

Police Services

CityPlan

Riley Park/South Cambie **RPSC**

City Role in Funding

Police services in Vancouver are almost entirely funded by the City through property taxes.

In 2003, roughly 20% (\$140 million), of the City's budget was apportioned to police services and approximately \$10 million was contributed by Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) and senior levels of government.

The Changing Nature of Policing

To be effective in the new millennium, police departments are focussing on proactive, community-based problem-solving strategies in cooperation with the communities they serve and other government agencies.

In the City of Vancouver, the Police Departments' mission is to:

"provide professional and effective community-based policing through partnerships focussing on prevention, enforcement, investigative and problem-solving strategies".

By meeting people under ordinary circumstances, increasing police visibility in the community, and encouraging public partnership, the department believes it is better equipped to respond to the needs of Vancouver's residents and businesses.

Community-based Initiatives

Since the 1970s the Police Department has built upon several successful community-based policing programs in Vancouver.

Community Policing Centres (CPCs)

CPCs are voluntary, non-profit organizations dedicated to helping reduce crime through crime prevention education, public awareness and community involvement. CPC offices rely on support and cooperation from the City, local residents, businesses and the police.

ICBC

ICBC has provided funding for community-based initiatives such as Pooch Patrol, Foot Patrol, Bike Patrol, and Stolen Auto Recovery (SAR). These programs have been very successful crime prevention measures.

Block Watch

Block Watch is a neighbourhood crime awareness program that consists of passive surveillance, the reporting of suspicious or criminal activity, home security checks and marking private property for easy identification.

Block Watch is initiated by neighbourhood residents who approach the Police Department with a request to establish the program in their area. As of 2002, an estimated 700 blocks and 17,000 households participated in the program. The Police Department is undergoing a process of up-dating their file records, and contacting those blocks who haven't been submitting annual block maps.

Contact: Vancouver Police Dept.
Block Watch Program Coordinator
Cst. Lisa Archer at 604-717-2857.

Block Parents

Homes identified with an official Block Parent sign provide a safe haven for children in emergencies. The program involves members of the

community, police, school board and senior levels of government. The Block Parent program has recently been revised, and by September 2002, there will be new Block Parent signs, and renewed resources and services in Vancouver communities.

School Liaison Officers

Liaison Officers are assigned to all high schools in Vancouver. (A few highschools share a Liaison Officer). Officers provide guidance and support to students and staff. The intent of the program is to reach out to youth in need and divert them from potentially harmful influences. Liaison Officers also visit elementary schools.

Citizens Crime Watch

Volunteers patrol neighbourhoods looking for suspicious activity. Information is passed along to police coordinators who investigate. Currently, individuals who volunteer are assigned to an area in the city where they are most needed.

Speedwatch

The Vancouver Police Department and ICBC manage the Speedwatch Program in Vancouver. Speedwatch volunteers monitor traffic speeds to help determine the need for traffic enforcement. Primary locations are schools, parks, and other pedestrian-oriented areas. Volunteers work 6 to 12 hours each month. The Police Department provides the training, equipment, and vehicles.

For more information on the Speedwatch Program, please call D. Steverding at ICBC at 604-786-6483.

Business Watch

A business liaison program where constables work closely with wholesale and retail businesses to reduce crime

by targetting internal theft, shoplifting, burglary and robbery.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Together with the City Planning Department, police officers review plans of public and private places to incorporate CPTED principles into the design of projects. The objective is to reduce opportunities for criminal activity.

Victim Services

Trained volunteers are available 24 hours a day to assist traumatized victims of crime.

Deployment

A large part of community policing involves the manner in which the Police Department does business. People who live in Vancouver communities often do not see the police who patrol their neighbourhoods. Recognizing this, the department has taken initiatives to deploy personnel so they have the greatest impact on the communities where they work. Alternative types of deployment include:

- neighbourhood foot patrols;
- bicycle deployment;
- the property crime squad;
- the mounted squad; and,
- directed patrol.

Fear of Crime

Although crime statistics indicate that violent crime is not actually on the rise in most parts of Vancouver, the fear of crime is.

In 1991, a survey on public attitudes revealed that fear of crime, particularly amongst women, the disabled and the elderly, can be as debilitating as victimization.

Reducing the fear of crime is the focus of many of the community-based programs outlined above.

Types of Crime

The three major categories of crime in the Canadian Criminal Code are:

- property crimes;
- crimes against persons; and,
- other crimes.

Property crimes, typically the largest of the three categories, include break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft over and under \$1000, fraud, and possession of stolen property.

Crimes against persons, sometimes referred to as “violent crimes”, include homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, robbery, and abduction.

Other crimes, include prostitution and drug crimes.

Crime statistics include only those offences reported to or discovered by police which, after preliminary investigation are deemed to have occurred or been attempted.

Person(s) and Property Offences by Local Area

	Population (2001)	Violent Crimes	Violent Crimes Rate	Property Crimes	Property Crimes Rate
Arbutus Ridge	14,515	48	3.3	677	46.6
Central Business District	27,990	1,665	59.5	12,834	458.5
Dunbar Southlands	21,310	33	1.5	806	37.8
Fairview	28,405	234	8.2	4,213	148.3
Grandview Woodlands	29,085	705	24.2	3,509	120.6
Hastings Sunrise	33,045	287	8.7	2,017	61.0
Kensington Cedar Cottage	44,560	380	8.5	2,443	54.8
Kerrisdale	14,035	47	3.3	627	44.7
Killarney	25,785	135	5.2	959	37.2
Kitsilano	39,620	259	6.5	3,413	86.1
Marpole	22,415	151	6.7	1,296	57.8
Mount Pleasant	24,535	408	16.6	2,722	110.9
Oakridge	11,795	72	6.1	785	66.6
Renfrew Collingwood	44,950	442	9.8	2,457	54.7
Riley Park	21,990	139	6.3	1,187	54.0
Shaughnessy	9,020	30	3.3	521	57.8
South Cambie	6,995	39	5.6	664	94.9
Strathcona	11,575	637	55.0	2,235	193.1
Sunset	33,425	270	8.1	1,980	59.2
Victoria Fraserview	27,150	150	5.5	1,180	43.5
West End	42,120	475	11.3	5,779	137.2
West Point Grey	12,680	31	2.4	636	50.2

Notes:

Crime data does not include offences coded as location unknown.

Crime rates (crimes per 1000 population) calculated using 2001 population and 2003 crime data.

Sources:

Statistics Canada, 2001 Census

Vancouver Police Department