

NO: R199

COUNCIL DATE: November 2, 2009

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **October 28, 2009**

FROM: **Acting Crime Reduction Strategy Manager
Deputy City Manager**

FILE: **7450-30**

SUBJECT: **Crime Prevention Week 2009**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on activities and highlights occurring during Crime Prevention Week that runs from November 1st to 7th, 2009.

BACKGROUND

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

The CRS includes a strong focus on education and awareness about crime, crime prevention and public safety.

The BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General along with the BC Crime Prevention Association promote events and activities across the Province during Crime Prevention Week. This is an annual public awareness campaign held during the first week of November designed to encourage community involvement in crime prevention education and awareness. The City of Surrey has been a leader in the area of crime prevention and supports this week through the work of the Surrey RCMP Crime Prevention Coordinators and the Crime Reduction Strategy Manager.

DISCUSSION

Declaration of Crime Prevention Week in Surrey

A Proclamation will be included on a Regular Council agenda for the Mayor to officially declare November 1 to 7, 2009 as "Crime Prevention Week in Surrey".

Provincial Award Recognition – Surrey Recipients

Every year, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General recognize leaders from across B.C. through the Provincial Crime Prevention and Community Safety awards. These awards recognize individuals, groups and programs that have made outstanding contributions to crime prevention and community safety. This year, two key partners within the Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy have been

honoured with awards from this Provincial leadership recognition program. The following provides some background about the Surrey award recipients:

1. **Carrie Chattell, Surrey RCMP Crime Prevention Programs Coordinator in District 4 – Cloverdale**, has been recognized with a Provincial Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award for “Individual Achievement”.

Carrie developed a six week course titled, "Protecting Yourself" that provides participants with training in areas such as personal safety, home security, target hardening, community policing, auto crime, fraud, and internet safety. As a result of the positive feedback received, RCMP "E" Division - Community Programs and Crime Reduction Division requested Carrie to share her program with them and several other Detachments across the Province. Carrie has also implemented several other crime prevention strategies in the Community Policing Office that have improved communication with businesses and provided education to client groups.

2. The **Surrey Board of Education** was recognized with a Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award for “Organization Achievement”.

As a partner in the Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy since its inception, the Surrey Board of Education has made crime prevention a priority through its encouragement and support of innovative, progressive and successful educational and intervention programs in schools and the community. Beyond this, the board participates in several community partnerships aimed at crime reduction including: the iR3 Alternative to Suspension program; Wraparound Surrey; First Step; Straight Talk; Gateway & Closing the Gateway; the PSST website; Gangs & Guns, and the Bridges program.

School district staff and representatives are recognized for their expertise provincially, nationally and internationally and generously share their knowledge of evidence-based, youth crime prevention and intervention initiatives with other school districts and other organizations across Canada and the U.S.

Crime Prevention Week Education and Awareness events:

The following is a listing of some of the events that will take place during Crime Prevention Week:

- **Crime Prevention Week Provincial Launch and Solicitor General Provincial Award announcement** at the Vancouver Public Library on Monday, November 2 during which the above named Surrey award recipients will be honoured.
- **Block Watch educational session** at the RCMP District 3 (Newton) offices on Tuesday November 3. The session titled “Vulnerable Adults: Prevention of Abuse and Neglect” is being presented in partnership with Fraser Health.
- **An Information booth** will be set up in the main lobby at Surrey City Hall on Thursday November 5 between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at which City staff and the public can pick up information in relation to crime prevention and public safety.
- **A Lunch & Learn session** will be held on Thursday November 5 to provide information to City staff about the Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy.
- **Business Crime Prevention workshops** will be held in the Clayton and Port Kells areas on November 5 and 6, respectively to provide information to business owners in relation to preventing crime in and around their businesses.

- **Mall display** at Semiahmoo Mall between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 7.
- **A Shred-a-thon** is being held on Saturday, November 7 between 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Dell Shopping Centre parking lot at 10604 King George Hwy with a focus on Preventing Identity Theft and to act as a fundraiser for the Surrey Food Bank.
- **Promotion of issue specific tip sheets** - Each day of the week a tip sheet will be featured on the BC Crime Prevention Association website (www.bccpa.org) that focuses on a specific crime prevention topic. Tip sheets include; Home Security, Importance of Reporting Crime, Boost Internet Safety Skills, Vulnerable Adults: Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, 2010 Fraud Awareness Program, Dating and Relationship Violence, and Crime Prevention Resources. These tips sheets will also be distributed at events.

Operation Lock Up

The Surrey RCMP and ICBC are helping combat the theft of older model vehicles in the Surrey area through a new program dubbed "Operation Lock Up." Car thieves are increasingly targeting older Hondas, Toyotas and Acuras within the Surrey area because of successful strategies like the bait car program and the increased immobilization of newer vehicles.

Steering wheel locks will be given to owners of these susceptible older vehicles or any on ICBC's "Top Stolen Vehicles in the Lower Mainland" list. Owners of these older model vehicles (pre-2001) are able to pick up a steering wheel lock at the Surrey RCMP District Offices or Surrey Crime Prevention Society's Community Volunteer Offices at Guildford Mall and Central City Mall.

The Operation Lock Up project will commence November 2, 2009 as part of Crime Prevention Week and continue "while supplies last" (1500 steering wheel clubs to be distributed).

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATION

The Crime Prevention Week initiative supports the City of Surrey Sustainability Charter as follows:

- SC 11 – Improve Public Safety and Security.

CONCLUSION

The City of Surrey is a recognized leader in its approach to Crime Reduction and Prevention including implementation of its Crime Reduction Strategy. Crime Prevention Week as an opportunity to showcase the City's crime prevention and reduction initiatives and to educate the public about crime and crime prevention and reduction opportunities.

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