

Richmond Citizen's Crime Watch Patrol  
Special Meeting – With RCMP Liaisons/Representatives

Steveston Community Centre – Tuesday, March 29, 2005

Present:

Crime Watch: Rod Bruchet, Jim Howard, Vena Lalji, Darren Gallvitz, Erik Olsen, Steve Scott

RCMP: Cst. Kevin Kwast, Cpl. Kate Anderson, Cpl. Maria Szalsl (sp?)

Meeting started at 18:59

-Maria opened the floor to Crime Watch Exec to raise any issues of concern.

**Richmond News Article**

-Rod raised issues of Crime Watch involvement within RCMP and funding issues.

-Rod stated membership have concerns with being excluded from a local Richmond News article about community policing.

-Kate noted the article was not supposed to be about the community policing, but rather “a day in the life of a Constable.” She noted she was not happy with the content of the article either. The article was not how she had expected it to have be written.

-Kevin noted that he was disappointed by the article as well as 90% of what he had said was excluded from the article.

-The issue was clarified to the Executives satisfaction. It was agreed that the article wasn't what all had hoped for and that it was a learning experience.

**Crime Watch Status within the RCMP**

-Rod and Vena asked for clarification of the CW status within the Richmond RCMP.

-Maria said that CW has an affiliation with the RCMP, however CW is not an RCMP program as they don't have a stake in the program directly. She stated that the program has its own Executive which means it is responsible for its own administration. She noted that other places have a Member that administers the program, whereas we only have a liaison member to maintain our affiliation with the program.

-Kate noted that they are not receiving any more information than we presently get. She asked if the RCMP should run the program or whether we would continue to operate our own program.

-The issue of radio licensing fees was discussed, Maria said she had limited information on the subject but was under the impression it was funded by the city previously but the city had decided to stop funding the fees.

-Maria said she feels there should be an RCMP member on the CW Executive. She stated she doesn't know why this hasn't been the case to this point.

**Funding**

-Rod noted we have never been allowed to do fundraising by the RCMP.

-Maria said she doesn't understand why we had never been allowed to do fundraising in

the past. She said the RCMP accepts donations in ways such as vehicles and we could do the same if mindful of how it is done.

### **Continued...CW Status within the RCMP**

-Maria reiterated that she would like to see a RCMP Member involved in the Executive of the program and retain the CW as an affiliate program with the RCMP. She would be considering having a member from the Crime Prevention Program appointed to the program. She would like the member to be more actively involved in the process of CW and decisions of the program rather than simply a liaison to the program.

-Jim pointed out that the RCMP asked us to re-do our policies and procedures which we did. He stated we are already working together with the RCMP on issues such as this.

-Vena, Jim and Rod noted the continuing decline of interest in the program on behalf of the RCMP. Liaison members no longer attend Executive meetings and we are no longer provided information for briefings or included on special projects such as CounterAttack or Criminal Driving.

-Kate and Kevin noted that CounterAttack is no longer active.

-Vena inquired about the "wish list" and how decisions are made .

-Kate stated the RCMP has spent a lot of money to make Crime Watch feel happy. She said everyone makes these wish lists and only some things can be provided.

-Vena wanted to know where money we had been given was going to. Saying that at times we are given funding that disappears.

-Vena suggested removing the gas funding for our members to cover the costs that have been acquired by the program as a result of the withdrawn funding from the city.

-Maria and Kevin suggested we ask our membership what direction they would like the program to take.

-Maria said that we should consider making the executive smaller, such as removing patrol supervisors.

-Darren and Erik clarified the positions on the Executive as necessary as we once had 64 active members to maintain communication with.

-Rod invited any of the three RCMP representatives to attend tomorrow's (Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>) CW general meeting to discuss the concerns with the membership.

-Maria and Kate said that our program could solicit sponsorship and a donated account.

-Maria, Kate and Kevin expressed that there are old habits of the RCMP that need to be

changed and those changes are now being made. They stated they don't know why we were never allowed to fundraise as that was before they were involved.

-Erik and Vena suggested CW is more than happy to have a RCMP member more actively involved within the program.

-Maria reiterated that we need to review our executive and how it operates and the functionality of a large executive. She said 8 is a high number for an executive and said we should review what roles are necessary on the executive.

-Jim and Vena pointed out that our Executive functions effectively and that all members currently have vital roles.

-Darren asked how our program would change if a RCMP Member sat on our Executive.

-Maria and Kevin said it would greatly improve communication within and outside the program. We would be better connected to the RCMP.

19:43 Fermie Wilder arrived

-Kate said that having a member directly involved would assist the program also with fundraising efforts. Other sections would be more willing to contribute their fundraising dollars towards our program.

-Maria would like to see a budget set aside for Crime Watch by the city for next year. She said that they are the ones gaining the benefits from the program, and Jim echoed those statements.

-Jim mentioned he would like to find out how the decision was made at the city to revoke CW's funding and who this decision was made by.

-Rod stated that he is frustrated with how the program seems unappreciated by the City and the RCMP despite all of the time and effort put in by the city.

-Vena asked about how insurance coverage would extend to CW members as a direct RCMP program.

-Kate said that if directed to do something by the RCMP we would be covered similar to the Auxiliary program. While participating under the control of the RCMP we would be covered and could be provided with a copy of this policy.

-Maria said they will look in to the radio licensing issue.

-Erik asked if we can receive the amount that we may potentially have to pay.

-Vena asked to be provided with a current account statement for the CW program for planning purposes.

-Kate and Maria said that at YVR we may be able to speak to Walter Tyrel who is a volunteer at YVR and is a retired Staff Sgt. He is very knowledgeable about RCMP policy.

-Fermie asked about organizations making donations to CW. She wanted to know who would control our finances and where they would go.

-Maria said that to control our own money we would need to become our own entity.

### **Moving to YVR**

-Kate said that YVR would love to have us there and it would suit us much better and be a great fit for the program.

-Rod inquired about the status of equipment within our office area at YVR.

-Kate said that we would have two rooms, one for radio activity and one for storage. She noted that we would have internet access setup, but was unsure of who would pay the costs of setup.

-Maria said the cost of this would not be a problem, she would have it taken care of.

-Kate said that YVR is ready for us to move whenever we are ready. She suggested we move within a couple weeks.

-Kevin said that the city could setup the radio within about day at YVR.

-Vena asked to know who our YVR contact would be.

-Maria said she will discuss this with Ty Chang in her section to act as the person who would be the RCMP representative on the Crime Watch executive.

-Maria and Kate said this member would still be the Liaison Member as well as an Executive Member.

-Kate said that YVR is excited to offer us opportunities to assist with projects at YVR such as baggage theft, but they understand we are not exclusively their program.

-Jim asked about the security clearance issues at YVR for coffee breaks.

-Kate said that so long as an enhanced CW member was present there would be no problem with our members being in the coffee break room at YVR.

-Erik raised concerns with parking and building access.

-Kate said there would always be a member on duty to let us in to the sub-station, but call ahead to let them know we are coming. All members have RAP passes to let us in. Parking is on the south side of the building in the gravel lot, we would need to have a CW card on our dashboard to avoid being towed.

-Jim asked how to place this RCMP member in to the policies and procedures and what title to provide to them.

-Kate noted that the member would be the fourth coordinator within the program's structure.

-Erik asked how to have our phone line transferred to YVR. Kate said she would check on it.

-Darren asked about business cards. Kate said she would get blank sheets of the cards for us.

-Rod asked to arrange a meeting with the YVR Staff Sgt. To discuss how things will be set up. Kate will arrange this meeting.

-Kate said there would be a second computer provided to us at YVR.

-Maria raised an issue regarding Van 1132; she said that this van would be assigned to Victim Services exclusively from now on. We would retain the use of Van 1133 and could in the future regain the use of 1132 if they are able to find a donated vehicle for Victim Services.

-Maria said we could set up a meeting at YVR to check out what is in our rooms.

-Kevin said he would attend the general meeting on Wednesday, March 30, 2005.

-Erik asked about recruiting. Maria said they will assist with recruiting and media coverage.

The RCMP Members left the meeting at 20:18. Meeting was adjourned.