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**VicPD 2008-2010 Strategic Plan  
Goal 3 – Reduce Property Crime  
2010 Mid- Year Report**

**Sponsor – Inspector Clark Russell**

This report will provide a synopsis of activities and programs for the last nine months of 2010 as they relate to 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:**

<b>Measurement</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
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 9 months of 2010 with comparison to the same time frame in 2009. **Overall, Property Crimes increased by 1.3% in the first 9 months of 2010 over the time period in 2009, with a substantial increase in counterfeit currency offences of over 95% as well as an increase of over 25% in residential break and enters.**

	ACTUAL 2005	ACTUAL 2006	ACTUAL 2007	ACTUAL 2008	ACTUAL 2009	% CHANGE (05-09)		2009- JAN- SEPT	2010 JAN - SEPT	% CHANGE (09-10)
<b>PROPERTY CRIMES - TOTAL</b>	<b>10479</b>	<b>10081</b>	<b>8404</b>	<b>6988</b>	<b>6585</b>	<b>-37.2</b>		<b>4790</b>	<b>4853</b>	<b>1.3</b>
ARSON- PROPERTY	28	38	45	40	31	<b>10.7</b>		24	21	-12.5
B&E- BUSINESS	425	602	551	362	229	<b>-46.1</b>		153	129	-15.7
B&E-OTHER	411	463	245	280	171	<b>-58.4</b>		120	109	-9.2
B&E- RESIDENCE	667	586	676	619	438	<b>-34.3</b>		293	368	25.6
CNTRFEIT CURR	423	134	176	112	86	<b>-79.7</b>		60	117	95.0
FRAUD	561	571	556	508	417	<b>-25.7</b>		296	332	12.2
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE	408	608	504	357	394	<b>-3.4</b>		263	241	-8.4
THEFT OF BICYCLE	774	601	505	461	385	<b>-50.3</b>		314	263	-16.2
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	3665	3784	2570	1978	1911	<b>-47.9</b>		1388	1549	11.6
THEFT	1981	1575	1484	1217	1373	<b>-30.7</b>		988	824	-16.6
SHOPLIFTING	1110	1090	1056	1014	1126	<b>1.4</b>		874	882	0.9
TAKE VEHICLE WITHOUT CONSENT	26	29	36	40	24	<b>-7.7</b>		17	15	-11.8

## 2. **Block Watch:**

The Victoria Police Block Watch Program is a crime prevention service offered by the Victoria Police Department in the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt and has been in operation for more than 7 years.. This program encourages community members to work together to reduce and prevent crime in their neighbourhoods. **Currently there are 300 Captains and Co-Captains, and over 5,000 homes involved in the program. This is an increase of almost 1000 homes since the last report.**

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Block Watch is not restricted to private homes. Apartment and condominium dwellers can also participate in the program. Block Watch Captains and Co-Captains require a criminal record check and then are ready to receive information about their responsibilities to the program. Once a list of participants and a map of their street is submitted, the group is ready for their first Block Watch Meeting. The Victoria Police Reserves are then contacted to get in touch with the Block Watch Captain to arrange a time, date and place for the meeting. A half hour presentation is given by 2 Police Reserves followed by a question and answer period. The participants then receive their package which includes an insurance certificate, a thank you letter and 2 Block Watch window decals.

### **Security Checks**

One of the most effective ways to educate Block Watch participants to protect their property is to arrange for a detailed security inspection of their homes. Meetings can be arranged with the Victoria Police Reserves and any interested homeowner who would like a home inspection.

### **Operation Identification**

This program encourages homeowners to mark their property to make it easier to identify it if stolen. Each homeowner is provided with window decals as a warning to burglars. The use of engravers is encouraged to all neighbourhood groups to mark items such as television sets, computers, etc. Marking personal property indelibly with a unique number allows for positive identification if items are lost or stolen. People who mark their property have a greater chance of recovering it.

### **Advertising and Marketing Block Watch**

The Block Watch Program is constantly involved in various projects and activities to promote the program. To advertise the Block Watch Program the Coordinator attends many functions to advertise the program. Examples are:

- City of Victoria Chamber of Commerce
- Esquimalt Chamber
- Emergency Preparedness Conference
- Quadra Days
- Victoria Day Parade
- Selkirk Waterfront Festival
- Buccaneer Days Weekend
- Fern Fest
- Moss Street Paint-In
- James Bay Market
- Moss Street Market
- Victoria Dragon Boat Festival
- North Park Neighbourhood Festival
- Community Associations

## **Website**

There is a newly designed Block Watch website. Promoting the Block Watch Program through the website is far cheaper and much more flexible than print advertising. In addition detailed information on the program is accessible to the citizens of Victoria and Esquimalt 24 hours a day. Unlike advertisements in newspapers and magazines and other pieces of paper, the Block Watch website cannot be thrown away or lost. Using the internet is a quick and easy way for people to access information about what Block Watch is and how to get one started from the comfort, convenience and privacy of their own home.

## **Crime Prevention Education**

The responsibility for stimulating Block Watch Captains to action rests with the Program Coordinator. Meetings are held throughout the year to educate the public on different crime prevention topics. Once a year, all the Block Watch Captains and Co-Captains representing their areas attend a meeting to discuss different topics. Victoria Police Officers are in attendance to answer any questions from the public on crime issues in their communities.

As an example an Information Meeting was held on February 22, 2010 at the Esquimalt City Hall Council Chambers. Over 100 people from the different communities attended this annual meeting. The topics that were discussed at these meetings were Internet Crime Reporting, Responsibilities of Block Watch Captains, and the Victoria Police Strategic Plan. A power point presentation on the responsibilities of a Block Watch Captain was presented by Coordinator Bev Stewart.

## **Volunteer Recognition**

The citizens who volunteer to start up a Block Watch in their community are recognized yearly by the Victoria Police Department. This year 135 people attended a Block Watch Recognition Evening on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. It is important to reward and recognize the value and importance of their leadership in their community. Presentations were made, a light buffet was served, prizes and awards were won and there was entertainment provided.

## **Future Recommendations**

With regards to technology the use of Crime Mapping, Facebook, Twitter and other social media for Block Watch would be a great asset for the citizens of the City of Victoria and Esquimalt who are on internet connections at home. The new tools would make a more formal place for citizens to gather to take care of neighbors and report suspicious activities. The expansion of the program depends on modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century communication with the public. It is hoped that in the next year the VicPD will advance to the next level in terms of providing information such as crime trends to the citizens of Victoria and Esquimalt via the internet and through interactive social media by implementing the next level of Crime Mapping, currently under development.

### 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 services. The VicPD CFMH Program was managed by Constable Derek Tolmie up until the end of February 2010. The Program is now being managed by Cst. Dale Sleightholme who is working closely with Mr. Al Kemp, CEO of the Rental Owners Managers Society of BC (ROMS BC) to provide training for building owners and managers wishing to participate in the program.

#### **Program Update:** January – September, 2010

During the first nine months of 2010, the following has occurred in the CFMH Program;

- Cst Dale Sleightholme took over as program coordinator
- 7 new buildings have been added to the program
- 13 buildings have been fully certified
- 28 buildings have been recertified
- 3 serious problem buildings are being actively worked on to join the CFMH program
- New CFMH Reserve Constable Program has been started for additional visits to buildings
- Cst Sleightholme attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Crime Free Conference
- 18 Managers/Caretakers completed the Phase I Managers Training - April 2010
- 17 Managers/ Caretakers completed the Phase I Managers Training - October 2010
- Advanced Managers Training and Networking session - October 2010

As of September 30, 2010 there are 133 buildings enrolled in the CFMH Program.

- 103 Victoria (4 new since April 2010)
- 29 Esquimalt (3 new since April 2010)

98 of the 133 buildings achieved full CFMH Certification.

- 80 Victoria. (10 certified since January 2010)
- 18 Esquimalt. (3 certified since January 2010)

#### **Calls for Service – 98 Certified Buildings (Yearly Totals)**

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 YTD
2240	2244	1954	1556	1234	548 YTD/731 <b>projected</b>

**Calls for service have steadily decreased from a high of 2244 calls in 2006 to a projected low of 731 calls for 2010.**

Calls for service have continued to decrease while the total buildings and units in the program have increased.

Calls to all buildings (certified and non-certified) will be included in the year end report as well as any new additions to the program.

**4. Volunteers and Reserves:**

The VicPD Volunteer and Reserve Programs continue to play a vital role in supporting the Department in implementing projects and 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.

**Volunteer Program**

This section deals with an overview of the Volunteer Services programs for the first nine months of 2010. VicPD Volunteers continue to represent the Department in a variety of roles, as indicated on the following chart. The volunteer roster chart shows that the number of volunteers has depleted in comparison to the same time period last year.

**Volunteer Roster January-September 2010 ~ Nine Month Comparison<sup>1</sup>**

No. of Volunteers:	Crime Watch	Front Counter	Office	Total
September 2009	39	23	5	67
September 2010	36	18	5	59
% Change	-8%	-22%	0%	-12%

**Collectively, volunteers have provided over 4800 hours of services so far in 2010 as shown on the chart below. Reflecting the decline in the number of volunteers, the volunteer hours also shows a decrease in comparison to the same time period in 2009.**

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<sup>1</sup> Results may vary due to data quality

## Volunteer Hours January-September 2010 ~ Nine Month Comparison <sup>2</sup>

Program Hours:	Crime Watch	Front Counter	Office	Total
September 2009	2940	2198	283.	5421
September 2010	2725	1970	183	4878
% Change	-7%	-10%	-35%	-10%

The first nine months of 2010 has proven to be a time of instability as a result of extenuating circumstances. Consequently, no new volunteer recruits have been added to the roster, resulting in a reduction in volunteer hours. The Coordinator of Volunteer Services, Karen Wallis, was on extended compassionate leave for three months. During this time her position was vacant and many of the duties associated with program management were stagnate. In addition our current recruiting campaign has been delayed due to recent policy changes in relation to our police record checks. As soon as these changes are in place we will complete the screening process and provide training to 25 pending volunteers.

It should be noted however, that during this period of flux, our active volunteers and crime prevention staff have provided excellent support in the delivery of our volunteer programming. Regular routines are now reestablished and the program will be back operating to peak performance once the new volunteer recruits join our team.

In conclusion, it is evident that VicPD volunteers are an important part of the Victoria Police team and provide invaluable support to the department.

### Reserve Constable Program

2010 has been a very busy and rewarding year for the Victoria Police Reserve Program. Four Reserve Constables have been hired by Saanich and Victoria – Larissa Aderichin (VIC PD), Lisa Bruschetta (Saanich PD), Mark Hendren (Saanich PD) and Brent Hilborne (VIC PD).

The most recent Reserve Class graduated on July 31, 2010. VICPD now has a total of 54 active reserve members. **The combined total of reserve volunteer hours since January 2010 has reached approximately 6050 hours. This number has already exceeded the total number of volunteer hours for 2009 which was 5948 hours.**

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<sup>2</sup> Results may vary due to data quality



The Victoria Police Reserve Constable Program continually provides high quality volunteer support to the many worthwhile crime prevention programs offered by our Department. They also volunteer many hours of their own time to assist the Department with the many special duties that occur through out the year. And last but not least, the Reserve Constables ride-a-long with our regular members to learn more about policing which, in turn, also give us the opportunity to assess them and ultimately hire many of them. A complete update on all of the reserve activities will be included in the year end report.

Respectfully

Inspector Clark Russell  
OIC Crime Prevention Services  
Victoria Police Department