

January 10th, 2009

Re: Vancouver City Blockwatch Program

I am writing to express our support for the Vancouver City Blockwatch Program.

I have been involved in the Blockwatch program since the spring of 1996, and have participated as a co-block captain since 1996. I believe that the Blockwatch program benefits the community in many ways:

- 1. Fosters a sense of community:** The Blockwatch program provides a framework for City residents of a given block to meet at least once a year. Our Block has had meetings at least every year for the least 12 years, usually in May or June.

The Blockwatch meetings provide a forum whereby children, teen-agers, young adults, seniors and people of all walks of life can meet for a few hours every year and get to know each other. This has helped develop a sense of community within all residents of our block, including the fostering of a sense of community among our youth as young toddlers taking part in the Blockwatch meetings have grown into teen-agers and young adults.

The Blockwatch meetings also provide a forum for individuals of all ethnic background to participate in. This is very important given the high degree of diversity of our neighbourhood.

- 2. Provides venue for residents to discuss and learn about crime prevention methods.** The Blockwatch program has developed brochures and has sent electronic messages to Blockwatch captains/co-captains about ways to prevent crime. For our block, this information has been circulated to all Blockwatch participants through the annual meetings and through communications via e-mail between the Blockwatch co-captains and all Blockwatch participants on our block.
- 3. Provides and publicizes crime statistics about our neighbourhood and informs the public on a very timely basis of crime in the area.** Our Blockwatch has an e-mail list of almost all the residents on our block and the Vancouver Police crime statistics and related information are shared among all the Blockwatch members on a very timely basis.
- 4. Training of Blockwatch captains in crime prevention methods and dissemination of the information:** The Blockwatch program has provided opportunities for the Blockwatch captains/co-captains to attend sessions on crime prevention, and what they have learned has been circulated to all residents who participate in the Blockwatch program on our block.

I would like to thank you and all others at the VPD who are involved with the Blockwatch program.