



Corporate Report

NO: R035

COUNCIL DATE: March 30, 2009

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE:** March 17, 2009
FROM: Crime Reduction Strategy Manager **FILE:** 7450-30
SUBJECT: Application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
Principles in Conjunction with the Issuance of Business Licenses

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the progress that has been made in implementing CPTED review as part of the business licensing process in accordance with the recommendations of the Crime Reduction Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS) contains 106 recommendations that focus on reducing crime and improving perceptions about crime in Surrey and thereby improve the quality of life for those who choose to live in, work in or visit the City.

The CRS includes the following recommendation, which is the subject of this report:

“CPTED requirement for new business licence.

That the City introduce a requirement of every applicant for a new business license to undertake a CPTED safety audit of the premises for which the business license is requested and to demonstrate that the recommendations of the audit have been properly implemented before the business license is issued by the City.”

The purpose of the recommendation is to reduce the opportunities for crime in the vicinity of new businesses in Surrey through an appropriate review of the physical design of the premises within which the business is to be located.

DISCUSSION

Discussions regarding this recommendation have been held with the Surrey Board of Trade, the Surrey RCMP and the staff of the City of Surrey Economic Development Division. It has been determined that instead of instituting a mandatory requirement, the City's By-law and Licensing Section would include as part of each new commercial business licence an offer to the owner to have a security audit completed. These audits would be based on CPTED principles and would be done by staff in the local RCMP District offices. The audits will serve a dual purpose of offering security advice to the business owners about how to reduce the potential for criminal activity in and around their business premises and at the same time establish a relationship between the business owner and the local Crime Prevention Coordinator or a Community Safety Officer.

The City of Surrey promotes the use of CPTED principles at various stages of the planning and building process when new building takes place. This business-focussed initiative will augment the City's commitment to designing out crime. The effectiveness of the initiative will be monitored and feedback gathered. Adjustments will be made as necessary.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of this initiative in cooperation with the Surrey RCMP will reduce the potential for businesses to become victims of crime and should have the effect of improving the safety and the quality of life in Surrey.

Lance Talbott
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