



## MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE CKF BOARDROOM  
LANGLEY CITY HALL  
20399 Douglas Crescent

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023  
AT 6:02 P.M.

Present: Councillor Paul Albrecht, Chair  
Councillor Delaney Mack, Co-Chair  
Lew Murphy, Member at Large  
Don Osborne, Member at Large  
Brian Doyle, Member at Large  
Harvey Michaluk, Member at Large  
Nathan Balasubramanian, Member at Large  
Natalie Selvage, Youth Member  
Mary Kydd, Senior Representative  
Tanya Gabara, Chamber of Commerce  
Heather Giuriato, Downtown Langley Business Association  
Fraser Holland, Social Services Representative  
Mayor Nathan Pachal

Staff: Francis Cheung, Chief Administrative Officer  
Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer

Regrets: Sgt Bal Sidhu, RCMP

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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 January 26, 2023 agenda be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

### 2) **MINUTES**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the November 24, 2022 minutes of the Crime Prevention Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

### **3) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair invited Mayor Nathan Pachal, former Chair of the Crime Prevention Committee to address the new and returning members of the committee.

Mayor Pachal welcomed everyone. He provided some background about his role on the committee and supported the transition to the new Co-Chairs. He provided an overview of the work the committee has done in the past to educate the public by sharing crime prevention information with residents and building relationships within the community. When COVID happened, the group started sending outreach posters to seniors with relevant crime prevention tips and strategies. Since then, that program has expanded to the community at large, strata councils, and the business community. It has been all about volunteer, grass roots, door to door work in the community. He noted his excitement to see where the committee will go this year.

The Mayor advised that a new Citizen's Assembly will look upstream to determine what is causing various issues in the community. Its membership will have a breadth of cross sections of the community coupled with experts in various fields. It will focus on identifying root causes and will inform council as to what action should be considered to improve the community. As appropriate, the Crime Prevention Committee will be updated about the progress of the Citizen's Assembly.

A discussion about the mandate of the Crime Prevention Committee included the following comments:

- Community engagement is the best way to improve neighbourhood / community safety.
- Not always a need for increased policing
- Not a "policing" or "homelessness" committee
- Can build strong relationships within the community, making a stronger community overall

The Chair provided an overview of the work the committee has been doing for the last year noting communication and education as a major focus. He was hopeful the new membership will help nurture these relationships and help them grow.

The Chair invited the members to introduce themselves and share ideas that the committee can consider working on this year. Members shared the following:

- Continue educating the public
- Build on momentum from last year. Would like to see actions implemented further
- Excited about partnerships with nonprofit agencies that help all the citizens in the community
- Educate people and help them learn ways to protect property, get to know your neighbours, help look after each other.
- Look long term with addition of skytrain – concern about incoming crime potential.
- Highlight that we still have a safe community

- Be proactive, focus on design to prevent crime. Deal with day-to-day issues.
- Hear different voices in the community, interested in learning new perspectives
- Identify needs in the community and work collaboratively to help meet them.
- Have measurable outcomes so improvement can be identified and celebrated.

#### 4) **REVIEW COMMITTEE MANDATE, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS**

Chair Albrecht

The Chair reviewed meeting protocol and noted his excitement about the diverse backgrounds around the table. An objective of the committee is to continue making connections with residents, non-profit organizations and community and business partners. The committee has had great success doing outreach through the circulation of information/educations flyers, attending events, and door to door campaign initiatives.

Council is currently conducting an in-depth review of the many ways the arrival of Skytrain has affected other communities. He will report out to the committee any information related to crime prevention when the information is available.

- **Terms of Reference**  
The Chair and Co-Chair, as well as any other members of Council attending meetings, are non-voting members. The committee is intended to act as a conduit to advise Council on crime prevention subject matter. When deemed necessary, the committee may ask, by motion, for funds or action from Council to carry out initiatives or crime prevention projects.
- **Community Engagement**  
The Chair shared that last year the committee hosted an information table at the City's Christmas Festival. Three volunteers took turns hosting the table over the weekend. They talked with the public and raised awareness by handing out crime prevention information sheets.  
He advised that over 7000 City residents live in condominiums. Langley City is rapidly growing as a multifamily community. Condo residents are harder to reach than single family home residents. Condos are a 'community' within a community. The Crime Prevention Committee will be sending a letter this spring to condo property management companies to try and engage that part of our community.

Events that the committee has discussed for 2023 included the Know Your Neighbor door to door campaign and the Block Walk event.

Staff noted that Canada Post will be providing a presentation at the February meeting about ways to prevent mail theft.

The committee will conduct a 2023 work plan brainstorming session and the Chair encouraged members to share their ideas and insight. Collaboration will bring about great solutions.

**5) PREPARATION FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

- a) Presentation from Canada Post – Mail Theft Prevention Presentation / Q & A Session

The Chair advised that a representative from Canada Post will attend the February committee meeting to provide a presentation about mail theft prevention. He suggested members think of questions they want to ask about mail theft prevention. Ask friends, family, and neighbours for input.

**ACTION:** If you prefer to send your questions in advance, please send to Ms. Kusack by February 15 and she will share them with the presenter prior to the meeting.

- b) 2023 Work Plan – Consider ideas / action items for the year

Excerpt from Crime Prevention Terms of Reference:

*7.2 In accordance with Council Policy CO-79 Advisory Bodies, the committee shall, in January of each year, prepare and submit to Council for approval, an annual Work Plan outlining the task(s) to be accomplished by the committee during the year. Any updates to the Work Plan shall be submitted to Council for approval.*

Excerpt from the Advisory Bodies Policy CO-79:

*Annual Work Plan: written plan outlining specific goals for the committee, which must align with the group's Terms of Reference, as well as strategies to meet the goals, and timelines for completion of the goals*

The Chair advised that the City's Select Committees are required to develop an annual work plan and submit it to City Council for approval.

**ACTION:** Members were asked to come to the February meeting prepared to share ideas about what actions the committee should focus on in 2023.

- c) 2023 Block Walk Discussion

The Chair explained the Block Watch initiative noting that groups of volunteers would walk around a city neighbourhood in bright, identifiable t-shirts and engage with the public to share the following types of information:

- RCMP Block Watch Program – encourage participation
- Advise how residents can take an active role in crime prevention
- Share what the committee does and how to get involved

There was a suggestion to make a video of the event to share on social media. There was also an idea to host a community BBQ in one of our local parks with funds from the City's Community Grant Fund.

The Chair advised that an efficient way to plan and execute these types of initiatives is to form smaller subcommittees to work on the details.

**ACTION:** Members were asked to consider what event/initiative subcommittee they may want to volunteer for and advise at the next meeting.

There was some discussion about event ideas including:

- Hold more than one Block Walk
- Walk at different times of day to see what different issues of concern arise
- Create something to include the business community. Industrial and commercial areas.
- Needs to encourage residents to take ownership of neighbourhoods
- Focus on areas with high crime stats to start
- Consider including RCMP members and Bylaw officers
- Map the areas we visit
- Important to converse and engage the vulnerable population when we are out on the streets, helps build relationships with all residents.

It was noted that during the work plan session it is important to find ways to measure the objectives and find indicators of success and then build on that success.

**ACTION:** There was reference to a city walk that members did last year with Cpl Mann and it was suggested that be done again. Staff will inquire and coordinate.

There was discussion about a group of community service providers that attend a new program called "Situation Tables". It brings together service providers, enforcement agencies, ministries and others. The objective is to provide specific services to referred individuals and families who meet the criteria. Referrals come from the RCMP, school district, healthcare etc. The team determine the best assistance to provide based on the challenges or crisis they face.

Mr. Holland offered to update the committee on the success of the Situation Tables.

Staff noted that specific information related to the Situation Table and individual cases is confidential.

Mr. Holland agreed and will only offer general information about the status of the new initiative.

**6) STANDING ITEMS – Overview**  
(discussion / action deferred to February meeting)

**a) Sub-Group Update Reports (*as needed*):**

• **Know Your Neighbour Campaign**

Heather, Mary, Lew & Paul

Ms. Giuriato provided an overview of the campaign explaining that members went door to door in the community and shared crime prevention tips and strategies, encouraged residents to join Block Watch, shared information about who to call for different issues (streetlight burnt out, stray shopping carts

etc). Volunteers received great feedback from the public about this initiative. It was tabled when COVID happened. It was successful and made a difference. It is a great way to educate people about how to take an active role in their own safety.

**ACTION:** Determine new subcommittees and volunteers for each at a future meeting.

Members shared some subcommittee ideas:

- Coordinate information sharing with property management / stratas to engage the multifamily community.
  - It was noted that there is a letter drafted to invite strata councils to learn about crime prevention. The Chair noted that a subcommittee to coordinate the meetings that come from that invitation should be considered.
  - It was suggested that to be more efficient, a community meeting(s) be held to address more than one strata at a time.
- Consider how to engage rental building residents as well as strata property owners
- Block Watch in condominium buildings

Mayor Pachal shared that he meets regularly with the RCMP Officer in Charge and he will continue to advise him that the City values the Block Watch program and that the committee is interested in promoting enrollment.

- **Block Walk:**

- i. Hand outs include:

1. CPC – Who We Are and What We Do info sheet
2. One-page resource info sheet with web links
3. “Report Crime” Flyer
4. Trail Maps
5. Latest Crime Statistics Map
6. T-Shirt

- **Social Media:** Natalie

The Chair invited additional members to join Natalie on the Social Media subcommittee as she has been working alone for the better part of a year. Mr. Balasubramanian volunteered and noted he has a tech/digital background. The Chair suggested they consider developing a social media strategy and process to communicate the information as far as possible.

- **Innovative Crime Prevention for Business:**

Strategies around engaging the business community. A subcommittee would be useful to have more detailed discussion about ideas.

Ms. Gabara noted that as a result of the Chamber participation in the Crime Prevention Committee, the RCMP have been attending the monthly Chamber meetings and it has been a great and effective relationship builder between the RCMP and the business community.

- **Mail Theft Reduction Program:** Lew, Mary

There was general discussion about:

- Ways to increase diversity in community engagement.
- Outreach ideas to connect with new residents.

**ACTION:** Councillor White offered to reach out to the Langley Local Immigration Partnership and see if they have any suggestions about how to better engage that community.

- Community Grant to fund a translator for the education materials the committee produces so it can be distributed in different languages.

**ACTION:** Staff noted that the City is working on providing programming information in different languages, so they may be able to assist there. Staff will report back.

- Work to present policing as a positive experience rather than a negative one, as some immigrants may have experienced.

b) Crime Prevention Flyer Outreach Project

i. Community Flyer – Determine 6 Topic Ideas

- Selection of flyers attached for your information

ii. Business Flyer – Determine 3 Topic Ideas

- Selection of flyers attached for your information

c) RCMP Crime Map Analysis

The Chair explained that at most meetings the RCMP review a property crime statistics map which identifies the type and location of certain crimes in the last month.

The Mayor noted that the crime statistics map can be misleading at times and gave examples why. He noted Council is moving away from that type of reporting in favour of KPI (Key Performance Indicator) reporting instead. For example, the City could ask seniors if they feel comfortable walking in a city park. We could ask businesses what specific outcomes they would like to see. A strategy is implemented and then after a time you ask the same questions and see if there are improvement/more positive responses. It will give a better indication of what is really going on in the community.

Ideas for matrix content:

- Use the City's Community Survey to track some initiatives
- Number of Block Watch enrollments follow a promotional campaign
- Compare crime in areas with / without Block Watch

It was noted that the Community Survey is available on the City's website.

The Mayor noted the survey has safety trends over a 10-year period. The Chair requested that a staff member present to the committee about the Community Survey process.

**ACTION:** Staff will arrange a presentation.

It was suggested that the committee could add a question to the next survey related directly to the work of the CPC.

**7) ROUND TABLE**

- a) Request permission to share email addresses among the group.  
Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer

Members were asked to contact Ms. Kusack if they did not want their email addresses shared with the rest of the Crime Prevention Committee members.

- b) Christmas Festival Outreach Feedback  
Mr. Osborne advised that when he hosted the information table at the Christmas Festival event he received positive feedback from the public. Many people knew about the committee and its efforts. He received positive feedback about the Block Watch program as well. He enjoys every opportunity to engage with the public and share the information.

- c) General discussion about the following:
- Negative feedback on Facebook about crime and the City, to which the Mayor advised those particular sites are not sanctioned by the City.
  - The committee can use the information to target educational material distribution
  - Staff requested that, as the CPC members are not official representatives of the City, that they do not respond to public posts.
  - RCMP promote and encourage the reporting of all crime and suspicious activity. Members were encouraged to continue to share that information with the public. It will bring about more patrols in problem areas.

The Mayor highlighted to the new members of the committee the importance of preparing ahead of time for each meeting. There is a limited time to accomplish goals. If members come prepared and 'do their homework' in between meetings, a lot of work can be done during the term. He is excited to see this engaged group and looks forward to seeing the results of their hard work.



It was MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:30 pm.

CARRIED

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CHAIR

Certified Correct:  
*pdk*

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER