

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**Recommendation**

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends:

1. That the attached submission from the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security, dated September 18, 2006, be received; and
2. That Vaughan Council support and implement the eleven (11) recommendations contained therein.

**Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact at this time.

**Purpose**

The Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security has fulfilled their mandate and have developed recommendations that will improve community safety and security in Vaughan when implemented. The recommendations were presented to Council on September 18, 2006, prior to the Public Hearing.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

At the Council meeting of October 31, 2005, Council approved the creation of a Task Force with the objective of developing recommendations which, when implemented would improve community Safety. Recommendations developed by the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security would focus on education, prevention, and community participation. Mr. Julian Fantino was appointed as the Task Force Chair and Council recommended that Mr. Fantino appoint Task Force members with representation from key stakeholder groups.

The Task Force was charged with the responsibility of recommending to Council the Terms of Reference which would outline in more detail the mandate of the Task Force, the process for obtaining public input, and the reporting of recommendations. The Task Force submitted the Terms of Reference to the Committee of the Whole of February 6, 2006.

To assist the Task Force in developing recommendations enhancing safety and security, POLLARA (Strategic Public Opinion & Market Research) was commissioned to formulate a survey designed to assess residents' and business opinions and attitudes towards issues surrounding crime and safety in their community. The results of the survey were presented to Council on May 1, 2006, prior to the Public Hearing.

Following extensive deliberations, the Task Force has achieved their mandate, and has provided Council with recommendations, intended to enhance safety, security and quality of life in the City of Vaughan.

**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**

As directed by Council, the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security has developed recommendations that will improve community safety and security in Vaughan when implemented. The eleven (11) recommendations are contained in the attached submission of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security.

## **Attachments**

- 1) "My Safe Vaughan: Recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety & Security"

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Michael Di Biase



MAYOR'S TASK FORCE  
ON **COMMUNITY**  
SAFETY & SECURITY

# **My Safe Vaughan:**

Recommendations of the **Mayor's Task Force on  
Community Safety & Security**



Park Ambassador Program,  
Vaughan

**SUBMISSION TO CITY OF VAUGHAN COUNCIL**  
**September 18, 2006**

**Julian Fantino, C.O.M., O., Ont.**  
**CHAIR**

[www.mysafevaughan.ca](http://www.mysafevaughan.ca)

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."***

***Margaret Mead***

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## Executive Summary

The Mayor's Task Force on Safety and Security in Vaughan is the creation of the Council of the City of Vaughan as approved on October 31, 2005, (Item 1, Report No. 58), "that the City of Vaughan form a Mayor's Task Force to develop recommendations regarding Safety and Security by focusing on education, prevention and community participation." The Council also appointed Julian Fantino, a long time resident of Vaughan, to be the Chair of the Task Force, with authority to appoint Task Force members who are representative of key stakeholder groups.

A total of twenty members of the community representing a wide range of organizations and citizens at large initially came together to develop the Terms of Reference for the Task Force, namely:

- 1) Supplement, assist and support the work of existing public safety authorities by addressing real or perceived public safety concerns.
- 2) Through a community-based consultative approach, identify gaps and promote established community-based safety initiatives City wide.
- 3) Develop practical recommendations to be delivered to Mayor Michael DiBiase and Members of Council for approval.
- 4) Assist in the timely implementation of the Task Force recommendations approved by Council.

The Task Force's "terms of reference" were later presented to Council. Once approved, the terms of reference became the guiding principles of the work undertaken by the Task Force, which included an ongoing series of meetings, community consultations, receipt of presentations, surveys, research and informal dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders. The Task Force also relied heavily on the diverse background and experience of its members in order to further broaden the overall knowledge and awareness of the issues of relevance as well as to not duplicate, but rather support, the work of other agencies such as police especially.

Through all the deliberations that followed it became important for the Task Force not to develop recommendations about which the City of Vaughan has no authority to implement or that were unattainable or beyond reason. That thought process guided the Task Force to develop recommendations that either in the immediate or longer term can be acted upon by Council with anticipated attainable and meaningful results. Furthermore, the Task Force took a broad approach that included many of the principles embodied in the concept of designing, constructing and maintaining "safe and liveable communities". Thus the Task Force focused on many linked issues that in one way or another can and do impact, not only safety and security,

but also the quality of life available to citizens such as; socio-economic conditions, traffic management, planning and physical characteristics of neighbourhoods, etc.

Accordingly, recommendations were developed and categorized as follows:

- Awareness Education and Communication
- Building Neighbourhoods
- Crime Prevention Through Social Development;
  - Children and youth
  - The vulnerable
  - The elderly
- Cyber Crime and Fraud
- Emergency Preparedness
- Engaging Business
- Environmental Design
- Hate Related Incidents
- Supporting Strong Political Leadership
- Traffic Safety/Management
- Quality of Life

The Task Force has embraced the concept that "community safety is everyone's responsibility, and crime prevention is everyone's business". As stated, the Task Force concerned itself with a number of collateral issues that are linked to the whole cycle of crime, its causes and consequences, fears and perceptions as well as other public safety and quality of life issues.

Among the most prominent is the importance of young people in any crime prevention strategy as "it is easier to build a child than to repair an adult".

In essence the work of the Task Force can be framed into four essential criteria or elements from which positive outcomes can be realized:

- 1) **The cause of the problems that contribute to the erosion of community safety** must be identified in order to define appropriate community-based solutions;

- 2) **A community-based shared vision** must be developed with appropriate strategies, including allocation of resources, the implementation of specific programs and services, and the identification of defined, anticipated measurable results;
- 3) **Community-wide mobilization**, including the private and corporate sectors, schools, churches, governments and institutions, must be achieved, with all parties committed to working together to solve problems;
- 4) **Dynamic and visionary leaders** who are capable of leading by voice and example by promoting and championing the dream. People from all sectors of the diversity of Vaughan who care enough to take the lead, communicate and mobilize the entire community with their talent, commitment, vision, intellect and energy.

The members of the Task Force also wish to express their appreciation for having been given the opportunity to make a contribution to enhancing safety, security and quality of life for all the citizens of Vaughan, and encourage Council to act on the recommendations submitted by the Task Force, which also remains committed to rendering assistance in the timely implementation of the recommendations, once approved by Council.



## Acknowledgements

As with most meaningful community-based endeavours the importance of volunteers and the support of good corporate citizens cannot be overstated as a critical factor in achieving success. This reality has been well demonstrated by the members of the Task Force, who dedicated a great deal of their personal time, talent and resources to produce a compelling product.

It has been stated, "there is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer". Throughout, the Task Force also relied on the generosity and support of both individuals and other entities in a variety of ways, who have demonstrated their willingness to be helpful, and they are:

Rose Magnifico, Assistant Clerk, City of Vaughan  
Ucal Powell, Executive Treasurer, Carpenters Union, Central Ontario Regional Council  
Patricia Robertson, Chief Executive Officer, York Region Neighbourhood Services/Social Enterprise Canada  
Ralph Capocci, President, Danjus Consulting Group  
Mario Crudo, President, Raw Integrated Inc.  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America  
The Cristina Ciccolini Bone Marrow Research Memorial Fund  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Pizza Pizza  
ScotiaBank  
POLLARA Strategies, Public Opinion and Market Research  
The Vaughan Chamber of Commerce  
The York Regional Police Service

As chair of the Task Force I am very proud of our product which in essence represents the collective wisdom and contribution of many caring and conscientious volunteers and organizations, and to whom individually and collectively I am sincerely grateful.



Julian Fantino, Chairman  
Vaughan Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security

## City Of Vaughan

### Extract From Council Meeting Minutes Of October 31, 2005

Item 1, Report No. 58, of the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 31, 2005.

#### **1 MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON SAFETY AND SECURITY IN VAUGHAN**

The Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) recommends:

- 1) That the City of Vaughan form a Mayor's Task Force to develop recommendations regarding Safety and Security by focusing on education, prevention and community participation;
- 2) That Mr. Julian Fantino be appointed as the Task Force Chair;
- 3) That the Chair appoints the Task Force members with representation from key stakeholder groups;
- 4) That the Task Force develop and recommend Terms of Reference to Council at the earliest opportunity;
- 5) That staff support be provided to the Task Force and that a budget of \$5,000 be provided from the Council Corporate budget if required; and
- 6) That the following report of Mayor Di Biase, dated October 24, 2005, be received.

#### **Recommendation**

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends:

- 1) That the City of Vaughan form a Mayor's Task Force to develop recommendations regarding Safety and Security by focusing on education, prevention and community participation;
- 2) That Mr. Julian Fantino be appointed as the Task Force Chair;
- 3) That the Chair appoints the Task Force members with representation from key stakeholder groups;
- 4) That the Task Force develop and recommend Terms of Reference to Council at the earliest opportunity;
- 5) That staff support be provided to the Task Force and that a budget of \$5,000 be provided from the Council Corporate budget if required.

#### **Economic Impact**

The impact is \$5,000 within the existing budget.

**Purpose**

To create a Mayor's Task Force with the objective of developing recommendations which, when implemented, will improve community safety.

Item 1, CW (Closed Session) Report No. 58– Page 2

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The City of Vaughan is not isolated. We are an intricate part of the GTA and not immune to the issues that face the City of Toronto and other GTA communities. In recent months we have been witness to various acts which undermine the safety and security of our community; however the City of Vaughan on its own cannot take on this challenge. We must involve our whole community and key stakeholders in order to improve safety in our community. That is why I am recommending that a Mayor's Task Force be established. The Task Force will include representatives of key stakeholder groups. Key stakeholders include the City of Vaughan, York Regional Police, the Vaughan business community, School Boards and prominent community organizations in Vaughan. It is only through working together that we can find and implement solutions.

Public input and timing will be important to the success of the Task Force. The Task Force will be charged with the responsibility of recommending to Council the Terms of Reference, which will outline in more detail the mandate of the Task Force, the process for obtaining public input, and the timely reporting of recommendations.

Should Council endorse this initiative Mr. Julian Fantino has offered to serve as the Task Force Chair. He is currently the Commissioner of Emergency Management for the Province of Ontario and a resident of Vaughan. Formerly he was the Chief of Police for York Region and more recently the former Chief of the Toronto Police Services. His understanding of the community and his expertise in community safety make him ideally suited to chair this important Task Force.

**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**

The Task Force will serve as a vehicle for bringing together our community partners for the purpose of improving community safety. Through public consultation and working together we can make our communities safer.

**Task Force Media Release (Feb. 6/06)**



**For immediate release**

*WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SAFE & SECURE VAUGHAN*

**DI BIASE ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF  
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY & SECURITY**

February 6, 2006, (VAUGHAN) – City of Vaughan Mayor Michael Di Biase today, in a presentation to Council, announced the membership of the *Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety & Security*, together with Vaughan resident and Task Force Chair, Julian Fantino. The Presentation took place during a City of Vaughan Committee of the Whole Public Hearing.

**"It is my pleasure to report to Council that Vaughan resident Julian Fantino, Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security has done an outstanding job of putting together the membership of the Task Force. I am also proud of the men and women from a wide variety of community organizations and backgrounds who have graciously agreed to volunteer their time to sit as Members. They bring to the table a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will ensure constructive and productive dialogue surrounding the issue of community safety,"** stated Mayor Di Biase.

## Task Force Members

|                         |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Julian Fantino (Chair)  | Commissioner of Emergency                     | Emergency Management Ontario<br>Management                     |
| Naseer Ahmad            | Representative                                | Ahmadiyya Muslim Community                                     |
| Carolyn Bishop          | Detective Sergeant                            | York Regional Police, #4 District                              |
| Deborah Bonk            | CEO   | Vaughan Chamber of Commerce                                    |
| Elizabeth Piccin-Bottos | Attorney & Member                             | Vaughan Citizen Community Links<br>Panel                       |
| Ralph Capocci           | President                                     | Danjus Consulting Group  |
| Sam Ciccolini           | Secretary Treasurer                           | Masters Insurance  |
| Ralph Cinelli           | Human Resources                               | TTC (Retired)  |
| Tony Cusimano           | Superintendent                                | York Regional Police, #4 District                              |
| Frank Dimant            | Executive Vice-President                      | B'nai Brith Canada   |
| Bernie Farber           | National Chief Executive Officer              | Canadian Jewish Congress                                       |
| Helen Fox               | Superintendent of Education                   | York Region District School Board                              |
| Mark Anthony Frisoli    | Youth City Councillor                         | City of Vaughan  |
| Vittoria La Neve        | Chair   | Vaughan Youth Cabinet  |
| Charles McCarthy        | Superintendent of Education                   | York Catholic District School Board                            |
| Dr. Beate Planche       | Superintendent of Education                   | York Region District School Board                              |
| Ucal Powell             | Executive Secretary Treasurer                 | Carpenter's Union, Central Ontario<br>Regional Council         |
| Patricia Robertson      | Chief Executive Officer                       | York Region Neighbourhood<br>Services/Social Enterprise Canada |
| Fred Santini            | Senior Legal Counsel &<br>Assistant Secretary | Ivanhoe Cambridge  |
| Roberta Sestito         | Branch Manager                                | ScotiaBank (Weston Rd. & Highway 7)                            |
| Gord Smyth              | Superintendent                                | York Regional Police, #4 District                              |
| Peter Wixson            | Executive Director                            | Vaughan Food Bank  |

## **Task Force Terms of Reference:**

### **MISSION**

Within the guidelines approved by Vaughan Council, the Task Force will develop recommendations intended to enhance safety, security and quality of life in the City of Vaughan.

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Task Force will achieve its mission as follows:

1. Supplement, assist and support the work of existing public safety authorities by addressing real or perceived public safety concerns;
2. Through a community-based consultative approach, identify gaps and promote established community-based safety initiatives City-wide;
3. Develop practical recommendations to be delivered to Mayor Michael DiBiase and Members of Council for approval;
4. Assist in the timely implementation of the Task Force recommendations approved by Council.



## For immediate release

*POLL SAYS 95% OF VAUGHAN RESIDENTS FEEL SAFE - WOULD LIKE INFORMATION THAT INCLUDES IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS*

### **VAUGHAN MAYOR'S TASK FORCE RELEASES COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS**

May 1, 2006, (VAUGHAN) – While 95% of Vaughan residents feel safe in the City of Vaughan, there is a demand for specific crime prevention and safety information including tips on emergency preparedness and preventing property and identity theft, according to the results of a professionally conducted survey commissioned by the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety & Security. The survey also suggests crime-prevention assistance needs to be easily accessible and targeted to specific demographic groups within Vaughan.

*"The results of this survey confirm the fact that York Regional Police, local emergency services, the school boards, and the City of Vaughan are doing an outstanding job of keeping Vaughan safe and secure. The results also suggest the desire of residents to empower themselves with the knowledge and awareness needed to address specific safety and security issues, and be better prepared in the case of a large scale emergency. This data, along with other information including the results of our business survey and the report of the City's Safety Committee will go along way in helping the Task Force draft its recommendations to Council, stated Task Force Chair Julian Fantino, Ontario Commissioner of Emergency Management and Vaughan resident.*

The Mayor's Task Force was created by Mayor Michael Di Biase and launched on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005. POLLARA Inc., Canada's largest public opinion and marketing research firm conducted the survey of 502 residents and presented the results to the Task Force Members, Council, the media and the public. The survey results have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4%, 19 times out of 20. The presentation of the survey results took place during the City of Vaughan Committee of the Whole Public Hearing. The survey was sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, The Cristina Ciccolini Fund, The Carpenter's Union, Central Ontario Regional Council, Pizza Pizza, ScotiaBank and the Royal Bank of Canada..

*An overwhelming majority (95%) of Vaughan residents feel safe in the City of Vaughan, although one-third (31%) think that crime has increased in the past 2 or 3 years. Nine-in-ten (89%) Vaughan residents think their city is safer than Toronto. Residents are most likely to point to break & enters, property theft, and gun violence as specific crimes that have increased. Despite perceptions of rising property crimes and gun violence, Vaughan*

...2

*residents are most likely to express concern about being the victim of identity theft and fraud. While the City of Vaughan and local safety stakeholders should be proud of these results, the Task Force will need to address a wide range of safety and security concerns, working with local officials to provide tips on how residents can protect themselves from specific types of crime. For example, further educating the public on preventing property and identity thefts may help to alleviate some of residents' concerns,"* Mr. Roland Merbis, Associate Vice-president of Public Affairs for POLLARA.

Within guidelines approved by Vaughan Council, the Mayor's Task Force will develop recommendations intended to enhance safety, security and quality of life in the City of Vaughan. To view the survey results or for more information regarding the Mayor's Task Force on Safety and Security, visit [www.mysafevaughan.ca](http://www.mysafevaughan.ca) .

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Media Contacts: Ralph Capocci, Co-ordinator, Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security at (416) 722-2141 or Bruce Kurta Communications Co-ordinator for Mayor and Members of Council, City of Vaughan 905-832-8585 ext. 8279 or cell 416-525-1957  
[bruce.kurta@vaughan.ca](mailto:bruce.kurta@vaughan.ca) .





**Vaughan Community  
Safety & Security Surveys**

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Vaughan Community  
Safety & Security Surveys**

Prepared for  
**The Mayor's Task Force on  
Community Safety and Security**



**May 1, 2006**

# Introduction

- POLLARA is pleased to present the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security with the following report detailing Vaughan residents' opinions and attitudes towards issues surrounding crime and safety in their community.
- The survey explored a number of topics including, among others:
  - Public perceptions of community safety and crime in Vaughan, and
  - Levels of concern about specific crimes and public safety issues, including hate crime, youth and gang violence, traffic safety, emergency and disaster preparedness, child exploitation, family violence, drug abuse, cyber crime, bullying, and vandalism.
- Results from this survey will be used to develop recommendations on enhancing the safety, security and quality of life of City of Vaughan residents.
- Results of a survey conducted among Vaughan businesspeople are also presented.



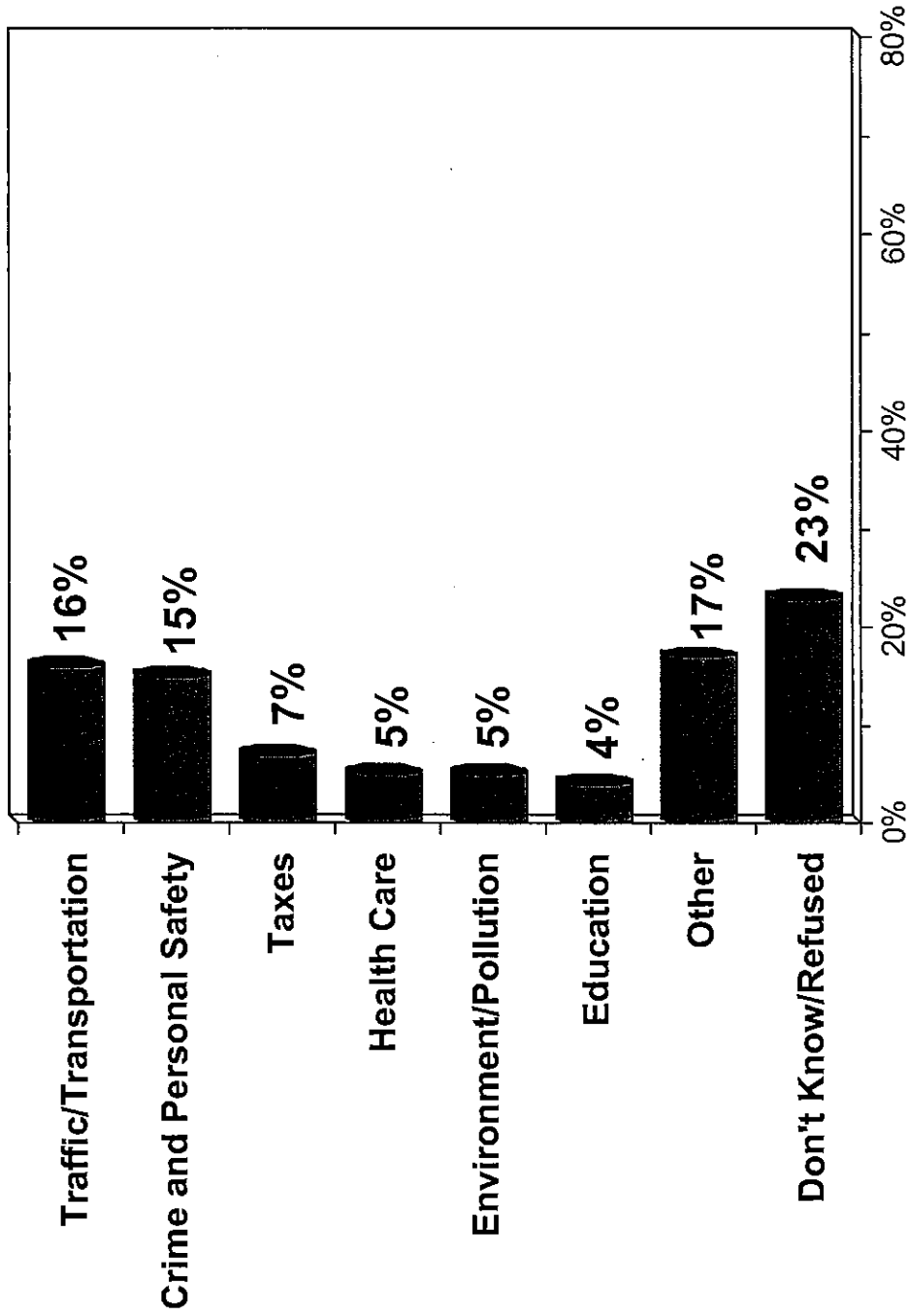
# Methodology

- Telephone interviews were conducted with a representative sample Vaughan residents, 14 years of age and older, between March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- In total, 502 interviews were completed, resulting in an overall margin of error of plus or minus 4.4%, nineteen times out of twenty.
- At the data processing stage, the data were weighted back into their correct proportions using Statistics Canada targets for age, gender, and population distribution.

|                                | Unweighted # of Interviews | Weighted # of Interviews | Margin of Error (%) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total: East of Hwy. 400</b> | <b>286</b>                 | <b>286</b>               | <b>±5.8</b>         |
| Maple                          | 103                        | 100                      | ±9.9                |
| Thornhill                      | 146                        | 155                      | ±8.1                |
| <b>Total: West of Hwy. 400</b> | <b>216</b>                 | <b>214</b>               | <b>±6.7</b>         |
| Woodbridge                     | 176                        | 190                      | ±7.4                |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>502</b>                 | <b>500</b>               | <b>±4.4</b>         |



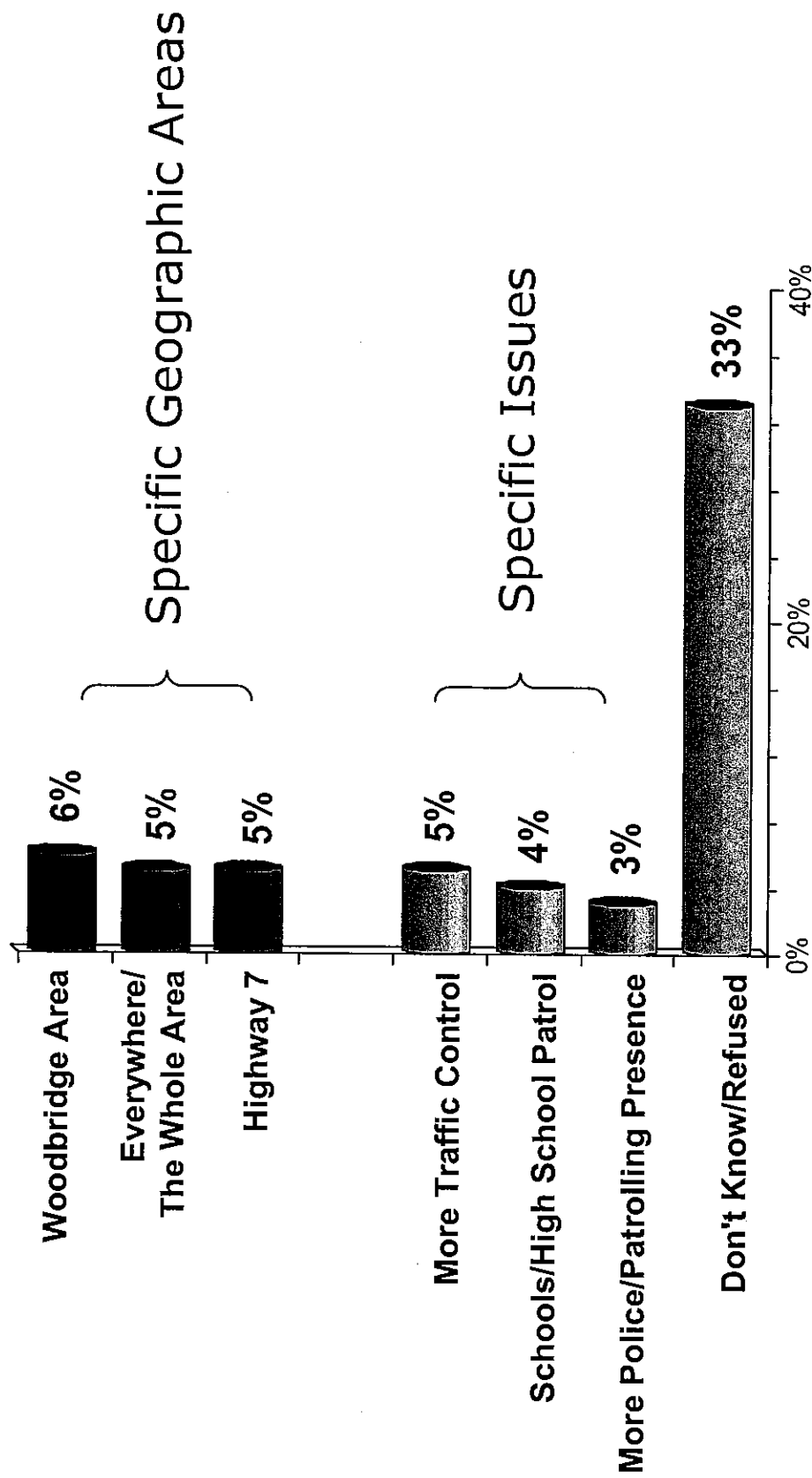
# Most Important Issue Facing the Community, as Volunteered by Residents



Q2. In your opinion, what is the single most important issue facing your local community? (OPEN END-DO NOT READ LIST-ACCEPT FIRST MENTION ONLY)



# Top Volunteered Areas for Police and Elected Officials to Focus on to Increase Safety and Security in Vaughan

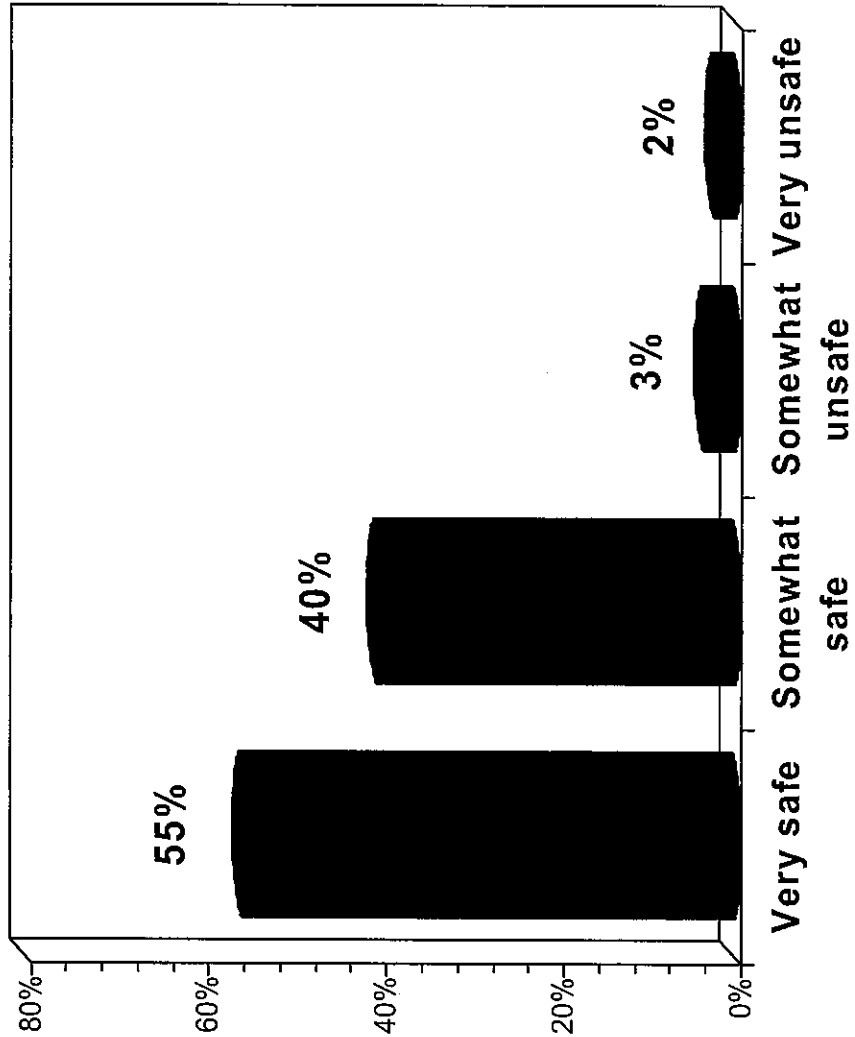


Q3. If you could tell the police or your local elected officials which area to focus on to increase community safety and security in Vaughan, what one area would that be?  
(OPEN END-ACCEPT FIRST MENTION ONLY)

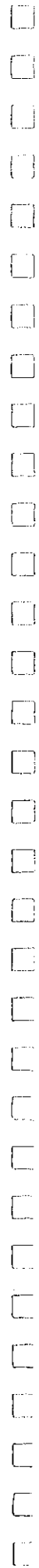


# Feeling of Safety in Neighbourhood

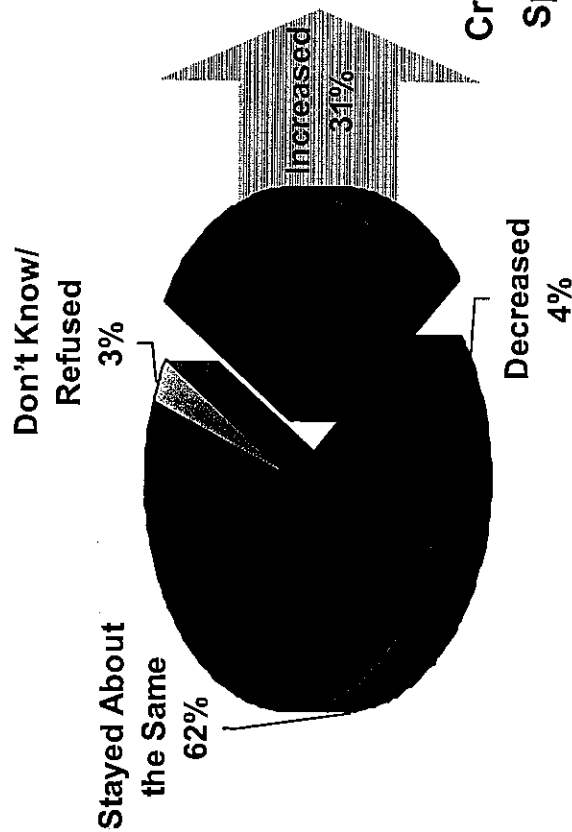
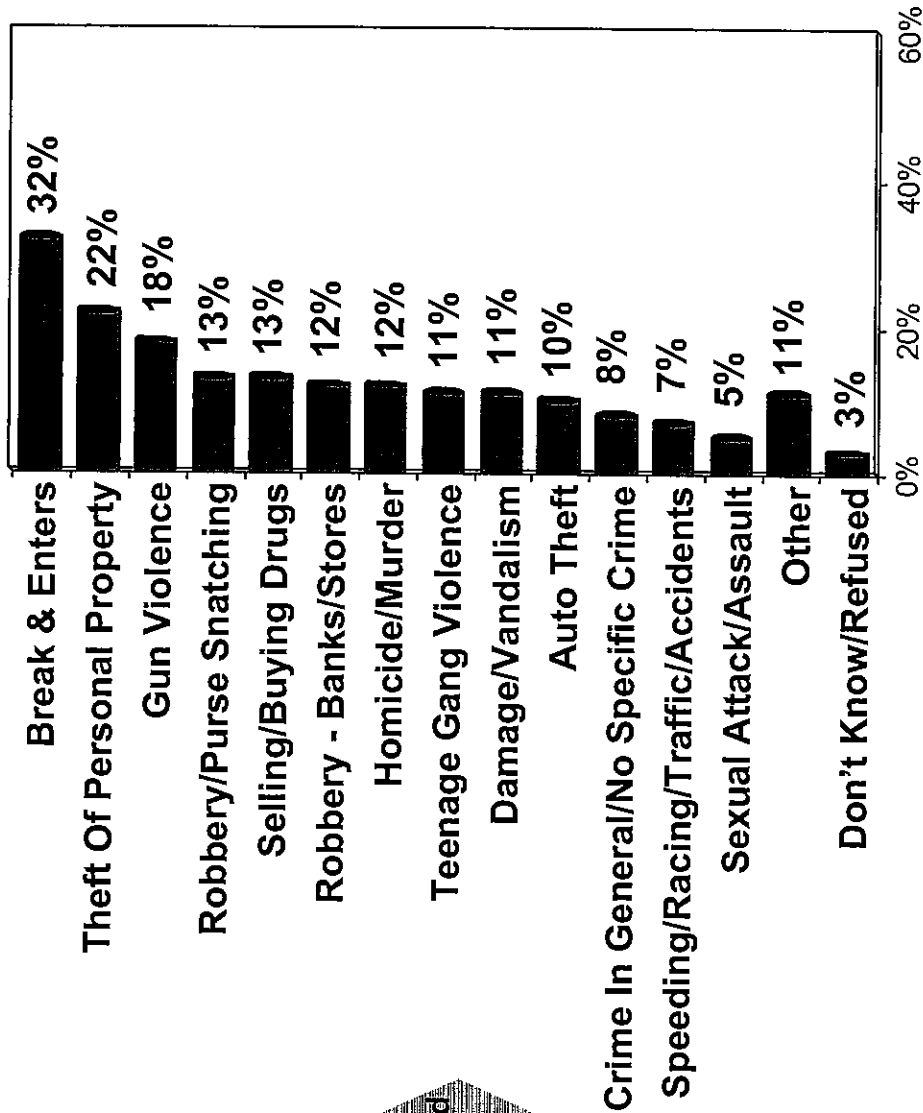
- Almost all (95%) Vaughan residents say they feel either very (55%) or somewhat (40%) safe in their neighbourhood.



Q4. How safe do you feel in your neighbourhood? Would you say that you feel... (READ LIST-DO NOT ROTATE)



# Perceptions of Crime Rate in Neighbourhood Over the Last 2 or 3 Years



Q5. Thinking about your neighbourhood, over the last two or three years do you think that crime has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?

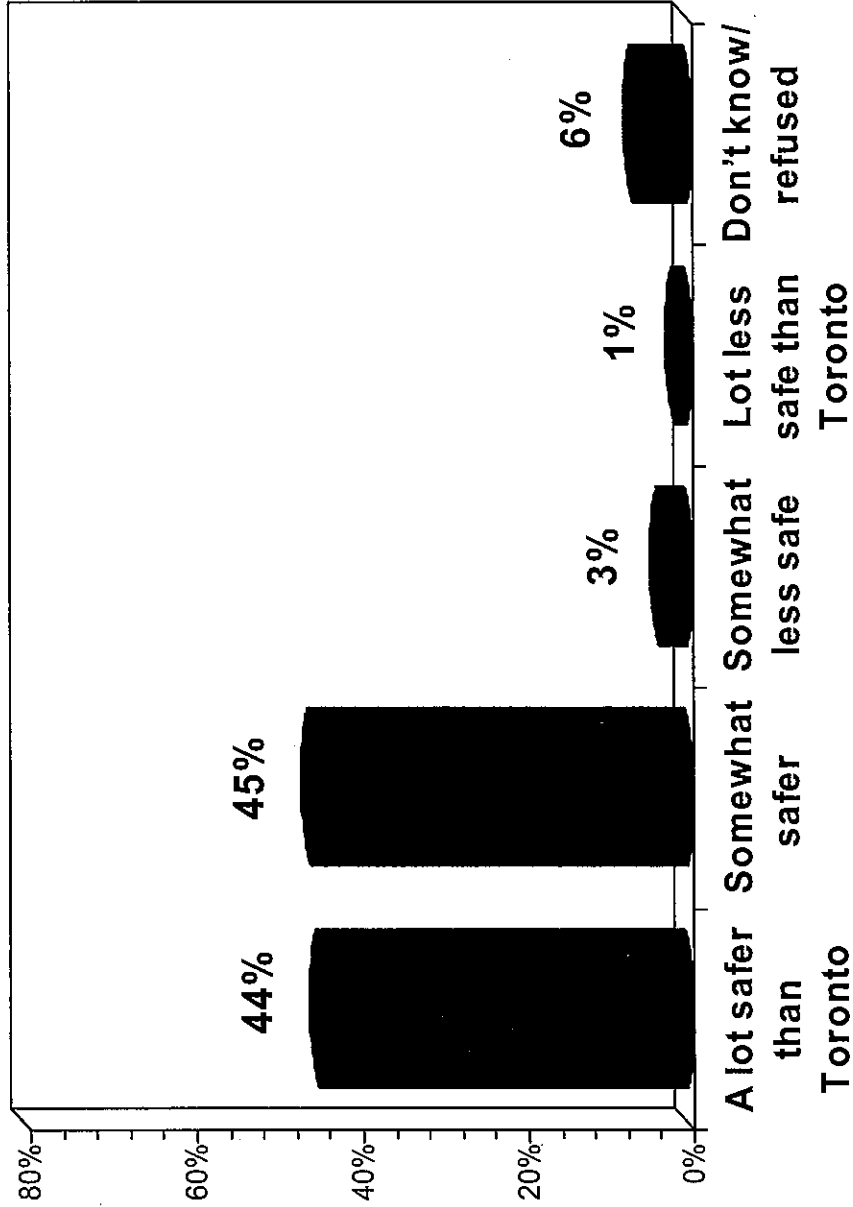
Q6. (IF INCREASED) When you say that crime has increased over the past two or three years, what specific types of crime are you thinking about? (DO NOT READ LIST; ACCEPT UP TO 3 MENTIONS)





# Safety of Vaughan vs. Toronto

- Nine-in-ten (89%) Vaughan residents think their city is safer than Toronto.



Note: Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

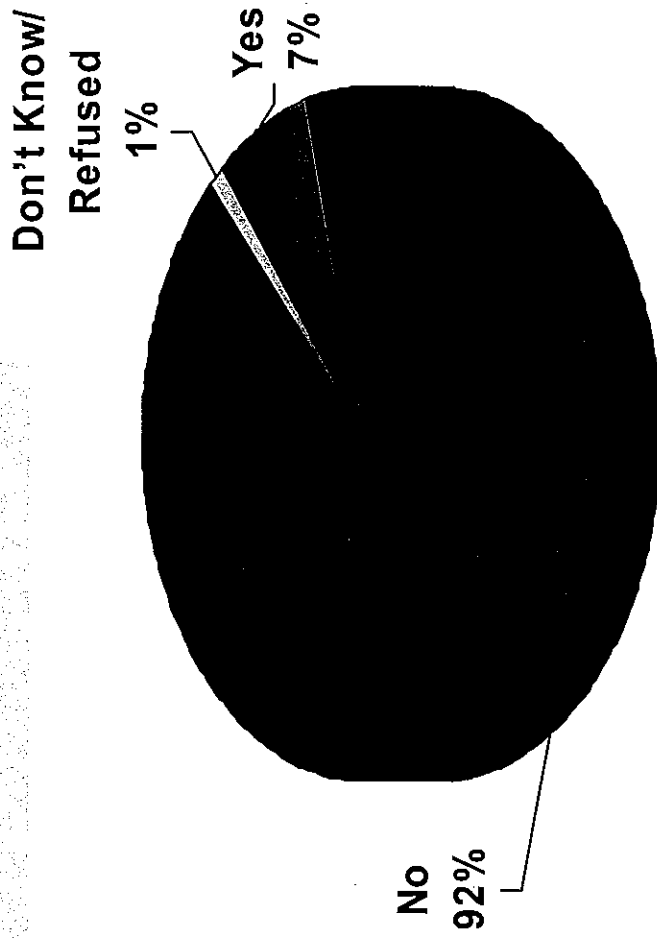


Q7. How safe do you think Vaughan is compared to the City of Toronto? Is Vaughan... (READ LIST)

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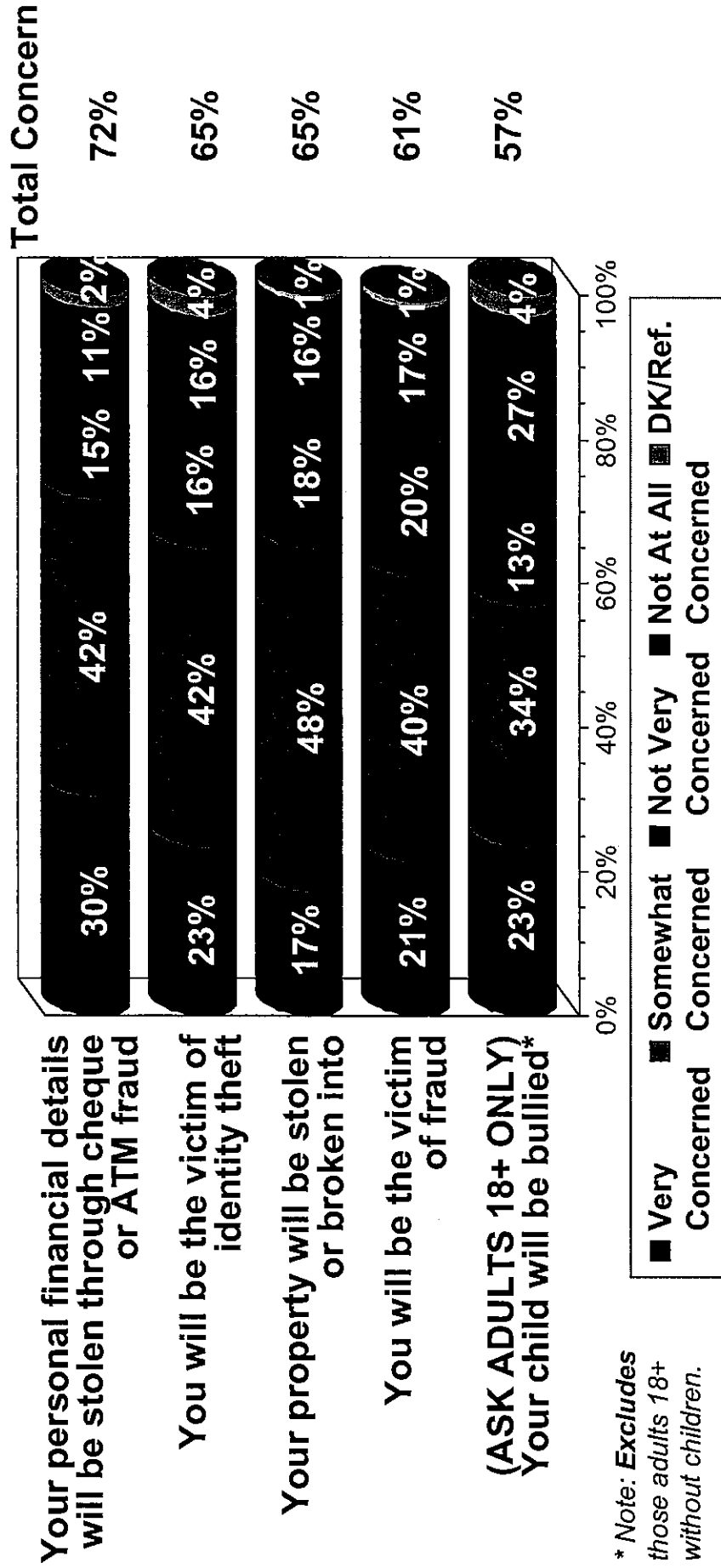
# Victim of Hate Crime

- Just under one-in-ten (7%) Vaughan residents report that they have ever been the victim of a hate crime.



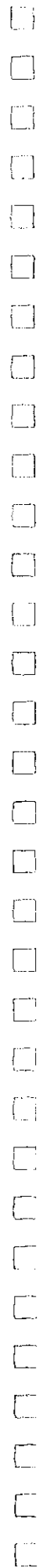
Q8. Have you ever been the victim of a hate crime?

# Concern About Specific Crimes

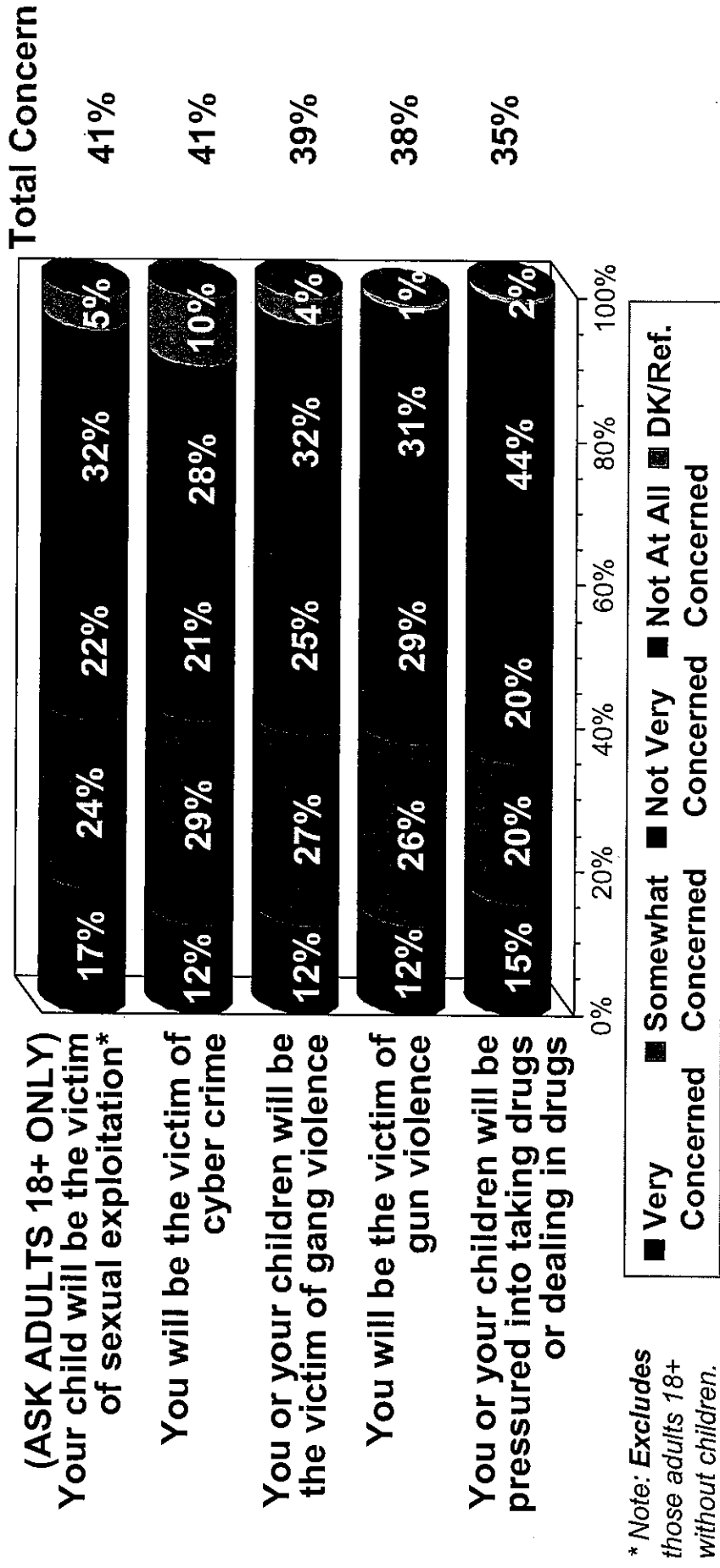


\* Note: Excludes those adults 18+ without children.

Q9-23. Over the next year, how concerned are you that you will be the victim of the following crimes? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned that... (READ AND ROTATE)



# Concern About Specific Crimes (Continued)

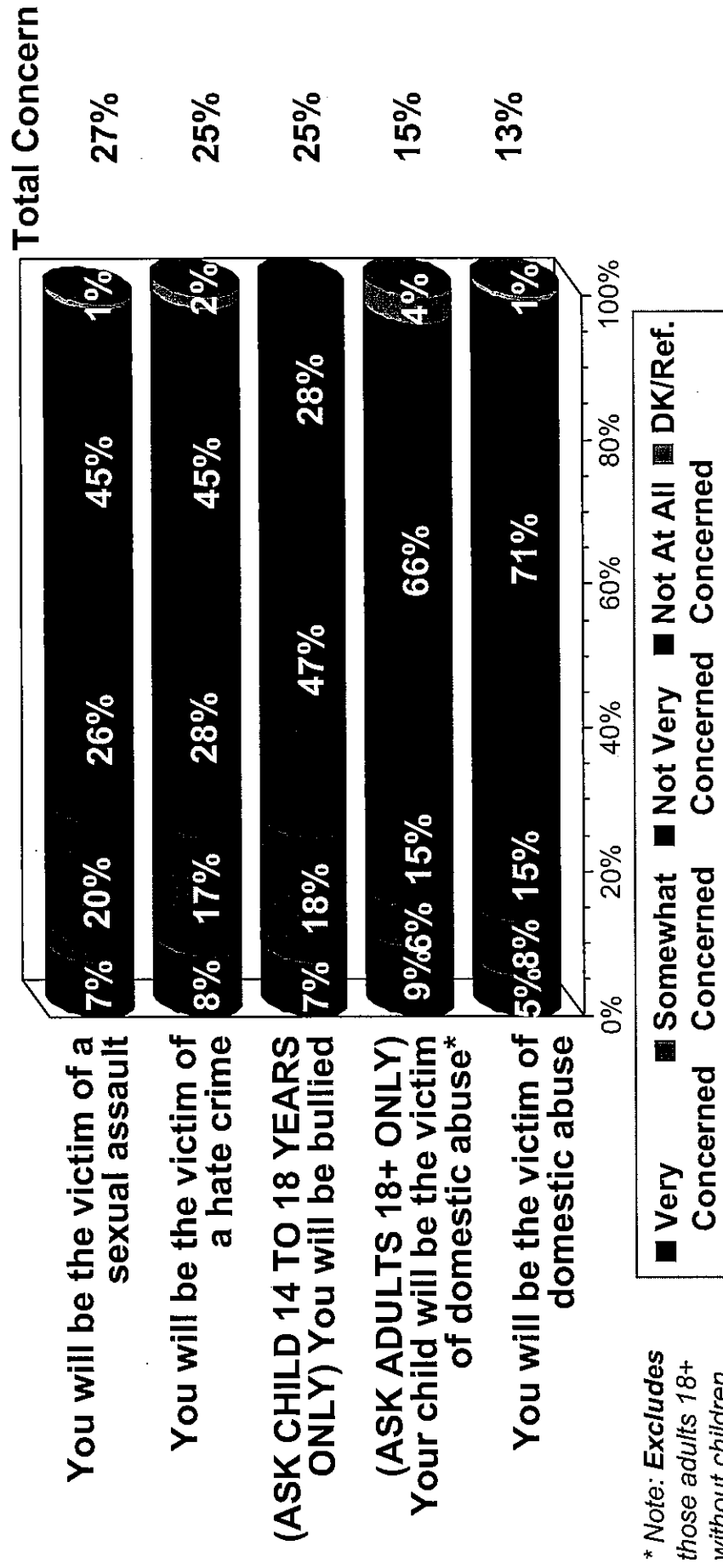


\* Note: Excludes those adults 18+ without children.

Q9-23. Over the next year, how concerned are you that you will be the victim of the following crimes? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned that... (READ AND ROTATE)



# Concern About Specific Crimes (Continued)



\* Note: Excludes those adults 18+ without children.

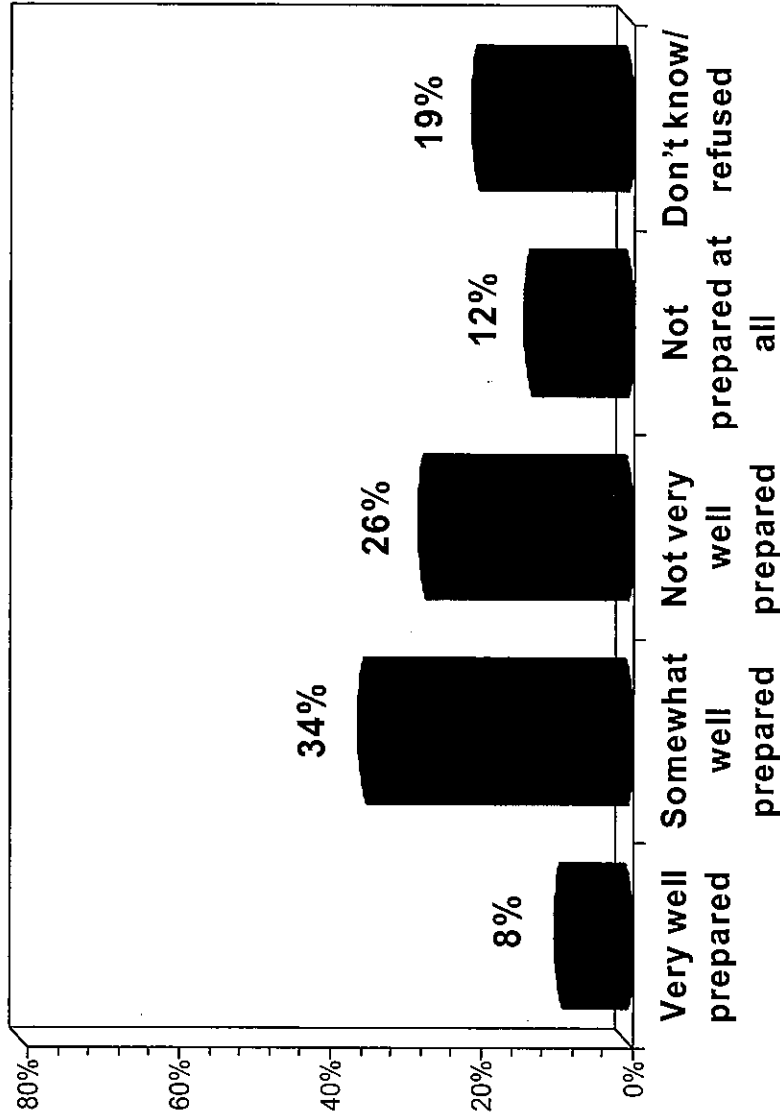
Very Concerned  
  Somewhat Concerned  
  Not Very Concerned  
  Not At All  
  DK/Ref.

Q9-23. Over the next year, how concerned are you that you will be the victim of the following crimes? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned that... (READ AND ROTATE)



# Preparedness of Vaughan for Natural Disaster or Major Emergency Situation

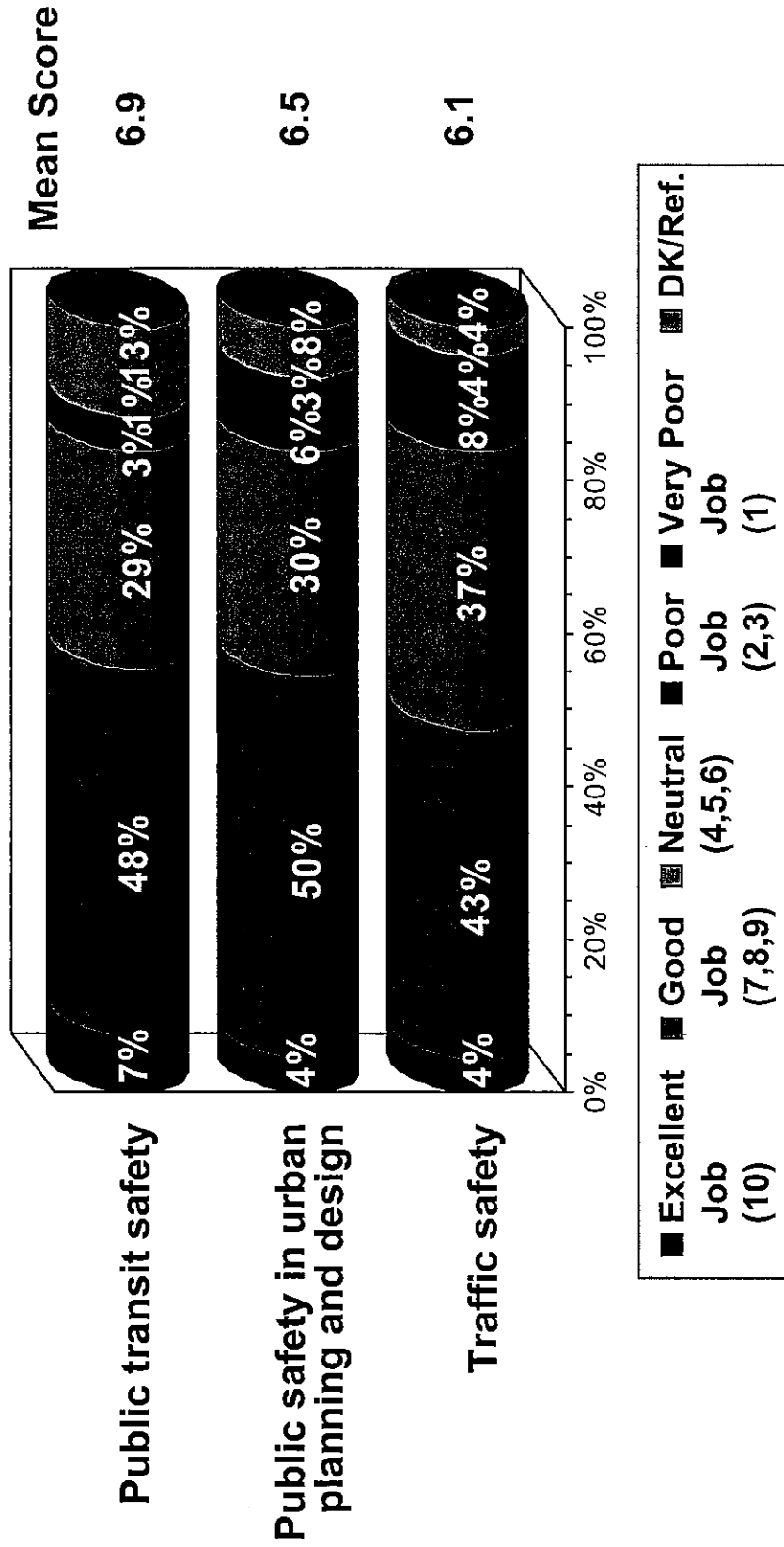
- Vaughan residents are split over whether they think Vaughan is *prepared* (42%) or *not prepared* (39%) for a natural disaster or major emergency situation.
- One-fifth (19%) of residents *do not know* how well prepared Vaughan is for such an event.



Q24. How well prepared do you think Vaughan is to deal with a natural disaster or major emergency situation? Do you think Vaughan is... (READ LIST-DO NOT ROTATE)



# Performance of City in Ensuring Public Safety



Q25-27. As you may know, your local municipal government is responsible for ensuring the public's safety when it comes to the design and layout of certain buildings, roads, and parks in Vaughan. How well do you think the City of Vaughan ensures the public's safety in each of the following areas? Please use a scale from one to ten where one means you think the City does a "very poor job" and ten means you think the City does an "excellent" job in making sure the public is safe. (READ AND ROTATE)



# Key Findings & Recommendations: Survey Results Relating to Task Force Terms of Reference

## Vaughan Residents

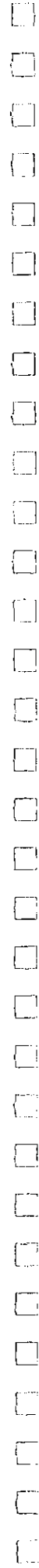
- An overwhelming majority (95%) of Vaughan residents feel safe in the City of Vaughan, although one-third (31%) think that crime has *increased* in the past 2 or 3 years.
  - Residents are most likely to point to break & enters, property theft, and gun violence as specific crimes that have increased.
  - Despite perceptions of rising property crimes and gun violence, Vaughan residents are most likely to express concern about being the victim of identity theft and fraud.
- ***The Task Force will need to address a wide range of safety and security concerns, working with local officials to provide tips on how residents can protect themselves from specific types of crime.***
- ***For example, further educating the public on preventing property and identity thefts may help to alleviate some of residents' concerns.***



# Key Findings & Recommendations: Survey Results Relating to Task Force Terms of Reference

## Vaughan Residents

- While comparatively smaller proportions of residents are concerned about hate crimes, sexual and/or domestic abuse, and bullying, there are specific demographic groups that are worried about being the victim of these types of crimes:
  - Residents with a non-Christian affiliation are most likely to be worried about being the victims of a hate crime.
  - Parents are worried their children will be bullied, although children are more likely to express concern about being pressured to take drugs.
  - Women are more than twice as likely as men to express concern about being the victims of a sexual attack or domestic abuse.
- **Crime-prevention assistance needs to be easily accessible and targeted to specific demographic groups within Vaughan.**
- **One area that should be focused on, in particular, is the development of anti-racism messaging and developing local community initiatives to enhance feelings of personal safety and security among religious and ethnic minorities.**



# Key Findings & Recommendations: Survey Results Relating to Task Force Terms of Reference

## Vaughan Residents

- In general, residents appear to be unaware of Vaughan's emergency preparedness protocols.
- Furthermore, residents' average ratings of the City's performance in ensuring the public's safety in traffic, transit, and urban planning and design are, on average, neutral.
- **Public education is required to enhance residents' awareness of the City's emergency preparedness protocols and its standards regarding safety in traffic, public transit, and urban planning and design.**

**Vaughan Community Safety & Security Survey**  
**- Business Representatives -**



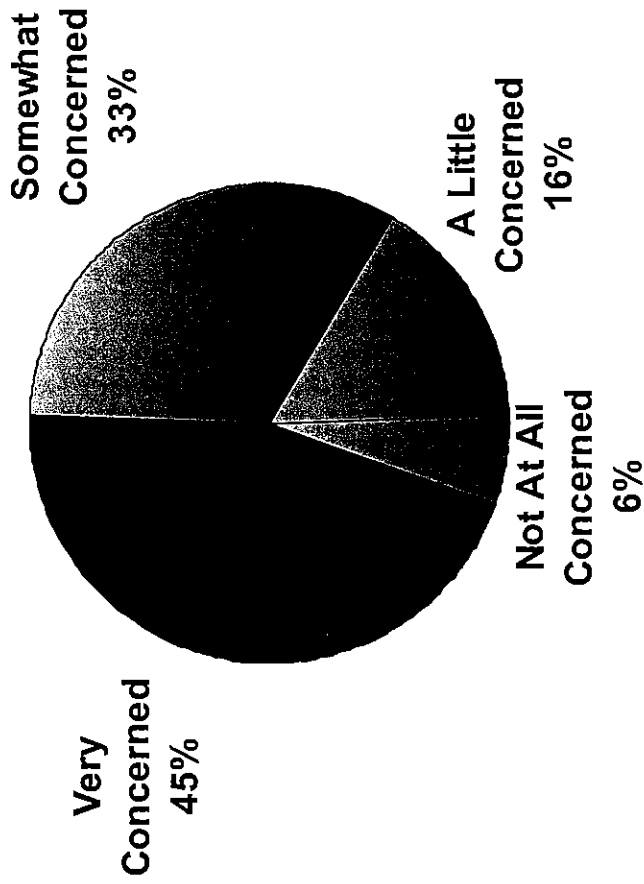
## Background & Methodology

- Questionnaires were handed out to Vaughan business representatives at the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Achievement Awards on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- A one-page self-complete questionnaire was distributed to all attendees in the evening's program.
- A total 253 completed surveys were collected.



# Businesspersons: Level of Concern About Crime in Vaughan

- Almost four-fifths (78%) of businesspersons are concerned about the level of crime in Vaughan.



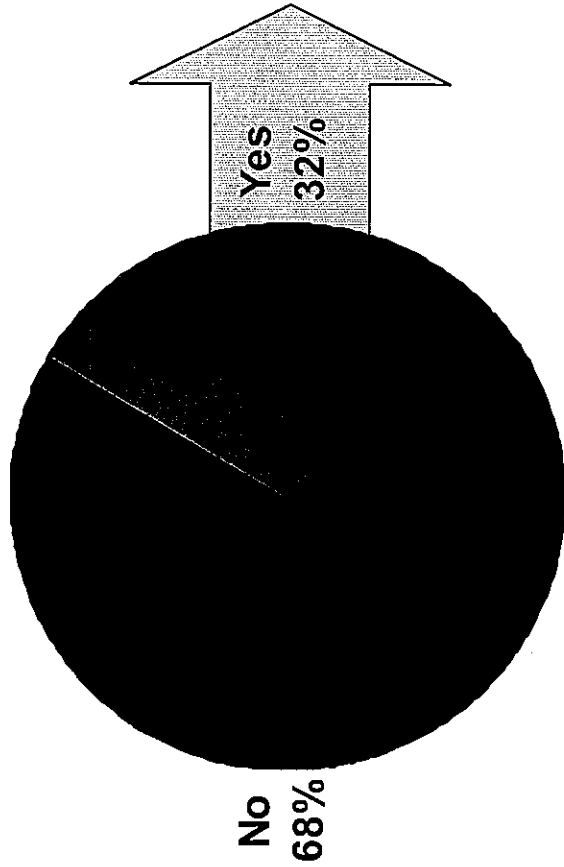
Q1: How concerned are you about the level of crime in the City of Vaughan? (Please check one) (n=253)



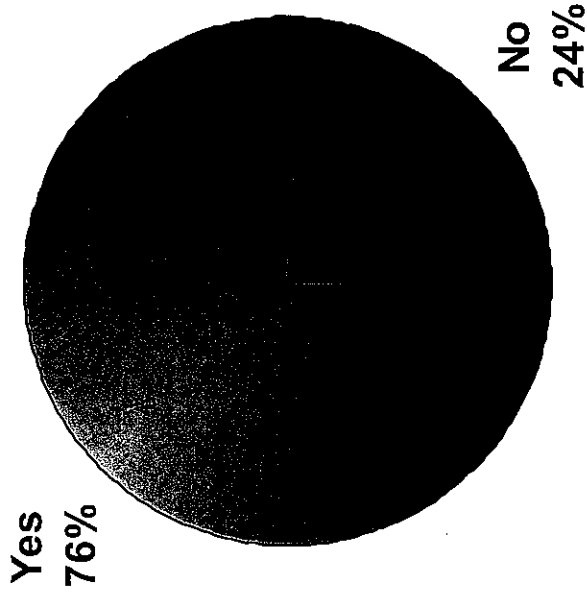
# Businesspersons: Business Targeted by Crime in Past 12 Months

- One-third (32%) of Vaughan businesses have been the target of crime in the past 12 months.
- Of those, three-in-four (76%) reported the most recent crime to local police.

## Target of crime in past 12 months



## Reported most recent crime to local police

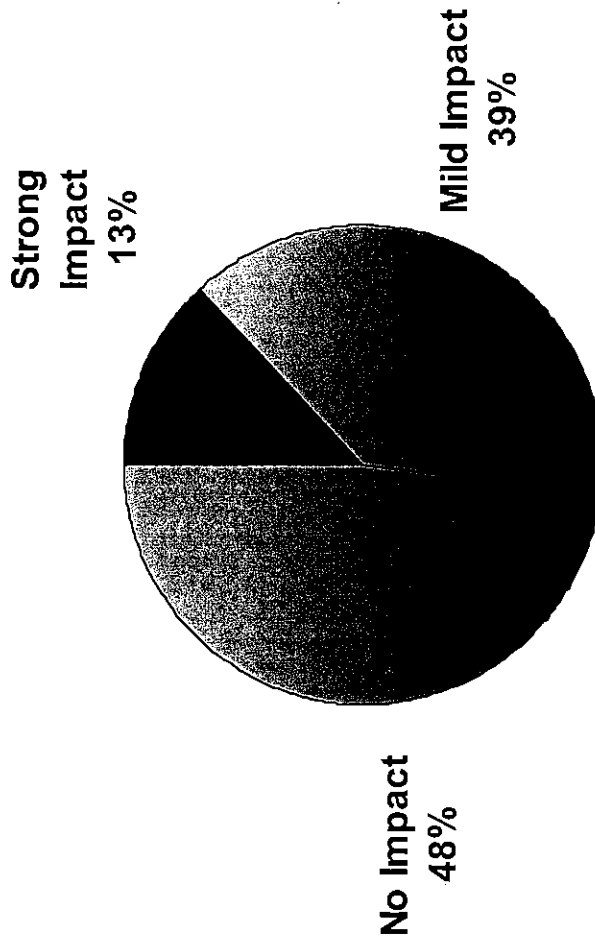


Q2: Has your Vaughan-area business been targeted in a crime in the past 12 months? (Please check one)  
(n=246)

Q3: If yes, did you report the most recent crime to the local police? (Please check one) (n=92)

# Businesspersons: Impact of Crime on Business

- Just over one-half (52%) of business people in Vaughan report that crime has had a strong (13%) or mild (39%) impact on their business.

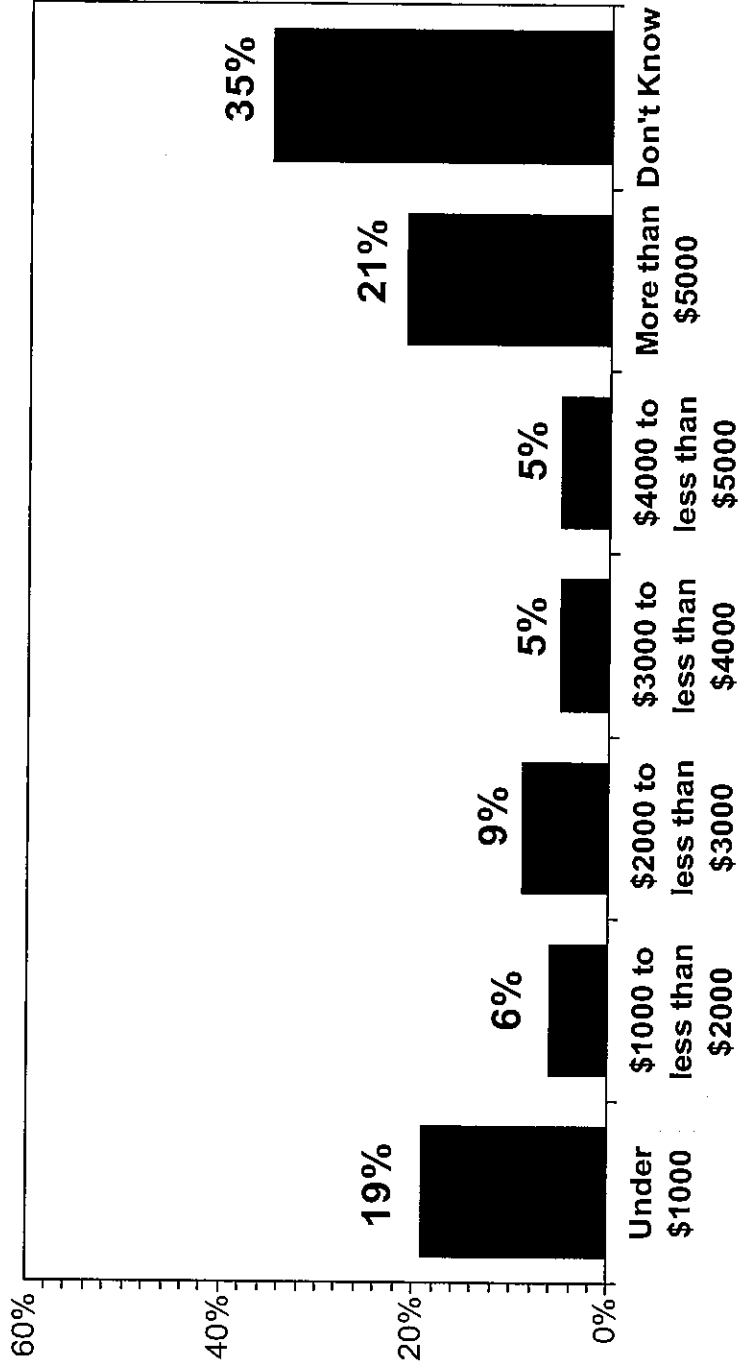


Q4: To what extent have levels of crime in Vaughan had an impact on your business? (Please check one)  
(n=239)

A series of 239 small square checkboxes arranged in a horizontal line, corresponding to the survey data.

# Businesspersons: Estimated Financial Impact of Crime on Business

- One-fifth (21%) of business representatives report that crime in the City of Vaughan has had a financial impact on them of more than \$5000 in the past 12 months.



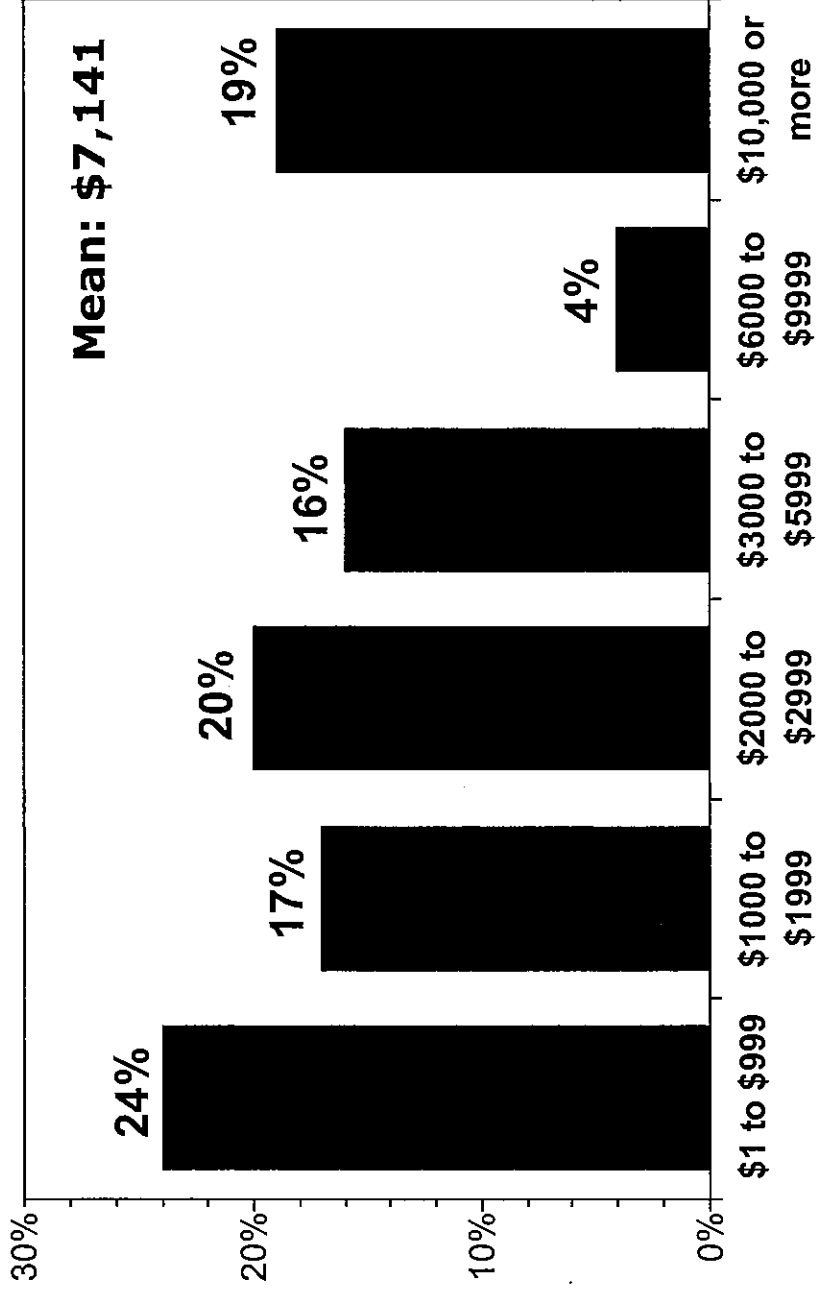
Q5: Approximately how much would you say crime in Vaughan has impacted your business in the past 12 months? (Please check one) (n=195)





# Businesspersons: Estimated Amount Spent on Crime Prevention Annually

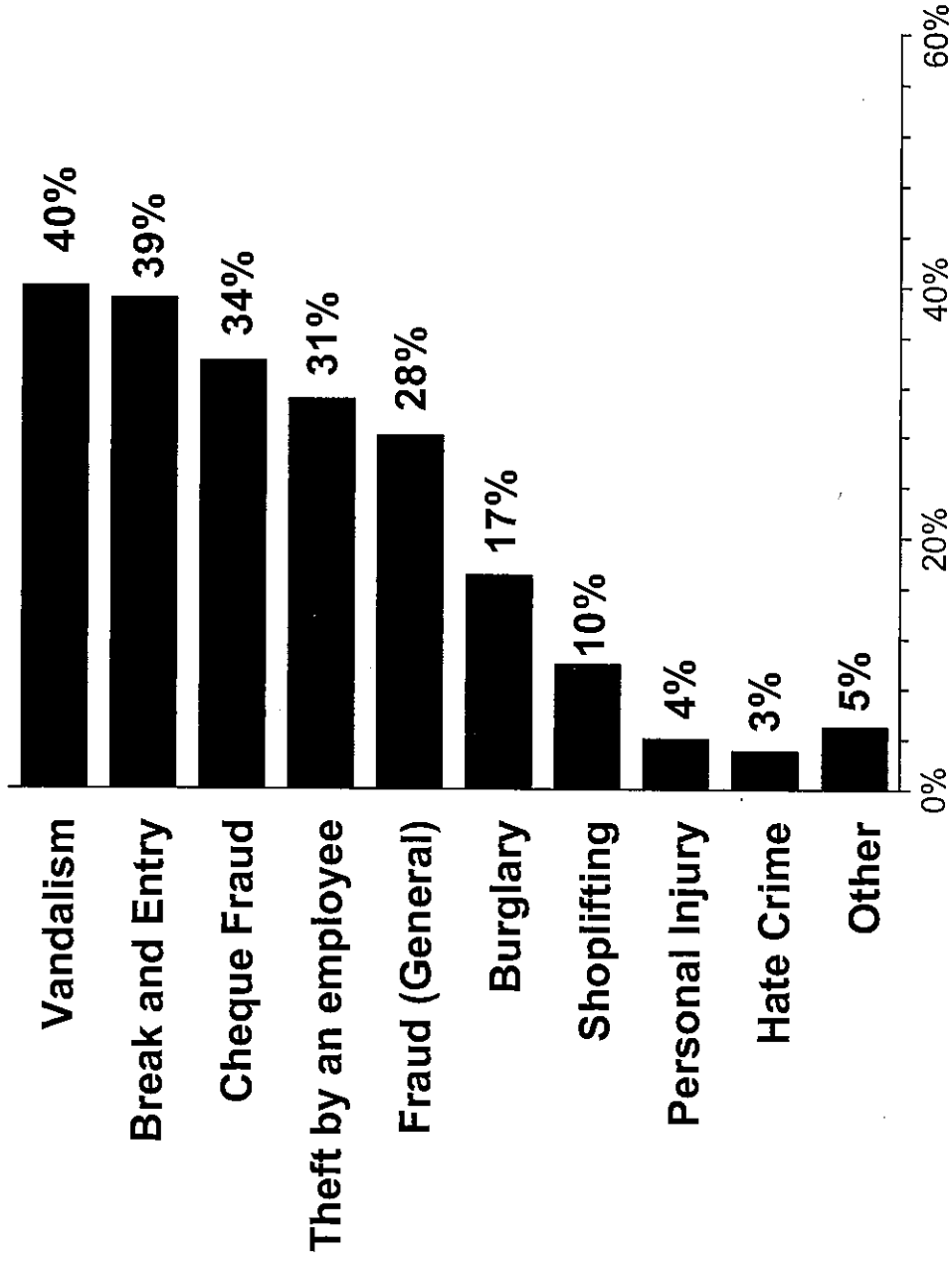
- On average, Vaughan businesses spend \$7,141 on crime prevention.



Q6: How much do you spend annually on crime prevention for your business? (Please write in) (N=130)



# Businesspersons: Incidence of Business Ever Having Been Targeted for...

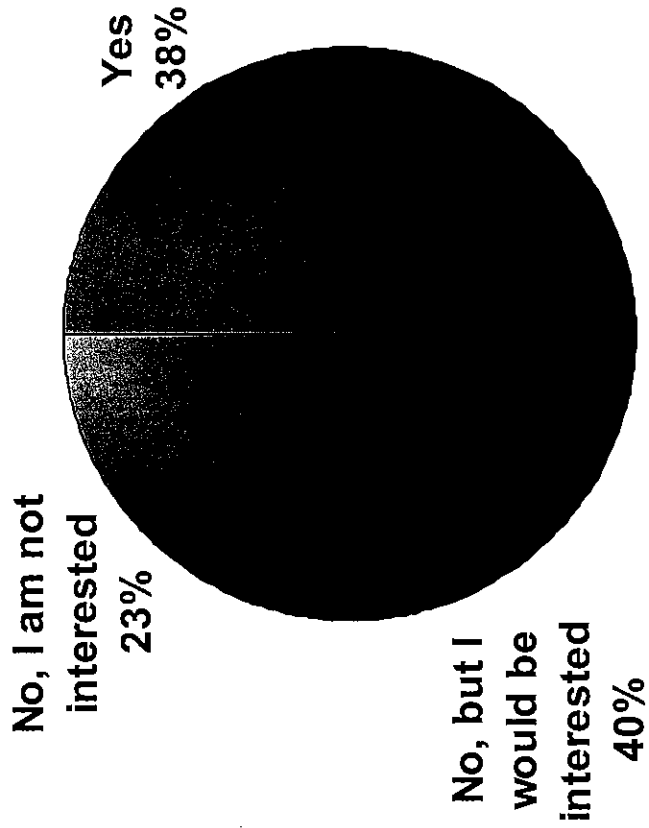


Q7: Has your business ever been targeted in any of the following specific crimes? (Please check all that apply) (n=155)

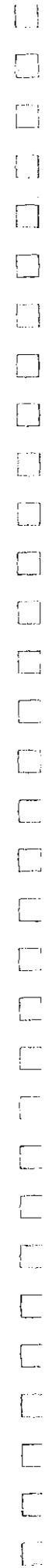


# Businesspersons: Incidence of Having Sought Crime Prevention Advice

- Two-in-five (40%) businesses in Vaughan are interested in receiving crime prevention advice.

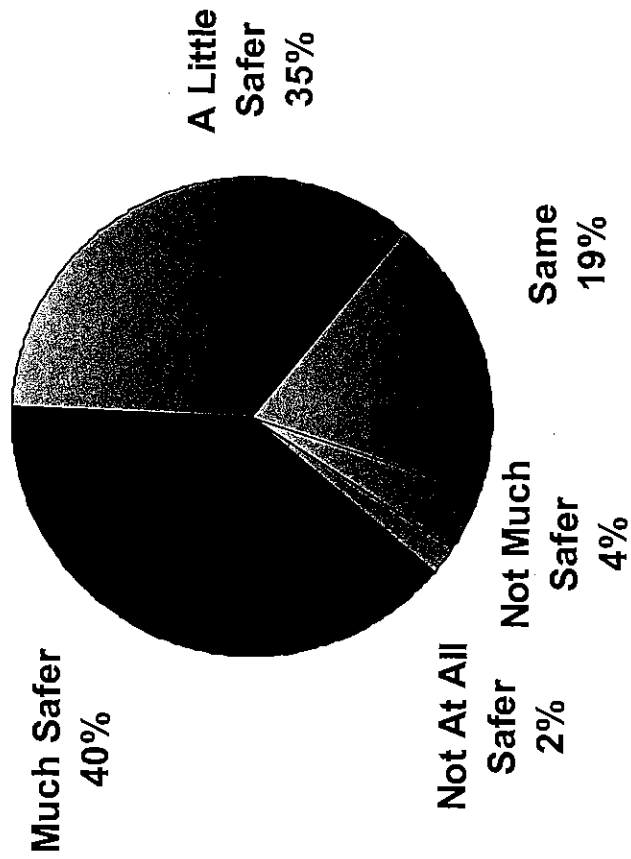


Q8: Have you sought crime prevention advice? (Please check one) (n=235)



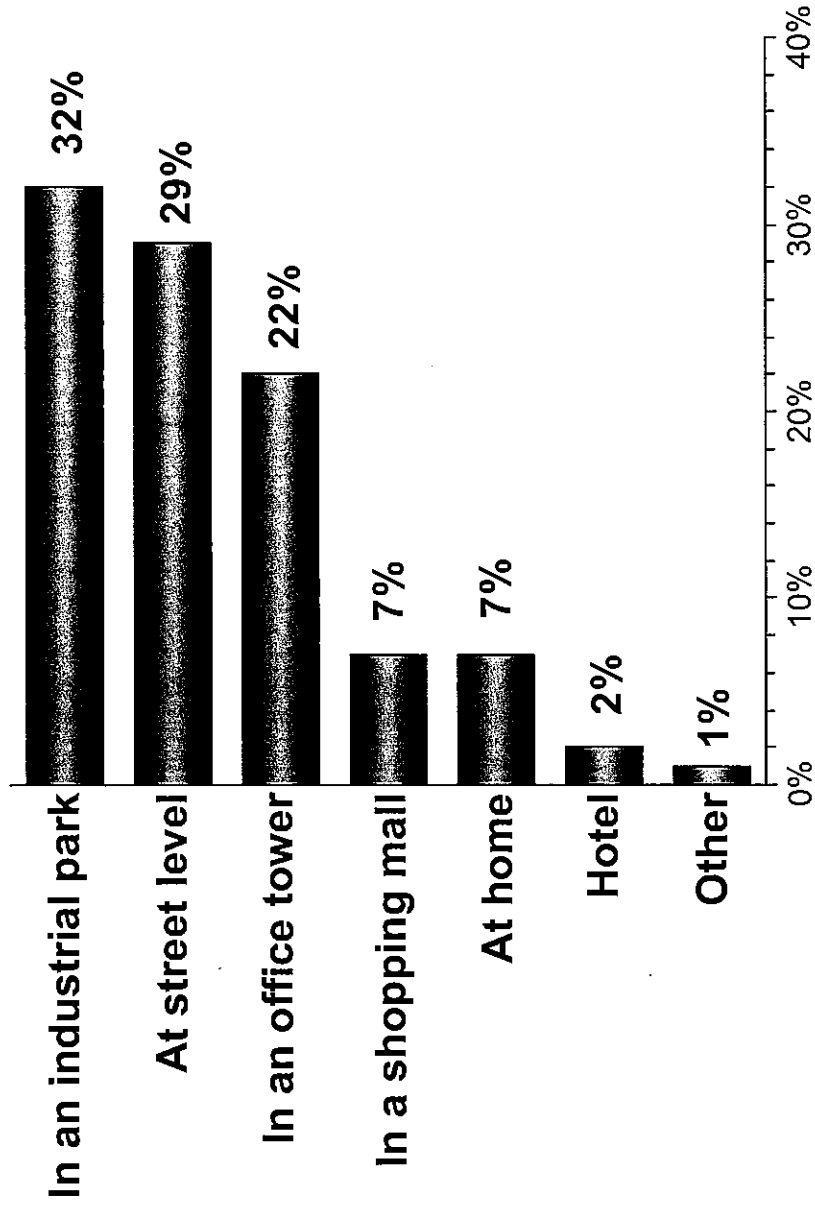
# Businesspersons: Safety of Vaughan vs. Other Areas in GTA

- Three-in-four (75%) businesspeople in Vaughan think this city is a safer place to do business than other areas in the GTA.



Q9: Do you think that the City of Vaughan is a safer place to do business than other areas in the GTA because of its crime rate? (Please check one) (n=247)

# Businesspersons: Location of Business

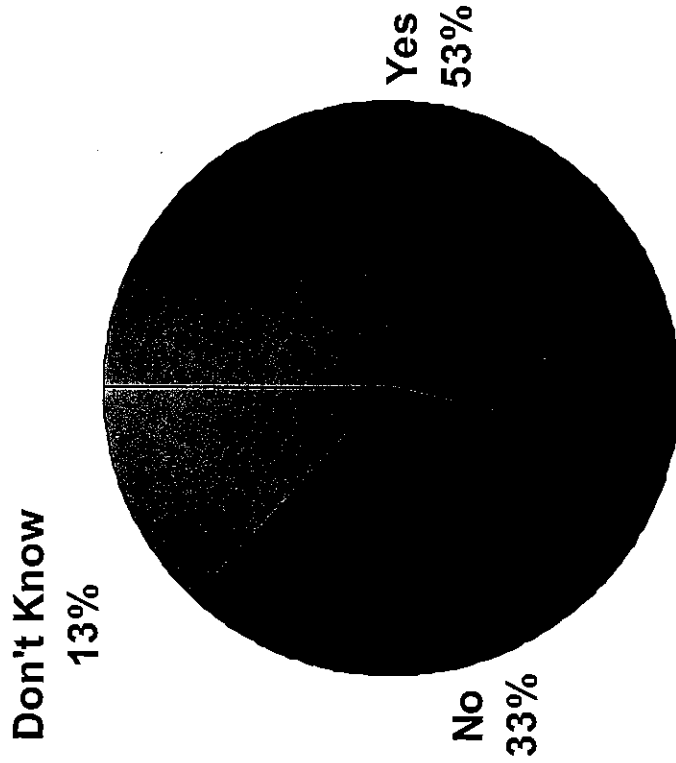


Q10: Where is your business located? (Please check one) (n= 245)



# Businesspersons: Business Continuity Plan in Place

- Almost one-half (46%) of businesses *do not have* (33%) or *don't know* (13%) if they have a business continuity plan in place in case of a major emergency or disaster.



Q11: Do you have a business continuity plan in place in case of a major emergency or disaster?  
(Please check one) (n=240)

# Key Findings & Recommendations: Survey Results Relating to Task Force Terms of Reference

## Vaughan Businesses

- Concern about crime is high among Vaughan's business representatives (78% are concerned), with one-third (32%) of businesses reporting that they have been the target of a crime in the past 12 months.
  - Businesses are most likely to report they have ever been the victim of vandalism and break & enters, as well as fraud.
- One-in-four (23%) businesses in Vaughan have never sought crime prevention advice and are not interested in this type of information, with the remainder either already having sought advice (38%) or expressing an interest in it (40%).
- Despite these concerns about crime, the vast majority (74%) of Vaughan businesspeople say that this City is a safer place to do business in than other areas in the GTA.
- ***Businesses in Vaughan would not only benefit from crime prevention advice, but a significant proportion are expressing an interest in hearing about ways to protect their businesses, providing an excellent opportunity for the City and local officials to meet this demand.***
- Only one-half (53%) of businesses in Vaughan have a business continuity plan in place in case of a major emergency or disaster.
- ***Businesses need to be educated on the importance of business continuity plans and be provided with information on how to develop such plans.***



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## **A Focus for Future Action:**

The Task Force has formulated its findings as follows:

- 1) Key areas of interest and/or concerns identified by the people of Vaughan;
- 2) Research and analysis of issues;
- 3) Recommendations for future action;

The following key themes reflect the issues of most importance and those that are common to the majority of Vaughan citizens.

The themes of common interest are summarized from the findings of the research and analysis conducted by the Task Force, including but not limited to:

- Consultations with key community leaders
- A comprehensive community poll conducted by POLLARA Strategic Public Opinion & Market Research and a survey of the members of the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce
- A review of existing documentation on community safety, including the Caring for Vaughan Report presented to Council in January of 2006

## **Common Themes of Community Interest:**

*(In alphabetical order)*

### **Public Awareness, Education and Communication:**

The need to create a Community Safety Committee dedicated to educate all residents of Vaughan on the factors, actions and conditions that contribute to both risk of and resilience to crime. A proactive public communications strategy should become a critical function of the Committee. The committee should be diligent in seeking and mobilizing all opportunities to build the “safe community” knowledge of Vaughan residents.

### **Building Neighbourhoods**

Rapid growth has outpaced our natural ability to build supportive relationships with our neighbours. The citizens of Vaughan have cited concerns over isolation as a personal issue and one that weakens our ability to provide stewardship to our vulnerable members. The Citizens of Vaughan recognize and value neighbourhood connections and seek stronger relationships among residents.

### **Crime Prevention Through Social Development**

Crime prevention through social development is concerned with keeping a crime from happening in the first place. We must recognize and address the combination of social and economic factors that can increase the risks of criminal behavior and develop programs that lead to the safe and secure development of individuals and families. Issues such as poverty, family breakdown, inadequate living conditions, racism and parenting issues should be addressed where possible by community action and civic policy.

#### **Children and youth**

Citizens want our youth to be engaged in meaningful ways in our community, to build stronger relationships with adults and to grow and develop in safe neighborhoods. The Citizens of Vaughan, its leaders and its organizations understand that investment today will significantly impact tomorrow. We want our children to grow in safe, supported neighborhoods and we want to have responsible, respectful, trustworthy and caring youth.

An effective crime prevention strategy must start with children and young people in their communities. We must provide children and their families with the supports and resources they need to meet the challenges they face.

### **The vulnerable**

Society as a whole must embrace the challenge to become more proactive in the duty to protect its most vulnerable citizens. Poverty, exclusion and abuse represent significant problems that must not be neglected or ignored, problems that also represent some of the more significant factors increasing the risk of crime, victimization and insecurity for the most vulnerable components of modern day society.

### **The elderly**

Our community is aging. Our seniors are becoming more isolated. Our seniors and the families that care for them are under more stress. As Citizens of Vaughan we have a shared sense of responsibility to guard the well being of our elders and to support them to become more resilient and protected from harm.

## **Cyber Crime and Fraud**

Technology or information based-crime, and the opportunity for personal identity fraud, have emerged as new forms of risk as a result of which many residents feel increased vulnerability. Our organizations and businesses are significantly concerned, as these risks erode customer confidence and trust in ethical and safe business practices.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

Citizens are seeking to become more prepared for times of emergencies however caused, natural or man-made. The Task Force considers this to also be a personal/family preparedness issue as well as a critical responsibility of emergency response agencies (fire, police, EMS).

Experience tells us that in Vaughan, as with any community, emergencies can occur without warning. It is, therefore, critical that citizens and families especially are prepared to manage in times of power outages, industrial accidents, severe weather, infectious disease outbreaks and terrorist attacks.

## **Engaging Business**

A strong community is a partnership of social and economic systems. To be effective we must understand that the safety and well being of our business community is as critical to our overall well being as a City as is the personal well being of individual residents. Where possible, every effort should be made to engage and increase the participation of the business community in the development and maintenance of safe communities.

## **Environmental Design**

Research has shown that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the opportunity for crime and in fear of crime. Through coordination and education, our planners and builders can work closely with our police to create safer neighborhoods.

## **Hate-Related Incidents**

Effort should be made to find opportunities to endorse and communicate Vaughan's commitment to prohibit and eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee that each citizen of Vaughan, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, can equally enjoy the fundamental freedoms and full opportunities for participation in community life.

Citizens must recognize that hate crime and even bias-motivated behaviors that are not criminal, victimize not only the targeted individuals or groups, but also the entire community. Communities become victims when hate crime erodes mutual respect and civility, and undermines the citizen's sense of well being and safety.

Opportunities to develop positive inter-community relations including increased connection between neighbours, promotion of intercultural dialogue, community coalitions, and engagement in educational programming should be sought.

## **Supporting Strong Political Leadership**

For community crime prevention to be effective, real commitment must come from leadership at a high level that takes responsibility for putting the issues of community safety on the policy agenda. Often the mayor, other elected officials, and community leaders are the key people who can play critical roles in community safety, by actively educating the public and the media, encouraging the development of community safety as a priority, and by building knowledge and planning strategies.

To have an impact on current crime problems and avoid greater problems in the future, municipal leaders must shift how they think and act. They must consider the entitlement to personal and community safety as a basic human right in all their decisions. Responsible governance demands that political leaders embrace as their primary responsibility the need to serve the greater public good by fostering safe and healthy communities.

## **Traffic Management**

The rising impact of congested roadways on our citizens, our business community and our environment is one of the most significant concerns among the residents of Vaughan.

## **Quality of Life**

Quality of life is what makes Vaughan a desirable place to live, work and play: A special place to raise a family in a safe and secure environment where the public spaces, parks and recreation facilities, programs and services are both available and inviting; where neighbourhoods are constructed with a view to enriching the experience of those who seek to make Vaughan their home, operate a business or simply enjoy the amenities Vaughan has to offer.

The citizens of Vaughan are indeed fortunate to live, work and raise a family in a relatively safe community. However, as much as we are tempted to celebrate the enhanced safety, security and quality of life we enjoy in Vaughan, much remains to be done on a wide range of aspects of the whole spectrum of Vaughan society -- individual citizens, families, businesses, institutions, service providers, planning and political leadership, to name but a few.

The members of the Mayor's Task Force are fully cognizant of the fact that achieving optimum safety, security and quality of life are also very much dependent on the vision, mission and commitment of leaders at all levels of our democratic society, as well as the cooperation of those who have a direct or indirect shared responsibility with respect to the current and emerging development of Vaughan.

We also recognize that our work is by no means a finite solution to the many and varied issues that impact public safety, security and quality of life in Vaughan, nor are we naïve in our belief that the issues are not complex to the extreme. However, we also believe that our work, taken with the work that is ongoing on many fronts, represents a value-added contribution that we are confident provides a timely opportunity to review, rethink and plan the Vaughan of the future, a robust and resilient crime-free community.

It is in that spirit and context that we offer the following recommendations to Council.

## Recommendations:

The Task force presents the following recommendations for implementation:

### RECOMMENDATION No. 1

#### Institute a Community Safety Committee:

There is a growing body of evidence that supports community initiatives as an effective strategy to build resilience to crime. The support for strength-based approaches speaks directly to the power of a mobilized and engaged community.

As any community grows, the increasing level of individual autonomy and the decreasing interpersonal relationships between neighbours work to increase a community's vulnerability to incidents of crime and risks to personal safety.

Current research speaks to the correlation between rapid and significant urban growth and the incidents of crime. Vaughan's rapid growth has outpaced the community's ability to form connections and relationships that are part of an established long-term neighbourhood's strengths and natural resiliencies.

Seniors who are isolated and autonomous are far more vulnerable to fraud and abuse than those who have daily interactions and relationships with their neighbours. Youth who have few if any opportunities to engage in meaningful activities, build relationships with adults and who lack a sense of community membership are far more likely to be at risk for violence and crime.

The Task Force understands that significant neighbourhood resiliency and strength is born of connections, multiple levels of relationships and a strong sense of membership among its citizens. If we also understand that these natural systems evolve over years, we then can conclude that there is a gap between the recent population and housing growth and the emergence of neighbourhood connectivity in the City of Vaughan.

**The move to establish a Community Safety Committee is a strategy to expedite and foster the development of crime resiliency in Vaughan through facilitated and supported projects and initiatives.**

By building the foundation of the Community Safety Committee upon the existing assets within our community and by focusing on what is positive and possible, we will build our capacity and confidence.

## **A Proposed Operating Doctrine for the Community Safety Committee:**

It is only those initiatives that are driven and owned by those who will benefit from them that are most successful. The intent of the Community Safety Committee is to facilitate and engage citizens in actions that are congruent with the assets and skills of the community and that are led by and owned by its citizens.

### **The Mission**

As approved by Vaughan Council,

The Community Safety Committee will work to enhance safety, security and quality of life in the City of Vaughan;

The Community Safety Committee will work within the context of community action in cooperation with the citizenship of Vaughan;

The Community Safety Committee will seek to support and complement the efforts of such agencies as police services, court systems, and local, provincial and federal government departments.

### **The Challenge**

The Community Safety Committee will endeavour to continually advance the safety, security and quality of life of Vaughan's citizen by:

Building strong relationships with Vaughan citizens and community leaders;

Establishing ongoing best practices to gather information and knowledge;

Identifying and mapping community assets;

Securing resources and support;

Mobilizing and facilitating local planning and implementation.

### **Guiding Values**

Strength and resilience within a community is born of common beliefs and common goals and needs. Our standards of conduct for ourselves and for others come from our values.

Our research, and our discussions with the citizens of Vaughan about their concerns and wishes for a safe and secure community, can all be linked to what has emerged as our shared principles and expectations for ourselves and our neighbours.

While each group we spoke to and each person we had the opportunity to engage presented us with a range of issues, each could be linked to a belief in the following values:

- Trustworthiness***
- Respect***
- Responsibility***
- Justice and Fairness***
- Caring***
- Citizenship***

This common ground of values gives context to the safety and security concerns of our community.

### **Planning Principles**

The following planning assumptions will guide the work of the Community Safety Committee:

- ❖ **Focus on the positive and the possible**  
Strong healthy communities are more resilient to crime. Investment in prevention and strength-building programs provide significant returns. As individuals, we are more motivated to adopt behaviours when the reward is positive and can be celebrated. The continuation and acceleration of action of a community is energized through the current and continuing successes of its individuals.
- ❖ **Forward recommendations that are for the common person**  
The Community Safety Committee will build expertise in the area of crime prevention and community safety. However, rarely do we find a “how-to” strategy built into research models that are appropriate to a diverse and complex system such as the city of Vaughan. The challenge therefore is to create initiatives that are designed for everyone to understand and that are meaningful to the existing activities in their daily lives.
- ❖ **Forward a framework that delivers simple information and works with little to few new resources to support action at all levels of the community**  
Successful community mobilization is based upon creating action and change from within the existing resources and skills base. The Community Safety Committee will pursue programs that will have the best success in building safer communities and that will be complementary to the existing systems, capacities and resources found within our community.



❖ **See individual community members as the key leaders and participants in strength-based safe neighbourhood initiatives**

Inasmuch as agencies such as Police Departments, Boards of Education and Health Departments provide significant and important roles in community life, safe community programs are best grounded by seeking to focus and engage residents and neighbourhood ownership. Key service agencies play a supportive role in many of the most successful initiatives.

❖ **Seek Action that fits in today's community**

With increasing separation between where we earn our living and where we choose to live, the nature and role of community life is changing. The opportunities and conditions that we used to engage and develop our youth and to watch over our seniors that were part of community life 25 years ago are no longer commonplace in today's neighbourhoods. Families are more autonomous, few people know the names of their neighbours and our obligation to our work lives often precludes participation in community activities. Any designed initiative that seeks to promote strength-building must stress the importance of finding new ways to engage our vulnerable members in ways that are congruent with current community life.

❖ **Celebrate Success**

The value of celebration is a key component to social structures and how we as community impart our values and beliefs.

## **RECOMMENDATION No. 2**

### **Hire a Full-Time Safety & Security Coordinator:**

In order for the City of Vaughan to ensure ongoing progress, coordination and consistency of effort respecting the implementation of the recommendations advanced by the Task Force, it will be necessary for City Council to seriously consider the critical importance of designating a qualified point person to lead, organize and oversee the overall implementation of the Task Force's and other like and complementary recommendations.

Task Force recommends the hiring of a full-time suitably skilled employee (Safety & Security Coordinator) with assigned duties and responsibilities as follows:

1. Be the City's point of contact and liaison for the Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety and Security, the newly created Community Safety Committee, York Regional Police, school boards, community groups and any other entity having an interest or responsibility for public safety in the City of Vaughan;

2. Have overall responsibility to develop a business plan to implement the Task Force recommendations as approved by Council;
3. Provide regular updates to the City Manager (CAO) and Council on the progress of the implementation of the plan;
4. Identify sources of funding for community-based crime prevention and social development programs that can be implemented in the City of Vaughan;
5. Develop and implement a robust communications strategy of public safety information materials and delivery mechanisms directed to the citizens of Vaughan;
6. Any other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the City Manager.

### **RECOMMENDATION No. 3**

#### **Enhance the Implementation and Support of Neighbourhood Centred Programs:**

The Task Force stresses the importance of well organized and supported community-based programs that have proven to be very effective in achieving enhanced safety and security in neighbourhoods. Traditionally, such established programs as Neighbourhood Watch, Road Watch, Character Community, Park Ambassadors and others are the primary responsibility of residents' associations and other volunteer organizations that rely on the local police for leadership, training and support.

In many cases these programs lack the community-based commitment, are not properly organized, lack leadership and are inadequately supported. Consequently, such programs simply die off and a significant public safety opportunity is missed as a result. The Task Force strongly believes that community safety is everyone's responsibility, and crime prevention is everyone's business.

Therefore, the Task Force recommends that, through the efforts of the newly created Community Safety Committee with the leadership of the Safety and Security Coordinator and the support of the York Regional Police and other organizations, these programs must be supported and/or reinvigorated in the City of Vaughan.

#### **RECOMMENDATION No. 4**

##### **Enhance Capacity of By-law Enforcement Officials:**

Vandalism and disturbances in or near city parks are usually youth-related crimes. The Park Ambassador Program, which emphasizes the joint efforts of citizens and park officials, has been an excellent tool in promoting park safety and security. In 2002, complaints dropped from 600 calls to 350 calls and there was a significant reduction in vandalism. The implementation of a By-law enforcement van with a security camera has also been an excellent tool to address issues of youth crime. Currently, the By-law Enforcement dispatch service is administered through Public Works and ceases to take calls at 11:00 p.m. each night. This presents not only a safety gap, but also an unnecessary use of police resources after 11:00 p.m. Therefore, the Task Force recommends the implementation of extended dispatch service for such time as found to be necessary. Doing so would increase community confidence and sense of security and enhance the success of the existing programs.

By-law Enforcement 4x4 vehicles also patrol the trail system in large parks and conservation areas. The trail system is not accessible to transport Fire & EMS officials because the trails are too narrow for their vehicles and equipment. Many times the 4x4 park Unit Vehicles are the first and only vehicles able to access and respond to emergencies requiring defibrillators. The Task Force recommends that Council conduct a study on the advisability of installing defibrillation machines in City of Vaughan Park Unit Vehicles and providing proper training in the use of same, together with the development of a communication strategy.

#### **RECOMMENDATION No. 5**

##### **Establish a Grow-Op Registry:**

The Task Force is aware of the proliferation of "grow ops" in Vaughan and strongly urges Council to study the possibility of creating a "Grow Op Registry". The purpose of the Registry would be to create a public record, accessible for examination by the public during normal business hours, listing all buildings in Vaughan that have been raided and identified by Police as "Grow Ops". The Task Force feels it is important that the public be able to identify known "Grow Ops". The use of a premises as a "grow op" can and usually does result in the premises becoming a hazardous environment, in terms of the development of mould and the possible consequences resulting from the dangerous manipulation of electrical wiring.

## RECOMMENDATION No. 6

### **Enhance Community Safety and Crime Prevention through environmental or urban design:**

Crime and Personal Safety top the list of most important issues facing Vaughan residents according the POLLARA Survey completed in March, 2006. Community Safety and Security concerns can be addressed, in part, through the implementation of environmental design features. While City Planners currently receive some form of training in safety design consideration, the Task Force recommends that this training be supplemented with crime prevention training and enhanced consultation with the police, with a view to incorporating additional design features in residential neighbourhoods to further address such concepts as "Eyes on the Street", improved lighting, and other burglar-proofing and safety features.

Road safety is another personal safety issue in residential subdivisions. The Task Force recommends the implementation of a policy requiring sidewalks on all residential streets to ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially young children. Reduced street widths and on-street parking on those streets with reduced widths should be reviewed with a view to ascertaining whether they are contributing factors to street congestion in residential neighbourhoods, resulting in safety issues, both vehicular and pedestrian, increased emergency response times and snow plowing and snow removal concerns.

Also, fire departments have been requesting legislation requiring the installation of sprinkler systems in all residential homes, thereby substantially reducing personal injury, death and property damage caused by fires in homes. The Task Force recommends the endorsement and support of any proposals requiring the installation of sprinkler systems in all new and retrofitted residential developments.

## **RECOMMENDATION No. 7**

### **Establish a Community Safety Website:**

The Task Force recognizes that a safe and secure community cannot be achieved without stakeholder participation. In order to engage the community, the City of Vaughan must promote an “Awareness, Education and Communication” campaign. This can most effectively be accomplished through the establishment of a community safety webpage on the City of Vaughan website. The webpage should, among other things:

1. provide links to York Regional Police, local school boards, Emergency Management Ontario, the National Crime Prevention Centre and the York Region Character Community Council and Emergency Management Ontario;
2. provide tips and updated information on the prevention of hate crimes, cyber crime, seniors’ exploitation, child sexual exploitation, charge/credit/debit card fraud, burglary, domestic abuse and property crime prevention, etc.;
3. highlight community success stories and provide opportunities for other jurisdictions to share their success stories with the City of Vaughan, for example, Rev. Eugene Rivers and the “Boston Miracle”;
4. provide instruction and up-to-date advice on emergency preparedness, allergy awareness, crisis assistance and addiction treatment facilities; and
5. promote a culture of safety and encourage tolerance and respect for ethnic diversity.

The Task Force recognizes that senior citizens may not have access to computers or may not be computer-literate, and accordingly suggests that an alternative method for delivering the “Awareness, Education and Communication” campaign be undertaken, such as the delivery of the information with utility bills, seminar presentations at senior citizen residences, etc.

The Task Force also recommends that the City of Vaughan encourage the local media to highlight community and/or York Region success stories in order to address real and perceived notions of community safety.

Lastly, in order to ensure citizen co-operation in police investigations, the Task Force recommends that the City of Vaughan, in consultation with the York Region Police, explore the establishment of new avenues of communication so that citizens can quickly and safely assist in providing police with information.

## **RECOMMENDATION No. 8**

### **Encourage stronger relationships between neighbours:**

Stronger relationships among neighbours inevitably lead residents to an increased sense of belonging and ownership in their own community. The Task Force supports all opportunities that engage residents together in social and recreational activities, and would encourage the City to review its policies to ensure the enhancement and encouragement of such community events. In order to support such events, the Task Force recommends providing incentives for residents to familiarize themselves with their neighbours by waiving permit fees for registered ratepayer associations who organize neighbourhood picnics and block parties. Further, the Task Force suggests the City review its fee schedules for public facilities to determine if costs discourage volunteer organizations from performing community services.

## **RECOMMENDATION No. 9**

### **Undertake a Comprehensive Traffic Safety Study:**

Traffic safety represents an issue of major concern to the citizens of Vaughan. It impacts everyone from children and the elderly who are forced to walk on the street because there are no sidewalks available to emergency responders who are impeded by the proliferation of speed bumps and restricted roadway allowances in neighbourhoods.

Many traffic safety problems, including the inconsistency of speed limits and signage, also create confusion, to the degree that driver behaviour then becomes an added aggravation.

In the spirit of recommending a comprehensive approach to meaningful problem solving, the Task Force considers traffic safety to be dependent on three primary considerations:

- 1) The availability and characteristics of vehicle and pedestrian access and transit routes;
- 2) The regulations that control the use of said routes; and
- 3) The behaviour of people: drivers and pedestrians.

The pursuit of enhanced traffic safety depends on much more than police enforcement, although the Task Force highly supports the efforts of the York Regional Police in this regard. However, it is felt that much more needs to be done to address the following areas that, in one way or another, diminish traffic safety in the City of Vaughan, namely:

- a) inconsistent and irrational speed limits on certain roadways;
- b) the proliferation of stop signs as a means to slow the movement of traffic, as opposed to facilitating the safe access and transit of vehicles and pedestrians travelling through intersections;
- c) the inappropriate use of speed-calming measures (speed bumps) that, among other problems, actually result in reduced response times for emergency response vehicles;
- d) neighbourhoods where the narrow road allowance along with related inadequate vehicle parking contribute to a very serious problem impeding the travel of emergency response vehicles (fire, police, EMS);
- e) inadequate provision of vehicle parking facilities, especially in many new neighbourhoods;
- f) no sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to travel on roadways among moving and parked vehicles, also creating added traffic congestion in school zones where children and parents would otherwise have to walk on the roadway;
- g) the proliferation of illegal advertising signage either obstructing the driver's view or actually defacing traffic control signs; and
- h) the unsafe placement of traffic signs.

The Task Force is cognizant of the fact that traffic safety issues are regulated by a combination of city, regional and provincial authorities.

However, the Task Force recommends that the City of Vaughan undertake as a priority a comprehensive traffic safety study/research intended to develop an overall and well- coordinated traffic management strategy that will address and improve existing problems, as well as incorporate a much more effective and robust traffic safety planning process respecting any new construction.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 10**

**Designate Drug Free Zones 1000 ft, Radius of Schools, Parks and Other City Owned Public Access Facilities:**

The problem of illegal drugs is very complex and one that impacts every sector of society in many different ways, by creating compromises to public safety and security, health problems, lost productivity and the inevitable degeneration of the overall quality of life in a community.

We know that young people are especially vulnerable to the tactics of ruthless drug dealers who target young people and the places frequented by them as fertile opportunities to market their illegal product. Such places as schools, parks and recreation centres represent such opportunities, which require an added measure of warning and prevention much like the traffic safety enhancements that provide for significantly increased penalties for infractions committed in designated community safety zones or highway construction zones.

We realize that much more is required on many social and economic fronts: education, prevention and treatment as well as dedicated law enforcement to effectively tackle the pervasive problem of illicit drugs in our society. However, every small step, especially those that focus on young people, must be considered a priority.

By declaring Drug Free Zones within a 1000 ft. radius of a school, parks and other designated City-owned public access facilities, along with a robust public communication strategy with highly visible signage, Vaughan Council can provide Crown Prosecutors and Judges with an added aggravating feature to be taken into account during sentencing of anyone convicted of possession or distribution of illicit drugs within a designated area.



**Recommendation No. 11**

**Encourage and support Council to increase the presence of strong comprehensive youth, seniors and women's services delivered by not for profit organizations in Vaughan;**

As our community grows, we must be vigilant to identify and seek to respond to the current and emerging needs of those who are vulnerable. The citizens of Vaughan are concerned with our children and youth, our seniors and women who are victims of violence.

By engaging our youth in meaningful ways within our community we are investing in a stronger, more engaged citizenship. The Community Safety Committee should work with Council to bring organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, and other mentorship, apprenticeship, and coaching programs such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, to high-need communities in Vaughan.

The Committee must recognize the isolation of seniors and their vulnerability to crime and crime activity, and must promote greater community activity, participation and relationship- building in order to increase resiliency to mitigate fraud and exploitation. The participation of strong, supportive organizations and agencies that can help to build support for our elders will bring needed resources to our City.

Our ability to support residents in crisis should be an area of inventory and review for the Committee. The need for a women's shelter should be considered and supported.

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