



**MINUTES OF THE CRIME PREVENTION TASK GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021
AT 6:03 P.M.**

- Present:** Councillor Nathan Pachal, Chair
Valerie Frolander, Member at Large
Mary Kydd, Senior Representative
Khesro Amin, Member at Large
Nadia Gugubauer, Member at Large
Allen Yuarata, Member at Large
Heather Giuriato, DLBA
Lida Magnus, Youth Member
- Staff:** Paula Kusack, Deputy Corporate Officer
Dave Selvage, Community Safety Manager
S/Sgt. Dave Brown, RCMP
- Guest:** A/Supt. Mike Bhatti, RCMP
Wei Liu, Analyst, RCMP
- Absent:** Deborah MacLellan, Member at Large
Jenny Hinch, Chamber of Commerce

1) AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the March 25, 2021 agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2) MINUTES

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the February 25, 2020 minutes of the Crime Prevention Task Group meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

S/Sgt Brown introduced A/Supt. Mike Bhatti. A/Supt. Bhatti shared that he has been a member of the RCMP for 25 years and provided a brief overview of his career.

S/Sgt. Brown introduced Wei Liu, RCMP Crime Analyst advising that she is one of two team members that create the property crime maps that we receive monthly. Ms. Liu explained the primary responsibilities of a crime intelligence analyst within the RCMP.

3) **DISCUSSION**

- a) Presentation from Wei Liu, Analyst, RCMP
- i. Analytical highlight of the Call for Service Data Spreadsheet

Ms. Liu reviewed the property crime analyst data from January 2020 – February 2021 comparing property offences month over month, noting that most have trended down except for mail theft.

Discussion included:

- Reasons for increase in mail theft
- Seasonal trends in property crime
- The effects of the pandemic on property theft
- Clusters of crimes in particular areas
- Areas to target crime prevention information flyers
- Areas RCMP consider a priority to target with information flyers
- The map and data can be used to determine highest theft areas

Ms. Liu advised that it would be possible to provide the data to the group again, as requested.

General discussion ensued about the following:

- Specific crimes
- Crime trends
- Offender opportunity/risk assessment
- Density increases opportunity for crime

In response to an inquiry of how the CPTG group should choose which offense to target when distributing crime prevention information S/Sgt Brown advised that he could use the data provided by the crime analyst team and work with them and the Community Liaison Officer and determine what is the best approach to determining action.

ACTION: S/Sgt Brown will report back with recommendations to identify priority crimes and target areas to disseminate crime prevention information / education flyers based on the crime analyst data.

Discussion continued about the rise in mail theft and the group agreed that consideration should be given to focusing on that crime as it has steadily risen over the last year. The crime analyst map shows that the downtown core, where there is increased density, has higher occurrences of the crime. Perhaps there is an opportunity to connect with property managers and strata councils to disseminate crime prevention information there.

It was agreed that targeted messaging is efficient and cost effective at addressing specific issues. The group is building a library of crime prevention information flyer topics and can reuse them in specific areas as the need arises.

It was further noted that determining which businesses don't have adequate security or CPTED attributes could assist in targeting those locations with crime prevention information as well.

It was noted that the RCMP liaise with city staff and provide recommendations on security and CPTED recommendations for all new development proposals in the City. The RCMP plan to increase community outreach with targeted crime prevention information once the pandemic passes and the task group can assist with that when the time comes.

The RCMP work with Canada Post investigators with regard to mail theft.

- b) Incentivize Businesses to Target Harden
 - ii. Report back if a reduction in property tax can be used to incentivize target hardening;
Dave Selvage, Manager of Community Safety

The Manager of Community Safety reported that property tax incentives are possible, however noted it is difficult to determine measurables for security enhancements. To reduce water consumption an incentive plan was utilized to encourage the purchase of low flow toilets, however the reduction of water was easily measurable. It is difficult to know if the installation of a camera, for example, is responsible for a decrease in property crime. More research would be needed to determine if CPTED improvements could be used as a measurable.

A suggestion was made that an incentive plan could be offered in specific areas, related to specific improvements, where higher instances of specific crimes occur, for example mail theft.

ACTION: It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff investigate an incentive program to retrofit insecure mailboxes in multifamily housing to increase security and deter mail theft, which in turn, reduces policing costs.

CARRIED

- iii. RCMP incentives to promote implementation of CPTED principles.
S/Sgt. Brown, RCMP

S/Sgt Brown advised that the best way the RCMP can incentivize businesses to improve security is to be active in education initiatives, community outreach and relationship building. To that end, last week

officers visited 95 businesses and delivered the CPTED information sheet.

