



COMMITTEE REPORT

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject **Crime Prevention Recommendations**

From: Crime Prevention Task Group

File # : 0110.00

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Date: February 14, 2020

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION A:

THAT the City explore a partnership with Stepping Stone Community Services and the RCMP to work on a video story featuring people who are experiencing homelessness and include an education piece from the RCMP about prolific offenders.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION B:

THAT City Council donate a three-month Timms Community Centre recreation pass for use as an incentive prize when recruiting volunteers to go door to door during the Crime Prevention Task Group's 2020 "Know Your Neighbour" campaign.

SUMMARY: RECOMMENDATION A

One of the mandates of the Crime Prevention Task Group is to destigmatize the relationship between homelessness and criminal activity

In November of 2019 at the Crime Prevention Task Group (CPTG) meeting the members of the group met with Janet Burden and Fraser Holland from Stepping Stones Community Services. At that meeting, the CPTG discussed the merits of developing a film/video of a homeless person's personal journey from homelessness to independent living. The group discussed that this film/video might assist in terms of destigmatizing the relationship between homelessness and criminal activity. The project would be meant to make it personal and attach a face to the story.

One of the CPTG members advised that he'd seen a similar project done in Maple Ridge and it was effective and offered the general public an opportunity to see into the lives of vulnerable people and gain a better understanding of how they became homeless.

It was noted that Stepping Stones offered to partner on the project to assist in finding a person to tell their story.

A member of the CPTG suggested that perhaps the RCMP could include a piece in the video explaining that prolific offenders are responsible for the majority of crime, not the homeless.

On January 29, 2020 during the CPTG meeting the subject of the film/video was discussed again.

It was discussed that City staff would be required to connect the CPTG members to Stepping Stones personnel and that no other costs to produce the video would be the responsibility of the City.

The CPTG now recommends that the City explore a partnership with Stepping Stone Community Services and the RCMP to work on a video story featuring people who are experiencing homelessness and include an education piece from the RCMP about prolific offenders.

SUMMARY: RECOMMENDATION B

On January 29, 2020 during the Crime Prevention Task Group (CPTG) meeting, volunteer recruitment for the 2020 "Know Your Neighbour Campaign" was discussed. The group discussed the merits of offering an incentive prize to encourage citizens to sign up as volunteers for the campaign. It was noted that last year a prize was offered that was worth up to \$500. The group noted the following:

- Many people signed up to volunteer but this didn't result in more volunteers on campaign day. People just wanted the opportunity to win the prize;
- The 3-month Timms recreation pass used the year before was better value for the City as the cost was not out of pocket and the prize wasn't so high in value that people signed up with no intention of following through;
- A prize is a great conversation starter. A good way to get people to stop so you can talk with them further about the campaign;
- A prize offers volunteers a sense of appreciation;

- The group wants to attract civic minded people to volunteer, not those only motivated by a high value prize.

The CPTG now recommends that City Council donate a three-month Timms Community Centre recreation pass for use as an incentive prize when recruiting volunteers to go door to door during the Crime Prevention Task Group's 2020 "Know Your Neighbour" campaign.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Nathan Pachal
Chair, CPTG

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMMENTS:

With respect to Recommendation B, an adult three month pass is \$148.50 and a senior three-month pass is \$110.70. If Council supports this incentive price, it could be allocated from the Enterprise Fund.

While recognizing the rationale for offering an incentive prize to encourage citizens to sign up as volunteers, the City has not offered this type of incentive prize for other programs with volunteers (e.g. Point of Pride, Christmas Bureau, Community Day, Christmas Parade, etc.).



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer