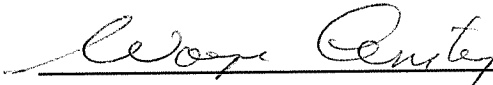




PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
April 3, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations

DATE: March 21, 2007

SUBJECT: **CPTED Audit - Cole Harbour Pathway System and Underground Pedestrian Tunnels**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

During the November 21, 2006 Regional Council Session, the following Motion was put on the floor and adopted:

MOVED by Councillors McInroy and Karsten that staff provide a report with regard to auditing the pathway system as well as the underground pedestrian tunnels, as well as prioritizing as they see fit. Further, that a personal safety audit be included as part of the process.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Cole Harbour pathway system in the vicinities of Forest Hills Parkway, Gregory Drive and Flying Cloud Drive, leading up to and through pedestrian tunnels, has a history of criminal and illicit activities. The connecting pathways and tunnels are a breeding ground for drugs and violence and the culture it promotes has adversely affected the community. Since January 1, 2006, the RCMP report seven assault type incidents.

A Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audit was conducted of the area along with a Safety Audit (a close evaluation of a physical environment and its safety factors), which is a tool used to determine if the public feel unsafe in a specific area. Participants in Safety Audits are

representatives reflecting the diverse nature of a community (i.e., seniors, students, parents, business and school representatives). In this case, the residents of the area (accompanied by the RCMP and members of the Community Response Team) walked the specific portion of the pathway system, during the day and again after dark, to give HRM an insight into how people actually feel when they walk the area alone or with children, wait for someone to pick them up, etc. Generally speaking, participants felt uncomfortable travelling within the specified location, both during the day and evening.

The CPTED audit and copies of the Safety Audits have been forwarded to both Councillors McInroy and Karsten, as well as appropriate staff, to be considered as part of the broader plan for the area.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate budget impacts associated with this report. Any future budget implications for respective business units, associated with the recommendations made within the CPTED audit, will be brought forward for consideration and approval at a future date.

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.

ALTERNATIVES - N/A

ATTACHMENTS - N/A

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared and approved by : Jane Nauss, A/ Manager, Community Response 490-4070