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Canada

Report to Victoria Police Board

Date: May 2, 2011
Subject: Crime Reports

Purpose

This report is for: INFORMATION ☒   DECISION ☐ (check one)

Executive Summary

On March 31, 2011 the Victoria Police Department went live with a new Crime mapping software that provided information to the public on various Crime types on a google map. The implementation of this product brought an overwhelming positive response from the public.

As of April 18, 2011 1480 citizens have signed up for Alerts on the Crime Reports software. This is an alert to inform them via e-mail of any Crime type that occurs in the area that they registered the alert on. Just in the first two days over 700 alerts were registered. This is more citizens than we have blockwatch volunteers in our area to date.

Chief Constable Comment

Not applicable

Previous Board Policy or Decisions

Not applicable.

Discussion

Presentations have been made to the RCMP, Prime BC Operations Committee, Block Watch Captains and Police Services by Hervey Simard and Inspector Clark Russell. We continue to encourage the public to invite us to any committee meeting to get a better understanding in how Crime Reports can work for them.

Based on the overwhelming success of Crime Reports within our jurisidction, the vendor of Crime Reports has requested a meeting with us to review a future potential for us working directly with them as a beta testing site.

Stakeholder Consultation

Upon implementation of Crime Reports our Watch Commanders now utilize the program during their briefings to provide a visual to members on crime types occurring in the various areas and for use of resource deployment.

Surveys have been completed by 15 citizens to date, with 14 of the citizens commenting on the beneficial use and providing further feedback on what would benefit them. Based on the citizens feedback the reported time of the crime type is now being published. Work is also underway in being able to provide the hundred block of where the Crime occurred, along with additional information such as property taken and more specific Crime Type information.

Risk Management Implications

The biggest limitation to date remains with the server being hosted in the United States. A recommendations to Crime reports was made by the Victoria Police Department to approach Versaterm for a potential partnership, where Versaterm could house the Canadian server allowing Canadian agencies to publish more information.

Staffing Implications

The impact to resources has been minimal for this implementation. The first line of support for all users is covered by Crime Reports themselves, so no impacts were seen to the department after the go live. The IT resource (Ray Fast) was able to complete the necessary work in approximately one day and as the system requires no manual intervention after the initial set up as the data is electronically pushed out each day, this was a product well worth implementing.

Collective Agreement Issues

Not applicable.

Financial or Budget Implications

The cost for Crime reports is $149 a month for a total of $1778 annually.

Recommendation

Based on the success of Crime Reports we are now further testing and reviewing the Command Central module. This module is designed specifically for the investigating officers which is

intended to provide more detailed analysis of the data and specific information the officer requires.

Follow-up, Monitoring or Reporting Back Dates Required

Based on the success of the Command Central module a demonstration will be provided to the Police Board in a future meeting.

Attachments

Not applicable.