



COMMITTEE REPORT

NO: P003

DATE: APRIL 20, 2015

POLICE COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor & Council

DATE: March 31, 2015

FROM: Officer in Charge, Surrey RCMP

FILE:

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Safety Campaign

RECOMMENDATION

The Surrey RCMP OIC recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Surrey RCMP's Neighbourhood Safety Campaign and an overview of how the first five community presentations were received.

BACKGROUND

For 2015 the Surrey RCMP launched a new campaign, in support of the detachment's strategic priority of Community Engagement and Mobilization, called the Neighbourhood Safety Campaign. This campaign is designed to provide residents with the information they need to mobilize their community and enhance the liveability of their neighbourhood.

The campaign is structured around a series of "Engagement Presentations" that are held in neighbourhoods that have a high incidence of residential crime. The purpose of each presentation is to:

- Discuss crime issues in that neighbourhood;
- Directly engage with residents – meet them and hear their concerns;
- Encourage residents to take action to create a safer neighbourhood.

Through these Engagement Presentations, residents learn how they can work with police to make their neighbourhood safer by taking an active role in crime prevention and crime reduction. Strategies including Block Watch and Observe it Report it are discussed, and information on how to prevent and deter crimes specific to that neighbourhood are shared with residents.

The Surrey RCMP has committed to hosting 15 Engagement Presentations through 2015 in various locations in the City of Surrey. Areas within the city are selected using crime statistical data based on neighbourhoods that have higher incidence of residential break & enters, theft from vehicles, theft of vehicles and residential property crime.

Residents in the selected atoms are mailed invitations to the Engagement Presentation happening in their neighbourhood. The events are also publicized on the Surrey RCMP and City of Surrey websites and social media, and communicated via Surrey RCMP news releases.

DISCUSSION

To date the Surrey RCMP has hosted five Engagement Presentations, one in each of the City's five Districts:

1. Sullivan (District 3) – held at Cambridge Elementary on January 19th (168 attendees)
2. Clayton (District 4) – held at Katzie Elementary on February 5th (104 attendees)
3. Morgan Crossing (District 5) – held at Morgan Elementary on February 12th (142 attendees)
4. Whalley (District 1) – held at Forsyth Road Elementary on February 24th (35 attendees)
5. Fleetwood (District 2) – held at Coast Meridian Elementary on March 5th (52 attendees)

The events were well received in the initial rollout, with 501 residents attending. City staff from Engineering, By-Laws, and Parks and Recreation were also in attendance to respond to any city-related concerns that were raised by residents at the events.

Each attendee was given the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience of the event, and we received 295 responses. Of the responses 83% indicated that they found the sessions useful. In addition, 151 attendees expressed interest in either starting up a new Block Watch in their area or joining an existing Block Watch. (See Appendix I for resident comments.)

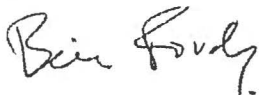
During the events, the Surrey RCMP was able to promote a variety of initiatives to engage and mobilize the community including:

- Block Watch
- Protect it Lock it Keep it Campaign
- Observe it Report it Campaign
- Citizen Police Academy
- Auxiliary Constable Program
- Volunteer Program

These Engagement Presentations provided a forum for open dialogue around community issues and crime prevention. We are pleased with the outcomes of these first five presentations, and are now making plan to build on this success with another series this spring. May/June dates and locations will be announced in April.

CONCLUSION

The launch of the Neighbourhood Safety Campaign has been well received by Surrey residents who have shown strong support for the continuation of the Engagement Presentations. Citizens who have attended these events have expressed a desire to be more involved in crime prevention and to work with both police and their neighbours more closely, supporting our Community Engagement and Mobilization priority.



Bill Fordy
Chief Superintendent
Officer in Charge, Surrey Detachment

APPENDIX "I"

Comments Received from Engagement Presentation Attendees

"I love to see the police connect with the community with an information evening such as this."

"I am happy your group is so engaged and welcoming. I am impressed how passionate your members are about their specialty. I thinking using many ears and eyes in the community as you can is important and useful strategy."

"More stats about neighbourhood crime rate would be greatly appreciated."

"Thank you for coming. Keep being transparent and come back to our community."

"When we as neighbours understand more fully what is happening around us, we will get more involved and we will work as a team. Thank you for brining and initiating community involvement. I have seen this process grown over the last 3-4 years. It is gaining momentum."