

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE- FEBRUARY 6, 2006

CITY OF VAUGHAN AND YORK REGIONAL POLICE JOINT ENFORCEMENT 2005

Recommendation

Councillor Bernie DiVona, Chair – Safe City Committee, in consultation with the Senior Manager of Enforcement Services and Manager of Parks Services recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan receive this report for information.
2. That the City of Vaughan make this report and attachment available on the City of Vaughan website.
3. That the City of Vaughan Clerks Dept. be requested to forward this report to the Mayor's Task Force on Safety and Security.

Economic Impact

None

Purpose

To ensure the residents of Vaughan are aware of the joint enforcement projects carried out by the City of Vaughan Bylaw Enforcement working together with York Regional Police to help reduce nuisances, vandalism, and other activity not in keeping with community safety.

A Safe City Survey conducted in August/September 2005 has concluded that residents are largely unaware of the role and activity of community safety initiatives undertaken by the City of Vaughan. As a result, the Safe City Committee resolved that a comprehensive report should be produced to make the public aware of those joint enforcement efforts carried out in 2005.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan Safe City Committee was established with a mission to investigate and recommend opportunities that would serve to make Vaughan a safer and more enjoyable place to live, work, play or raise a family. Fundamental to the achievement of this mission is the need to participate with York Regional Police towards enhanced enforcement and communication to the public of our efforts and opportunities.

The Safe City Committee conducted a citywide survey of residents in August/September 2005 to better understand their concerns with community safety and to obtain feedback of concerns from residents. The survey has been completed and a final report is to be released within 30 days.

A major finding of the survey included public comments and opinions as to the level of public acceptance of existing community safety program. The survey has concluded that some 40% of respondents were not aware of community safety initiatives or programs within Vaughan. However, those respondents that were aware of community safety initiatives provided a "good to excellent" rating 60% of the time. This was evidenced by respondents naming community safety programs or initiatives. It is clear the City of Vaughan needs to inform residents of existing programs and initiatives that have been undertaken to enhance community safety.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

This report has been prepared to provide a consolidated report of joint City of Vaughan Bylaw Department and York Regional Police initiatives undertaken during 2005. During the year, the Bylaw Department and Parks Department worked jointly with York Regional Police to address enforcement issues that are within the realm of the municipality.

The Safe City Committee has felt that there must be an increased awareness of the programs and initiatives that have been undertaken, as residents have expressed concern as a lack of knowledge of community safety initiatives. This report has been prepared to ensure that both the education and awareness is provided to the public.

Attachments

A summary report is attached outlining those joint enforcement initiatives.

Report prepared by:

Councillor Bernie DiVona

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Bernie DiVona
Chair-Safe City Committee

REVISED

CITY OF VAUGHAN ENFORCEMENT SERVICES /YORK REGIONAL POLICE

JOINT SAFETY INITIATIVES (2005)

Joint Bicycle Patrol Unit

The City of Vaughan Enforcement Services (VES) joined York Regional Police (YRP) officers to patrol our parks, trails, and open spaces throughout the spring, summer and fall of 2005. It is estimated that approximately 20-40 hours per month was expended with joint patrols within the City of Vaughan parklands and open spaces.

Biker Unit

VES partnered with YRP "biker unit" during the year to review/inspect a Woodbridge property with respect to the "fortification provisions" contained within the City of Vaughan bylaws.

Body Rub Parlour Enforcement

The City of Vaughan has an ongoing working relationship with YRP for the purpose of enforcing the illegal body rub establishments throughout the City of Vaughan. To date, approximately 200 charges have been laid and the number of illegal body rub parlours in Vaughan has been reduced to about 11 as at December 31, 2005.

Community Forums—Community Policing Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The City of Vaughan working with YRP (Constable Morris Shaw), and chaired by each City of Vaughan Ward Councillor, conducted community meetings to provide information, awareness, and assistance to homeowners and businesses on how they can help minimize, discourage or prevent robberies or break-ins through physical design changes and other improvements. Community safety can be enhanced or prevented, in some instances, through design improvements

Community Safety Zone Enforcement

VES partnered with YRP during the year to enforce unlawful double parking, dangerous driving and speeding and other problems experienced within community safety zones, in the vicinity of schools and community centres.

E.R.A.S.E Program

VES has been working with YRP to share information with "noise" related problems with "street racing" activities.

Long Weekend Initiative (May 20-23, 2005)

To commence the summer park patrol program, a combined joint operation initiative to inspect and enforce park and public facilities was undertaken. Using 5 Enforcement Officers, and 5 YRP officers a series of inspections were undertaken and charges were laid including: 7 trespass on property, 2 possession of controlled substance, 1 drug trafficking, 2 loitering in a public park after closed, and 4 charges of "use of public facility other than the lawful intend".

Home Safety Seminars

During the year YRP conducted a series of instructional/educational workshops and community meetings in select neighbourhoods having experienced break-ins and/or home invasions in their community. A handbook produced by YRP was provided to all interested parties.

City of Vaughan Park Ambassador Program--Security Clearance and Training

The City of Vaughan, Safe City Committee, initiated the "Park Ambassador" Program in which volunteer residents act as the "eyes and ears" of the community. YRP conducted the necessary "security clearance" requirements as established by the municipality. Further, YRP provided "tactical communication technique" training, i.e. non-confrontational training. In excess of 30 residents had been trained by VES and YRP.

Project "Trick or Treat" (Halloween)

Over the years, Halloween has been a major source of safety and concern with swarming, vandalism, and other unlawful activities. During the Halloween weekend of 2005, 4 bylaw enforcement officers, and 4 to 5 YRP officers, and Air 2 conducted a comprehensive enforcement responding to complaints. Charges were laid including: impaired driving, criminal "possession for the purpose" charge, 6 nuisance charges, 1 tow truck licensing charge, and 15 trespass notices. Further, numerous verbal cautions for indecent acts in parks and school parking lots were laid. YRP also laid additional charges, and these are separate from the above.

VES Special Enforcement Unit

This unit was active in our parks and worked closely with YRP to enforce safety within City of Vaughan parks and community centres. YRP provided support in those instances in which arrests were made and/or charges needed to be laid.

Transportation Vehicles Joint Project

Three joint initiatives with YRP, Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of the Environment were undertaken with respect to tow trucks, taxi cabs, catering trucks, and other commercial vehicles. Charges were laid by the Ministry of the Environment for various violations.

Woodlot Enforcement Initiative

City of Vaughan and YRP received complaints from St. Elizabeth School, residents, and from members of City Council regarding numerous youth consuming alcohol and conducting other activities not in keeping with community standards. The enforcement resulted in alcohol bottles being found; condoms, needles and smoking of drugs within the woodlot were discovered. The woodlot is part of a city park and is regularly attended by seniors. A total of 8 enforcement officers including: 4 from the City of Vaughan and 4 from YRP conducted a blitz resulting in a variety of charges including: 11 trespass charges, 2 charges of use of the facility for other than the intended use, 2 consuming of alcohol and 6 drug arrests.