



Corporate

NO: R025

Report

COUNCIL DATE: February 17, 2003

REGULAR			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	February 14, 2003
FROM:	Acting General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR	FILE:	1850-20
SUBJECT:	Surrey Crime Prevention Society – Anti-Graffiti Program		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider the request from the Surrey Crime Prevention Society to fund their Anti-Graffiti Program from the Council Initiatives fund.

BACKGROUND

The Surrey Crime Prevention Society offers free graffiti cleaning services to Surrey businesses and residents, in an effort to help combat the effect that graffiti has on neighbourhoods, such as declining property values and neighbourhood deterioration. This program has been in place since the spring of 2001, through the help of Council Initiatives funding that has supported their full-time Anti-Graffiti Coordinator.

The Society provides a van and operating expenses such as paint, brushes, supplies and powerful graffiti removers. Staff, volunteers and graffiti vandals making restitution have cleaned up over 500 sites in 2002. In addition to this service, a Lower Mainland Anti-Graffiti Task Force has been created in partnership with Transit Security to brainstorm solutions to the graffiti problem.

DISCUSSION

The Surrey Crime Prevention Society made an application through the municipal grants process, applying for continued funding of their Anti-Graffiti Program. The funding request of \$25,000 was to support the full-time Anti-Graffiti Coordinator. The Municipal Grant Policy prohibits funding expenditures that would be deemed on-going operating costs.

The Society is looking for continued support from Council, through the Council Initiatives fund in order to maintain this community service. The Society has plans to enhance the services in 2003 by adding another van and an assistant coordinator to the program, as well as increasing the number of community volunteers and increasing the number of anti-graffiti kits that are made available.

CONCLUSION

The Surrey Crime Prevention Society has been providing a free graffiti cleaning service to Surrey businesses and residents for the past two years, in an effort to help combat the effect that graffiti has on neighbourhoods. Through the Society's contribution of a van and operating expenses, their staff, along with volunteers and graffiti vandals who are making restitution, have cleaned up over 500 sites.

The Society is looking for continued support of \$25,000 from Council, through the Council Initiatives fund in order to maintain and enhance this community services in 2003. The attached Schedule "A" outlines the current funding available within the Council Initiatives fund.

Brian Merryweather

Acting General Manager,

Finance, Technology & HR

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