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Halifax Regional Council
November 9, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Betty MacDonald
Betty MacDonald, Director Governance & Strategic Initiatives

DATE: November 4, 2004

SUBJECT: Community Response Initiative Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN: The Safe Communities Theme Team has asked the Community Response Team to lead an Action Committee to increase citizens feeling of safety in the community. This report is to provide and update of this initiative.

BACKGROUND

Council had identified Safe Communities as one of its four themes under the HRM Scorecard. Citizen outcomes include:

- timely and appropriate emergency response
- citizens feel safe
- buildings, properties and infrastructure in HRM are safe, healthy, and well maintained

The Community Response Team was established to engage HRM citizens and businesses with HRM service providers, and other government agencies as required, to reduce fear which accompanies crime, and to foster a safer, more livable neighbourhood. In the past two years, the Community Response Team has demonstrated its ability to assist neighbourhoods in achieving a safer environment, and has established excellent working relationships with communities and businesses.

DISCUSSION

The Community Response Team recently chaired a workshop with those most involved in helping citizens feel safe, with the result that a new Action Committee, similar to the Capital District Task Force, has been formed. The Action Committee will include representation from Halifax Regional Police; RCMP; Environmental Management Services; Fire; Capital District; Recreation, Tourism and Culture; Human Resources; Real Property/Public Works; Planning and Development; and Governance.

The immediate areas of concern to be addressed by the Action Committee include: graffiti, panhandling, community disturbances, crime related issues (e.g areas known to be prime locations for drugs), unsightly and dangerous premises. Other issues will also be identified and discussed.

Four sub-committees are being formed: Education; Graffiti; Neighbourhood Consultation; and Public Information. A work plan is being developed and once completed, will be provided to Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This initiative is provided for within the 2004/5 budget

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

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