



COMMITTEE REPORT

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject **Crime Prevention Committee – 529 Bike Shield
Funding Request**

File #:

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From: Councillor Paul Albrecht Chair, Crime Prevention
Committee

Date: August 16, 2024

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council provide \$1,625 in funding to the Crime Prevention Committee to purchase 500, 529 Bike Shield stickers to promote bike security in the community over the next 12 months.

SUMMARY:

In 2023 bike security was identified as part of the overall work plan for the Crime Prevention Committee (CPC). Specifically, education, promotion of safe bike storage and identifying areas for safe bike storage were identified as the goals under the bike security initiative.

In July 2023, the Vancouver Police Department's Chief Outreach Officer for the 529 Garage bike registration program attended the CPC meeting and presented on the program.

The not for profit 529 Garage bike registration program was piloted in Vancouver in 2015 and has grown into largest bike registration in the world. The program consists of a website and phone app that allows cyclists to register their bikes online. It includes pictures and identifying characteristics of the bike. An alert is sent out to other users in the area when a bike is reported as stolen and the database helps locate the rightful owner when it is found. It allows police to quickly identify, seize and reunite bicycles with their rightful owners. In 2015, when the tool was first rolled out, Vancouver reported more than 3,000 stolen

bikes. In 2023 the number of stolen bikes in Vancouver was 1,049, a 66% decrease.

Promotion of the 529 Garage program is often conducted at events where a number of cyclists are present. This allows cyclists to register their bikes onsite.

The CPC has run volunteer bike valets at both Earth Day and Community Day events. They continue to be committed to these types of events to educate the public on and assist with bike security. The CPC volunteers would like to attend City of Langley community events over the next 12 months to promote bike security and encourage attendees to register their bikes with the 529 Garage program. 529 Garage requires cyclist owners to affix a 529 Bike Shield sticker to their bikes. The cost of each of the shields is \$3.25. This money made from the shields goes directly back into the continued funding of the program.

The CPC is now recommending that Council provide \$1625 in funding to the CPC to purchase 500, 529 Bike Shield stickers to promote bike security in the community over the next 12 months.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Paul Albrecht
Chair