



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: Installation of “Lock Out Auto” Crime Signs

File #: [Required]

Doc #:

From: Dave Selvage
Manager of Community Safety

Date: June 10, 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council suspend the recommendation of the Crime Prevention Task Group to install metal “Lock Out Auto Crime” signs around Langley.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide information on the merits of installing “Lock Out Auto Crime” signs around Langley.

POLICY:

N/A

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

At the Council meeting held on May 25, 2020, a motion was passed directing staff to investigate installing metal “Lock Out Auto Crime” signs around Langley. A second motion was passed instructing staff to investigate the possibility of cost sharing the signs and installation with ICBC. Both motions stemmed from recommendations from the Crime Prevention Task Group as part of their overall campaign to reduce theft from autos in the City of Langley. Plastic signs were originally obtained from ICBC at no cost. These signs were installed by City staff in the area of 201A Street and Michaud Crescent but were later removed by vandals. The Crime Prevention Task Group concluded that the installation of more permanent metal signs, approximately eight (8) signs, would deter vandals from removing the signs.

Staff obtained theft from auto crime statistics for the area of 201A Street and Michaud Crescent. There were eleven (11) Theft from Autos in 2020 up to and including June 9.

It should be noted that the RCMP saw a decrease in property crime since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, many, if not most, of theft from auto is never reported. Theft from auto primarily occurs when people leave their doors unlocked. Often, nothing is taken and the incident goes unreported. Even in the case where something of value is taken, many people feel like filing a report with the police is unnecessary.

Staff determined pricing for the signs and it was estimated that the metal signs would cost approximately \$200 each including installation. ICBC was contacted and declined to cost share the signs.

Engineering Operations was consulted and stated that they receive many complaints from citizens related to an over abundance of signs in Langley City. They pointed out that in the area of Michaud Crescent and 201A Street, there is already four Block Watch signs erected. They feel that the erection of more signs would lead to further sign pollution. In addition, there would be an extra cost to maintain the signs and Engineering Operations is recommending that the signs should not be placed.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Cost of each sign = \$200 plus long-term cost of maintenance. The cost of eight (8) signs, therefore, is \$1,600.

ALTERNATIVES:

That Council approve the recommendation of the Crime Prevention Task Group and instruct staff to install metal "Lock Out Auto Crime" signs around Langley City.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Selvage
Manager of Community Safety

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendation.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer