

Community Policing Centres

CityPlan

Riley Park/South Cambie **RPSC**

What is Community-based Policing?

Community-based policing involves the police working with local community groups and established community organizations to address public safety and security issues.

Community-based policing takes a proactive approach to safety concerns by addressing social stresses that often lead to crime. This involves City departments co-ordinating their efforts with social agencies and the community through Neighbourhood Integrated Service Teams (or NISTs) to take a preventative approach to problems. This prevention effort can involve family counselling, youth support and/or recreation programming.

Community Policing Centres (CPCs)

One strategy facilitating the partnership between the community and the Police is the development of Community Policing Centres or CPCs. CPCs are places where the Police and the community come together and, with community volunteers, engage in the delivery of crime prevention programs and activities. These include Block Watch, citizens foot patrol, bicycle patrol, safety fairs, anti-graffiti programs and other preventive initiatives.

Most CPCs were funded through grants from a joint City of Vancouver and Ministry of Attorney General Safety Funding program. The program had a budget of \$300,000 per year, with each partner contributing half that amount. Community Safety grants were provided up to \$24,000 (circa 2000) to fund individual CPCs. Many CPCs also fundraised to supplement their grant allocation.

Key Issues Regarding CPCs

The joint City of Vancouver and Ministry of Attorney General Safety Funding program was terminated by the Province in 2002. This left the City with a choice of terminating the program or developing a new model of Community Policing which addressed the financial shortfall. Other issues concerning the operations of the CPCs included:

- discrepancies in the number of active volunteers
- inconsistent hours of operation
- occasional lack of rapport between the NPO and volunteers
- lack of effective delivery of crime prevention programs
- lack of involvement by local residents and the business community
- poor community feedback, and
- lack of diversity in funding sources.

Additional issues involved CPCs having to expend significant amounts of time and energy on fundraising to cover costs (including overhead like rent, salaries, and hydro) to the detriment of program delivery.

A New Model for CPCs

The new model for community policing involves the delivery of crime prevention programs and community safety activities from 7 neighbourhood-based CPCs and 1 CPC designated for Vancouver's Chinese population. The neighbourhood-based CPCs are:

- Davie Street CPC - 1135 Davie St.
- Granville Downtown South CPC - 916 Granville St.
- Hastings North CPC - 2001 Wall st.
- Grandview Woodland CPC - 1657 Charles St.
- Collingwood CPC - 5160 Joyce St.

- South Vancouver CPC - 5657 Victoria Dr.
- Kerrisdale Oakridge Marpole CPC - 5655 Cambie St.

The Chinese CPC is located at 18 East Pender.

Each CPC will have one assigned NPO who will be the main individual responsible for the implementation and coordination of crime prevention activities in each office. The role of community groups will be to implement crime prevention activities (e.g., bike and foot patrols), advise Police on existing and emerging issues, assist in defining crime prevention activities, fundraising, training, and recognizing the efforts of volunteers in promoting public safety. CPCs are funded through the Police Operational Budget to the amount of \$150,000.

The Kerrisdale Oakridge Marpole (KOM) CPC

The Kerrisdale Oakridge Marpole (KOM) CPC is located at Suite 295 - 5655 Cambie Street. Its hours of operation are Monday to Thursday, 10am to 4pm. Currently the KOM CPC has a roster of 90 volunteers, and offers the following services:

- home, apartment (condo) and business security inspections
- child find: helping parents create a permanent and ongoing descriptive record of their children
- seniors safety lectures and brochures
- traffic concerns/complaints
- volunteer foot and pooch patrols
- vehicle crime prevention patrols
- block watch: neighbours watching out for neighbours
- block parent: providing safe refuge for the young and the elderly
- business block parent
- registration program for "Combat Auto Theft"
- youth programs

- safety and crime statistics
- linking with Police personnel

Volunteers are always needed to deliver these services. Please call the KOM CPC at 604-717-3434 for more information.

Sources

- web page - Vancouver Police Department - Community Policing Centres
- Council Report - "New Policing Centres Model"
- Council Report - "Community Policing Program Review"