to do so.

4) STANDING ITEMS

- a) RCMP Crime Map Analysis – January
a. Review current trends in Metro Vancouver crime that could impact Langley City.

SSgt Brown reviewed the statistical map noting the addition of the shoplifting stat. He further noted that the RCMP are continuing to work at ways to identify chronic offenders and then focus resources on them.

The Chair suggested that the group could benefit from a presentation from the RCMP about shoplifting prevention strategies and raise awareness about what we can do as a community to help prevent catalytic converter theft. It was noted this information could be part of the information package handed out at the Know Your Neighbour event.

SSgt Brown agreed and noted that the RCMP can provide information about awareness of many types of crimes at the event.

There was discussion about how crime prevention is about getting to the source of why people commit crimes. Drug addiction is part of that. Drug addicts have difficulty maintaining employment, however they need to pay for their addiction and for that they sometimes turn to crime. They need support. There was discussion about why domestic violence and drug offenses are not included on the crime statistic map and SSgt Brown noted that if the task group has interest in those statistics, he can look in to adding them. He will inquire about getting a second map for this purpose and report back.

ACTION:

It was noted that reporting is key to identifying offenders and tracking offences.

In response to an inquiry about what the task group can do to make the most impact in the community and support the RCMP, SSgt Brown noted that encouraging residents to get involved in their neighbourhoods is key. Helping neighbours, watching out for neighbours. If there is a problem property in your neighbourhood, report it. Report anything suspicious that you see. The RCMP will work with partners, like City bylaws, to tackle the issues that are reported. Encourage residents to improve the security of their private property, target harden.

Discussion continued about open drug use and crime in the community. It was noted that if issues are related to poor building design that creates opportunities for crime, the RCMP can assist by conducting a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) review free of charge and recommend changes that can help mitigate issues.

ACTION: Staff will connect Mr. Dennis and SSgt Brown to discuss the possibility of a CPTED review.

b) Crime Prevention Flyer Outreach Project

i. Community Flyer - 6 Topic Ideas

As Theft from Auto continues to be a prevalent crime in the community it was suggested that the next flyer topic address it. "Theft from Auto – What can be done to protect against theft from auto?"

ACTION: Ms. Giuriato volunteered to write the content.

ACTION: Mr. Osborne volunteered to write content for the topic of CPTED & Online Reporting of Crime

ii. Business Flyer – 3 Topic Ideas

6) **ROUND TABLE**

a) March 2, 10am Foot Patrol

It was noted that if others are interested in participating in a foot patrol to contact Ms. Kusack and she will coordinate another date/time.

ACTION: It was suggested that the group could benefit from a presentation from the Community Safety Manager to help understand how to eliminate preventable crime. Perhaps touch on trends in crime from the bylaw perspective, bylaw statistics.

A discussion ensued about ways to educate the public with general crime prevention ideas and the following suggestions were made for consideration:

- Potential Flyer Topics:
 - Whose Job Is It? – identifying who to call / report to for common problems and issues that arise in the community.
 - Top 10 Frauds to Know About
 - Programming space with positive activity
 - Internet / Cyber security
- Use the dog walking community to connect with the general public to share crime prevention information as they are out on the streets daily and talk to lots of people
- Consider sending KYN packages to assisted living communities like Harrison Landing and Langley Lodge
- Consider coordinating evening walks among neighbourhoods. Encourage people to get to know their neighbours and their neighbourhoods after dark. "Buddy Walks", to get people into the streets and taking an active role in keeping their own streets safe.

- Consider ways to promote an organized walk to get people together, like a Block Watch idea, connect neighbours.

ACTION: Staff will email a document related to that issue called “Whose Job is it?” that notes who to call for common issues.

Mr. Dennis invited the RCMP to be a key speaker at a Chamber dinner meeting that would be focused on crime prevention for business. He will connect with SSgt Brown to coordinate.

There was discussion about the scope of the Know Your Neighbour event, the desired outcome or ultimate goal and a matrix to track and measure success.

ACTION: It was noted that when the KYN subgroup determines the goals of the campaign that Mr. Dennis will create a draft write up to ask businesses for ‘give-away’ donations.

The task group will review the content for overall approval before distribution. All members agreed that tracking success is an important part of the campaign to ensure the efforts made are making a difference in the community.

SSgt Brown noted that the RCMP lost a lot of their volunteers when COVID shut down all their programs. They are looking to bring them back and to get programs up and running again, ie: Block Watch captain training and returning the City Community Police Office to regular hours, 5 days a week. Slowly these services will be put back in place. The KYN campaign pop up event will be a great opportunity to build the volunteer base back up.

Criminals don’t like crowds, so any way of connecting the community is a great crime prevention strategy!

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:25pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
pdk

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER