



Corporate Report

NO.: R206

COUNCIL DATE: September 6, 2005

Regular Council

TO: Mayor & Council
DATE: August 17, 2005

FROM: RCMP Superintendent OIC Surrey Detachment
Fire Chief
FILE: 2640-20 x 0360-20

SUBJECT: Crystal Meth Task Force Action Plan (CMTF) - Grant Request

RECOMMENDATION

That council approve the amount of \$10,000.00 from Council's initiative fund to support the Crystal Meth Task Force Action Plan as outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND

Community partners banded together to counteract the fast-developing problem posed by the manufacture and use of a poisonous drug known as crystal methamphetamine (drug affecting the central nervous system). It is also called meth, speed, crank or ice. It is a synthetic drug produced and sold as pills, capsules or powder that can be smoked, snorted, injected or swallowed and can rapidly lead to dependence.

Building on the recent Crystal Meth Task Force experience in Maple Ridge, B.C. research conclusions are based upon discussions with RCMP drug enforcement officers in Surrey; with the Fraser Health Authority Addiction and Rehabilitation Services Task Force; with Fire Department personnel and others. Joining in this multi-faceted task force and helping decide on strategies is the Surrey Rotary Association, Surrey City Council, and community leaders from Youth and Education, Addictions and Rehabilitation.

The Crystal Methamphetamine Task Force proposes to prevent further involvement by youth in either manufacturing or use, by educating local retailers who sell the precursor products and apparatus used in making crystal methamphetamine. Precursors are easily purchased products such as over-the-counter cough, cold and allergy medicines containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, acetone, rubbing and isopropyl alcohol, iodine, starter fluid (ether), gas additives (methanol), brake cleaner, anhydrous ammonia, drain cleaner (sulphuric acid), lithium batteries, rock salt, red phosphorus matchbooks, lye, paint thinner, aluminum foil, glassware, plastic jugs, rubber tubing, propane tanks, and more.

DISCUSSION



Clandestine drug labs present a huge danger to the community, due to the risk of fire and explosion of many of the toxic and volatile chemicals used. Ventilation is mostly poor and small-scale producers often do not take safety measures. Restrictions on the local sales of precursors should have the greatest impact on “Home” and “Youth” operations. Action is needed to ensure residences that have previously housed clandestine labs are properly decontaminated and are not sold or rented to unsuspecting citizens.

This initiative, which is relatively low cost, will be supported by local businesses and retailers, associations of drug and convenience stores and grocery distributors. Community educators, health care providers, social service workers, and law enforcement officials will collaborate with other public agencies, services clubs and community support services to improve services to the families and youth they serve.

The Crystal Methamphetamine Task Force will produce posters and literature bringing awareness to the community and businesses that sell these precursor products, and a warning message to those who would attempt to buy them. It is through education that prevention of substance misuse can be achieved.

The goal is to interrupt the manufacture and distribution of crystal meth by restricting or regulating precursors at the manufacturing and/or distribution outlets, and limiting or denying sale in amounts that exceed certain thresholds or triggers.

The Task Force would like to see precursor products placed in high visibility areas such as aisles with video surveillance, the checkout counter, and at the end of aisles in open or high traffic areas and to train employees to report suspicious transactions, in a safe, non-confrontational manner.

Bylaw changes may be required in order to restrict the sale of large quantities of precursors by all retailers in Surrey and surrounding areas.

Budget

September 2005 to December 2005 Campaign

This initiative details a three-month action plan to identify specific funding needs. The Task Force is requesting a start-up fund from the City of Surrey for the new initiative of \$10,000.00 to fund basic

public awareness materials, front-line services funds and program start-up costs.

Further ongoing funding will be generated through corporate sponsorships and other levels of government (Provincial and Federal).

CONCLUSION

By providing \$10,000.00, The City of Surrey will leverage their contribution 2.5:1 through in-kind donations and other funds provided by such organizations as the local rotary clubs and the Whalley BIA.

We recommend Council approve the Crystal Methamphetamine Task Force's request of \$10,000.00 start-up costs to cover basic public awareness, materials and front-line services.



Fraser MacRae, RCMP Superintendent

Officer in Charge Surrey Detachment



Len Garis

Fire Chief

FM/LG/jc