Ms. Guiriato added that the business community appreciates the outreach, as it helps connect everyone. She felt that it would be helpful to bolster the outreach by sending an email containing the information as well. She can reach them through the DLBA email list.

ACTION:

Ms. Giuiato will do a mass email of the CPTED information sheet to the DLBA membership. Staff will forward it to her.

4) UPDATES

- a) Block Watch Program – How does the RCMP connect with new residents.

S/Sgt. Brown advised that during the pandemic the Block Watch program has been offline. As the pandemic ends, the plan is to reach out to the new residents west of 200th Street, south of 56 Avenue, in the Brydon area. They will reach out to strata managers and property managers and invite them to learn about and join the Block Watch program. They plan to start with a survey to gauge the public perception of crime in the area and compare it to actual data. The hope is to increase face to face contact as soon it can be done safely.

It was noted that it may be timely to work on the 'Educate Property Managers and Strata Councils about how to reduce mail theft' flyer.

- b) RCMP February Property Crime Map

This item was reviewed under item 3a).

5) STANDING ITEM

- a) Crime Prevention (seniors) Outreach Project

- i. Flyer Content Review / Approval
- o COVID-19 Fraud Alert (submitted by Khesro) – for mid-May release

The group approved the COVID-19 Fraud Alert flyer content for distribution in mid-May.

Because the group has two flyers worth of content ready for distribution through April and May, they would wait to choose the next topic and content volunteer at the April meeting.

- ii. Ideas for Outreach Flyer Topics
 - o Online Reporting
 - o Educate Property Managers and Strata Councils about how to reduce mail theft
 - o Green Dot Program (partner with Langley Division of Family Practice)
- iii. Identify a volunteer to hand deliver Crime Prevention Tips for Business flyer (a monthly standing item when the first flyer is ready for distribution)
 - Crime Prevention Tips for Business flyer Tip #1 – Content for review/approval (collaboration from Ms. Hinch, Ms. Gugubauer & Ms. Guiriato):

The group approved the Business flyer content "Tip #1, Natural Access Control" for distribution to businesses in April.
As content is included in the various flyers it will be struck from the standing item list below.

As a sub-committee, Ms. Guiriato, Ms. Gugubauer and Ms. Hinch will collaborate on the content once per 4-6 weeks for each of the five business flyers, aligning with the accompanying CPTED video content.

Business Flyer content target Hardening standing item list:

- ~~Install a security system with surveillance cameras on the inside/outside of your business building~~
- ~~Install an alarm system that is monitored off-site.~~
- ~~Make sure that the outside of the business building is well lit at night.~~
- ~~Keep front doors and windows clear of posters or signs for improved two-way visibility.~~
- To prevent vandalism keep the building clear.
- Use deadbolts for the exterior doors.
- Designate restricted areas with signs like "Employees Only" or "Private".
- Low counter displays allow employees to see over them.
- Keep side doors and back doors closed
- Keep limited cash in your registers. A sign indicating that there isn't much cash in the building might help.
- Be alert for customers who enter without a clear purpose.
- If cyber security is necessary, protect your customers online.
- Running security checks on staff and on potential new employees is an accepted practice.

- b) 2020 “Know Your Neighbour” Campaign – deferred

6) FOR INFORMATION

- a) GRIP Program – RCMP anti-gang education program – S/Sgt Brown
b) CPTED Video Link Information Sheet – S/Sgt Brown
c) Fraud Prevention Awareness / Information

7) ROUND TABLE

Several members thanked the RCMP for the presentation from Ms. Liu, Crime Analyst. The asked that S/Sgt Brown and A/Supt. Bhatti to pass on their thanks for the presentation and the valuable data.

The Chair noted that a quarterly update of the ATOM data would be appreciated for the CPTG. It is not needed monthly recognizing that resources are limited.

After some discussion it was determined that City staff will request it from S/Sgt Brown for the June CPTG meeting.

ACTION:

Items for the April CPTG agenda included:

- What is the best location(s) to distribute crime prevention information regarding Theft from Auto and Auto Theft
- What is the best location(s) to distribute crime prevention information regarding Mail Theft
- Bring ideas about how to educate residents in a targeted area (post flyers in neighbourhoods, door to door flyer deliver in the summer etc)

The Deputy Corporate Officer advised that the Door to Door Canvassing flyer has gained a lot of traction in the City. She has received many calls about unauthorized canvassers and has contacted the organizers and they have ceased operations in the City until they apply for permission through the proper channels.

Ms. Kydd noted that she acquired a one-page information sheet about Block Watch from the RCMP and shared it with a neighbouring buildings strata council. They plan to talk about it at their next strata council meeting. Hopefully they will join the Block Watch program.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:40pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

Certified Correct:
pdk

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER