



Corporate Report

NO: R144

COUNCIL DATE: July 10, 2006

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: July 6, 2006
FROM: City Solicitor FILE: 0250-07/#3
SUBJECT: UBCM Community Excellence Awards – Best Practices Category – Crime Free
Multi-Housing Program

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council adopt the following resolution:

Council supports Surrey's application to the Union of BC Municipalities for a Community Excellence Award under the Best Practices Criteria for its Crime Free Multi-Housing Program developed and administered by the By-law Enforcement & Licensing Section

INTENT

UBCM requires a Council resolution supporting a municipal program as part of its community Excellence Awards Application package for a Best Practices Award

BACKGROUND

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is a proactive tool to keep illegal activity out of rental, cooperative and strata properties through multi-media, police services, city and municipal involvement and housing rental associations.

The purpose of the Crime Free Multi Housing Program is to assist police agencies in BC through:

- Setting minimum standards for crime prevention in multi-housing developments;
- Providing Crime Free Multi-Housing Program Education; and
- Marketing the Program.

The program has three phases:

Phase One – Resident managers, apartment owners, residents and By-law staff attend an eight hour training course facilitated by By-law Enforcement staff, the Residential

Tenancy Branch and other apartment managers. (A certificate is awarded upon completion)

Phase Two: - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

The City's By-law Officers conduct what is commonly referred to as a security inspection of the property. There are minimum requirements that the apartments must meet.

- Dead bolts installed properly on all units;
- Eye viewers in all exterior doors;
- Adequate lighting;
- Anti-lift devices on all sliding windows and doors, as well as secondary locks;
- Landscaping trimmed back allowing for natural surveillance of the property;
- Proper access controls into the building; and
- Territorial issues (keeping the building safe/presentable i.e. no graffiti, litter).

A red certificate is issued when the apartment satisfies all the CPTED requirements.

Phase Three – Safety Social

Building managers hold a safety social inviting all residents to attend. By-laws Officers with the assistance of police and fire services attend and present information on crime prevention, Personal safety and security. The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program is also explained. This social must be held once a year to maintain membership in the program.

A blue certificate is issued after completion of this phase along with a Crime Free Multi-Housing sign displayed on the buildings.

Currently Surrey of the 339 apartment buildings in the City of Surrey, 255 of are involved in the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program; 24 are at phase 1, 184 are at phase 2 and 47 are fully certified.

DISCUSSION

Surrey has been a recognized leader in North America with its Crime Free Multi Housing Program. It was the first such program to be implemented outside of a police department. The UBCM Best Practices category not only requires a program to exemplify excellence but to be transferable to other UBCM members. Surrey's program clearly fits both criteria in addition to demonstrating improved efficiency, effectiveness and a highly cost effective solution for both law enforcement officers and building owners.

CONCLUSION

Council in supporting the City's application for this award can show case to other UBCM members a model Crime Free Multi-Housing Program that can be transferred and applied by others.

CRAIG MacFARLANE

City Solicitor

CM: fkm

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