



Corporate Report

NO: R251

COUNCIL DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 27, 2007**
FROM: **Crime Reduction Strategy Manager** FILE:
SUBJECT: **Crime Reduction Strategy - Crime Free Multi Housing Update**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The intention of this report is to inform Council of the progress that has been made to date in expanding the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program in Surrey.

DISCUSSION

The Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy ("CRS") was publicly launched on February 26th 2007. The CRS contains 106 recommendations that are focussed on reducing crime, improving perceptions about crime in Surrey and thereby improving quality of life for those who choose to live in, work in or visit the City.

One of the recommendations contained in the CRS is:

- **Expand the Crime Free Multi Housing Program with dedicated resources.**

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program ("CFMHP") is an international crime prevention initiative founded in 1992 and designed specifically to help apartment owners, managers, residents, police and other agencies work together to keep illegal and nuisance activity off rental property. The program now operates in over 800 cities across North America.

The program has three discrete phases:

1. Management Training – Building managers attend training on how to effectively manage their properties and use legislation to help stop the spread of illegal and nuisance activity on rental property.

2. Property Security Assessment – The building and property receive a security assessment and beneficial improvements are recommended. Apartments must meet the minimum security requirements of CFMHP to become fully certified.
3. Resident Training – At Safety Socials, residents receive annual training on crime prevention techniques and learn how to work together with owners, managers and fellow residents in order to achieve safer rental communities.

Progress

In many cities the local police department leads the CFMHP; however in Surrey it was considered to be a more effective use of resources to train By-Law Officers for this role. In support of the CRS recommendation one By-Law Officer and one clerical support member have been dedicated to co-ordinating the continued expansion of the Program in Surrey.

A total of 303 apartment buildings have been identified as potential CFMHP participants in Surrey. Of those, 240 are presently involved in CFMHP. This equates to over 8,000 rental units participating in the CFMHP.

The BC Housing Commission is a major provider of social housing in Surrey. According to their records, the Commission directly manages or provides funding for over 3,600 rental units in Surrey. Over 1,200 of these units are directly managed by BC Housing with the balance managed by non-profit organizations or co-operatives.

While many of the properties run by non-profit organizations and co-operatives are already involved in the CFMHP, those directly managed by BC Housing are not. Recently agreement has been reached to pilot an extension of the CFMHP in one of the directly-managed properties. This property contains 125 two and three bedroom rental units. This initiative is taking place in partnership with BC Housing. Once the logistics of establishing the CFMHP have been tested it is the intention that the CFMHP will be established in the remaining directly managed residential properties.

Conference in Surrey in 2008

In July 2007 City representatives attended the International Crime Free Multi-Housing Training Conference in Mesa, Arizona and were successful in having the City of Surrey selected to host the 2008 conference. This will provide an opportunity to showcase the work taking place in Surrey and to learn more from the international community about how to expand the program to more venues.

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