

Richmond Crime Watch Executive Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2006 – Richmond City Hall

Present: Vena Lanji – Coordinator, Darren Sutherland – Training, Steve Scott – Operations, Garry Vicze – Finance, Cst. Jack Harrison – Liaison Officer, Cpl. Barry Edwards – Incoming Liaison Officer, Cpl. Galib Bhayani – Crime Reduction Unit

Absent: Darren Gallvitz – Administration

Special Presentation: Metal Theft (19:16 hrs)

Cpl. Galib Bhayani spoke to the group about the increasing problem of metal theft throughout the city. The RCMP are working to identify the key suspects in the thefts and estimate there have been nearly \$5 million in losses to the city and other organizations this year. Cpl. Bhayani urged our members to watch for suspicious activity related to the theft of various metal items, especially wiring from light posts.

In addition to metal theft, there is a growing problem with gas theft from parked vehicles highlighted by the recent theft of gas from parked police vehicles at the Richmond Detachment. There has also been an ongoing problem with theft from parking meters, specifically the meters at the Gateway Theatre. Cpl. Bhayani requested increased patrols of this location between midnight and 0400 hrs, as well as day patrols of Mitchell Island when possible to watch for suspects selling stolen metal items.

Cpl. Barry Edwards was introduced as the incoming Liaison Officer when Jack retires this summer.

Call to Order

Vena Lanji called the meeting to order at 19:44 hrs.

Approval of Agenda

Steve Scott made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Darren Sutherland.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The approval of the minutes from the April executive meeting was deferred until the July meeting.

Reports

Coordinator's Report – Vena Lanji

-Vena thanked Cst. Jack Harrison for his support and assistance during the time following the unexpected death of Rod Bruchet. Vena also suggested looking into setting up a fund to help support the family with expenses.

-ICBC has inquired about the program's lower number of plates checked this year. It was noted that due to the high number of volunteers being trained this year, fewer teams were running plates.

- Cst. Kevin Kwast from Steveston has requested Crime Watch's presence at the Cst. Jimmy Ng Memorial Hockey tournament May 26 & 27. Vena will clarify what Crime Watch is needed for and inform our members.
- There is currently no Salmon Festival Operations Plan. Crime Watch will be assisting on this day and will create our own Operations Plan in the near future.
- Vena thanked Cst. Jack Harrison for the thank-you cards and coffee cards that were given to volunteers involved in a recent stolen vehicle incident. The cards went over very well and were greatly appreciated.
- There are approximately 10 applicants waiting to be interviewed and/or trained. Vena will go through the applications and organize this.
- It was noted that all documents related to Crime Watch must stay within our office at all times. There is no reason for any program documents to be taken home.
- Vena would like our members to do a better job of letting the executive know when they are ill or unable to participate in the program. There have been recent incidents where members were sick and nobody had any idea where they were or if they were okay.

Operations Reports – Steve Scott

- Our program will be focusing patrols on the ongoing problems of metal theft, parking meter theft, etc. Steve has talked to various departments within the city who have provided some information about target locations.
- Day shifts will be reviewed once the summer is complete. Currently members are too busy to commit to additional shifts.
- Steve will be meeting with Sgt. Paul Fox from the traffic section to discuss ways our program can assist his section.

Training Report – Darren Sutherland

- Our newest class of volunteers is doing very well. Some nights the trainees have had to go out with regular members rather than training officers due to a shortage of available trainers. The next training class may take place in late June or July.
- Darren is in discussions with Dr. Law from Kwantlen University about our program's Computer Dispatch system.
- Darren is looking at modifying our group's call signs so that we are aligned with the new call signs that the RCMP are using.

Finance Report – Garry Vicze

- Garry received a donated laptop from a friend to be used by our program.
- No change in petty cash.
- Vena will be submitting some receipts in the near future.
- Changes to our donation account will be made soon as we have now received our new radios.

Liaison Report – Cst. Jack Harrison

- Jack has sent a message regarding our missing patrol kit at YVR.

-Jack noted that we should thank Greg Lindenbach from RCMP IT for the two refurbished computers he has provided to our program.

Old Business

Equipment

- Darren advised the group that there are now two Pentium III computers fully operational in our office. These computers have now been backed up as well.
- Seven new radios have been received and are operational. Dispatch console coming soon.
- Darren is talking with Jack Van Gorkum about blowout priced computers and monitors that his company may be getting rid of.

Funding

- Cst. Jack Harrison is looking in to how our program could get an annual Honorarium from the city to help cover expenses.
- Steve has located some links to grant application websites.

General Meeting

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th.

New Business

Policy & Procedure Changes

- Deferred until a future meeting, or by e-mail.

Administration

- Vena will be discussing concerns with Darren Gallvitz about our program's Administration and things that need to be done.

ICBC

- There are some discrepancies between the statistics provided to ICBC and those posted on our website. Vena will clarify this issue with Darren Gallvitz.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at 19:00 hrs

Meeting Adjournment

Steve Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Darren Sutherland.