



# City of Surrey

## Council-in-Committee

### Minutes

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008  
Time: 5:45 p.m.

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#### Present:

Councillor Villeneuve – Chair  
Mayor Watts  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Gill  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Hepner  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Higginbotham

#### Absent:

#### Staff Present:

City Manager  
City Clerk  
Deputy City Manager  
General Manager, Planning & Development  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance & Technology  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
General Manager, Human Resources  
City Solicitor

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## A. DELEGATIONS

### 1. **Dr. Gira Bhatt, Dr. Roger Tweed and Mr. Steve Dooley** **Kwantlen Polytechnic University** File: 0510-20; 0550-20-10

Dr. Gira Bhatt, Dr. Roger Tweed and Mr. Steve Dooley, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, were in attendance to present a partnership proposal for a youth violence project. Comments were as follows:

- In addition to the on-going support from the City of Surrey, a request for further assistance, by way of a letter of support from the Mayor, is being sought as part of the application process for funding from a federal granting agency for Kwantlen's community project on youth violence.
- CURA (Community University Research Alliance) is a federally funded research grant through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The grant will provide funding of up to \$1,000,000 (\$200,000 annually for three to five years).
- The project, Gang-Related Youth Violence, which includes multiple partnerships with community organizations, focuses on Surrey with an aim to concentrate on the positive strengths of the youth rather than on the deficits when examining youth violence.
- It is a very strong mandate of Kwantlen's ideology to work as a community partner. The intent is to foster a partnership between post secondary institutions and communities to form an alliance to work together towards a common goal; move forward, examine the social issues and come up with some real concrete action plans.
- Within this community an alliance is being formed with the academic institutions and community organizations. At present, there are 12 community organizations and four academic institutions (including Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, and Langara College) as well as criminologists and psychologists.

- The main goal is three-fold:
  - o Research (evidence based): Focus groups, interviews, longitudinal study, standardized tests (risk assessment, protective factors, assertive strengths), drug trafficking and addiction, including multi-disciplinary perspectives, cultural variables, development loss and various family home situations. Through the Surrey School District, 1,000 high school students will be involved in the research and will also be trained as leaders. This “target (youth) inclusion model” is critical to the research.
  - o Training/Education:
    - Youth – leadership, research skills, web and video production.
    - Parents and teachers – focus on protective factors, assess risks, class activities.
    - Service Agencies – workshops on risk assessment, strengthening youth assets, focus on the positive. Often the focus is on the negative, the problems and why youth are making the wrong choices. There needs to be more of a focus on the strengths of youth and to build on and foster those assets.
  - o Knowledge Dissemination: Academic conferences/publications, radio, TV (youth talk shows, expert interviews), newspaper announcements/articles, web tools, public forums (youth, parents, community leaders, policy makers and media) and theatre (public performances, youth activities).
- Project outcomes:
  - o Reduce youth involvement in violence.
  - o Acquire culturally relevant tools of risk assessment and protective factors.
  - o Provide an evidence-based balanced image of the community.
  - o Increase tools, activities and programs to strengthen youth assets.
  - o Empower the community to impact the policy makers.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Council request that the Mayor write a

letter of support to the appropriate office for the funding application for the Community University Research Alliance (CURA) grant for the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Community Project on Youth Violence.

Carried

Council expressed their appreciation to the delegation for the presentation and noted that the information gathered and conclusions made from the project, for a city as diverse as Surrey, will be extremely valuable. A further presentation to the Surrey Social Planning Advisory Committee was noted.

**B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

**D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

**E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

now adjourn.


Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Hepner

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

  
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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

  
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Councillor Villeneuve, Chairperson