VicPD 2008-2010 Strategic Plan
Goal 3 – Reduce Property Crime
Interim Status Report

Sponsor – Inspector Bob Gehl

Introduction:

This report will provide a synopsis of activities and programs for first six months of 2009 toward the VicPD *Strategic Plan Goal 3 – Reduce Property Crime.* Four performance indicators are used to quantify the progress toward this goal. While the majority of performance measures listed below are assigned to Crime Prevention Services Managers, there is a continuing commitment by all VicPD Staff and Volunteers who contribute to the success of the VicPD Strategic Plan and Goals.

Goal 3 - Performance Measures:

Measurement	2008	2009	2010
Reported crime rate: Property Crime	Decrease by 1%	Decrease by further 2%	Decrease by further 2%
Number of Block Watch and Crime Free Multi-Housing participants	Increase by 5%	Increase by further 5%	Increase by further 5%
Reduction in calls for service to Crime Free Multi-Housing buildings	Decrease by 5%	Decrease by further 5%	Decrease by further 5%
Number of volunteer hours applied to crime prevention programs	Increase by 2%	Increase by further 2%	Increase by further 2%

1. Reported Crime Rate for Property Crime:

The following table provides a comparative analysis of Property Crime Offences for the first six months of 2009 with comparison to 2008. *Overall, Property Crimes decreased 11.5% or the first six months of 2009, with substantial decrease of 50% of total Break and Enters.*

PROPERTY CRIME CALL TYPE (UCR CATEGORIES)	ACTUAL 2005	ACTUAL 2006	ACTUAL 2007	ACTUAL 2008	% CHANGE (07-08)	2007 Jan - Jun	2008 Jan-Jun	2009 Jan-Jun	% CHANGE (08-09)
PROPERTY CRIMES - TOTAL	**10044**	**9953**	**8241**	**6824**	**-17.2**	**3885**	**3447**	**3051**	**-11.5**
B&E-RESIDENCE	664	586	676	619	-8.4	319	389	188	-51.7
B&E-BUSINESS	425	602	551	362	-34.3	238	185	101	-45.4
B&E-OTHER	411	463	245	278	13.5	106	109	52	-52.3
B&E - TOTAL	**1500**	**1651**	**1472**	**1259**	**-14.5**	**663**	**683**	**341**	**-50.1**
ARSON	28	38	46	40	-13.0	20	23	16	-30.4
FRAUD	562	568	541	494	-8.7	257	254	184	-27.6
COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY	2	1	2		N/C	1		1	N/C
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE	406	608	504	357	-29.2	261	164	220	34.1
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	3657	3784	2571	1950	-24.2	1122	1000	928	-7.2
THEEFT OF BICYCLE	772	601	504	458	-9.1	210	223	194	-13.0
THEFT	1973	1573	1486	1209	-18.6	785	594	681	14.6
SHOPLIFTING	1118	1101	1079	1017	-5.7	551	480	477	-0.6
TAKE VEHICLE WITHOUT CONSENT	26	28	36	40	11.1	15	26	9	-65.4

2. Block Watch:

The VicPD Blockwatch program continues to grow in both communities of Victoria and Esquimalt. In March of 2009, Blockwatch members participated in the VicPD Blockwatch Blitz, this campaign focused on expansion of the program with existing Blockwatch members conducting a door to door canvass to neighboring streets to provide information on the program to encourage homeowners to consider forming new Blockwatch groups. The campaign resulted in 11 new blocks registering for the program, an increase of 6.1% from last year. *As of August 2009 there are 3,706 homes participating in Blockwatch, an increase of 7.3% from 2008.*

The success of the Blockwatch Program has been evidenced by several anecdotal incidents where Blockwatch members have observed suspicious activity in their neighborhood and called police resulting in the arrest of property crime offenders. The Blockwatch program is managed by a full time paid coordinator, Ms. Beverley Stewart, who works closely with the 270 volunteer Blockwatch Captains and Co-Captains.

3. **Crime Free Multi-Housing:**

Since the start-up of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMH) in October of 2006, the program has continued to grow, providing Rental Property Owners, Managers and Tenants with safe and enjoyable residential communities, along with reduced attendance by police for nuisance calls for service. The VicPD CFMH Program is managed by Constable Derek Tolmie who works closely with Mr. Al Kemp, CEO of Rental Owner Managers Society of BC (ROMS BC) to provide training for building owners and managers wishing to participate in the program.

As of June 2009, there are a total of 124 CFMH buildings (100 in Victoria, 24 in Esquimalt) participating in the program. The three phase process for CFMH Certification consists of Manager's Training Workshop, Safety-Security Audit of the Building and a Tenant Safety Meeting. To date, 64 of the participating CFMH buildings have received full certification. The VicPD CFMH Program will continue to hold two Manager/Owner recruiting-training workshops annually (Spring and Fall), for intake of new CFMH Buildings- Managers.

VicPD Calls for Police Service to 124 CFMH Buildings (January to June)

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Calls for Service	1,655	1,714	1,490	1,215	1,052

From 2008 to 2009 there *was a 13.4% reduction in calls for service to buildings participating in the VicPD CFMH Program. Since the inception of the CFMH program in 2006, there has been an overall decrease of 38.6% in calls for service to buildings participating in the CFMH program.*

4. **Volunteers and Reserves:**

The VicPD Volunteer and Reserve Programs continues to play a vital role in supporting VicPD in implementing projects/programs aimed at reducing crime with a specific emphasis on property and retail theft. VicPD Volunteers continue to represent the department in a variety of roles, as indicated on the following chart. The chart also shows that the volunteer roster has fluctuated within categories, but remains fixed at 82 volunteers.

Volunteer Roster January-June 2008 - 2009 Six Month Comparison[1]

Number of Volunteers	Crime Watch	Front Counter	Office	Total
June 2008	56	21	5	82
June 2009	52	23	7	82
% Change	-7%	9%	40%	0%

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[1] Results may vary due to data quality

Collectively, volunteers have provided over 3,500 hours of services so far in 2009 and, shown on the chart below, this represents an increase of 5% over 2008. This increase surpasses the performance measurement goal to increase by 2% in 2009.

Volunteer Hours January-June 2008 - 2009 Six Month Comparison[2]

Program Hours:	Crime Watch	Front Counter	Office	Total
June 2008	1722	1377	258.	3357
June 2009	1904	1442	165	3511
% Change	**10.5%**	**5%**	**-36%**	**5%**

The first six months of 2009 has been a time of transition with the appointment of a new Coordinator of Volunteer Services, Ms. Karen Wallis, at the end of January 2009. Karen has spent time reviewing processes, policies and procedures. She is presently developing new recruitment and screening practices to be implemented this Fall and is launching a volunteer survey to collect volunteer program data and evaluate volunteer satisfaction.

In addition to regular deployments, Crime Watch volunteers have been involved in several projects, community events, and distribution of police/program information. Front Desk Volunteers have continued to represent the department in their important role of greeting the public, processing criminal record checks and managing general enquiries.

The 40 member VicPD Reserve Constable Program continues to provide a valuable Volunteer group that supports a variety of Crime Prevention Programs. In April of 2009 19 new Reserve Constables graduated from the six month training program. The VicPD Reserve Program is recognized as an excellent proving ground for police recruiting seeking full time careers in policing. Since January of 2008 10 VicPD Reserve officers have been hired as regular police officers, 8 with VicPD and 2 with the RCMP.

Since January 2009, VicPD Reserves have logged in excess of 2400 volunteer hours supporting a number of CPS programs that include: Blockwatch Orientation Presentations, Personal Safety Lectures, Home-Business Security Audits, Lock-Out Auto Crime Patrols and ride-along with front line Patrol and Focused Enforcement Team members.

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[2] Results may vary due to data quality