

District 2 CPAC Overview for December & January 2015

Cost sharing of speed reader board:

Last month we had asked about the feasibility of cost - sharing a speed reader board with the other CPO's in the City, to help patrol the traffic / speeding hot spots as needed. As per the instructions from the PSC Chair at the last committee meeting, we have been looking into the costs of purchasing a board.

We have gathered some information regarding what type of supplies would be needed, namely the board, the power source and a trailer to carry the power source. The City Engineering Department estimated that the cost of this would probably be in the neighbourhood of \$10,000. They explained that we would need our own power source because we wouldn't be able to access power from poles because power is not available during the day and suggested that we purchase a trailer to transport the power supply. We made inquiries from Valley Traffic Systems and Econolite Canada and are waiting for those quotes.

Burnaby North Secondary

The student rep from this school has his Community Policing Club up and it is running really well. They are planning to have a community walk in the coming weeks. This would include the student representative, the school and youth liaison officer, Constable Javorovic and if possible the CPAC Chair going to look at safety concerns that the students have raised.

It is anticipated that the liaison officer will be the guest speaker at one of the club's meetings in February.

Transit Police and Lougheed Mall North Road BIA area

All agencies working the North Road corridor have experienced many problems with street entrenched homeless. One of the main problems is the amount of 'squeegee kids' who are always panhandling at the intersection of North Road and Lougheed Hwy. This is a source of tremendous frustration for commuters who are always under siege.

In the City of Langley they have signs reading "Panhandling is dangerous and illegal" at some of the busier intersections along the by-pass area. The BIA did reach out to Councillor Dhaliwal about the chances of getting such signage earlier in 2015, but were told that there wasn't a by law in place yet and that we should keep letting the RCMP know about the issue so that they can attend and chase the people off of the corner.

Homelessness is constantly a problem in the North Road and Lougheed Mall area. We know that many homeless would love to have the chance to rehabilitate and have a roof over their heads. The homeless in the North Road area seem to be street entrenched drug addicts who don't want help. They want to keep doing what they are doing, which is low level crime against businesses to get their basic living supplies and items for resale, as well as squeegeeing for money to buy drugs.

The RCMP have been constantly dealing with the many problems associated with the ongoing homeless situation in the BIA area and have taken many steps to help over the years. They clean up camp after camp and attend countless calls for problems caused by homeless.

The impact on business is also significant, as some businesses are closer to the camps and are intimidated by the constant begging and theft from the homeless individuals and have responded to the haranguing by placing 'by appointment only' signs in their windows. This seriously cuts down on business because it virtually wipes out any walk in's.

A couple of years ago the North Road BIA initiated and worked on a study with the Burnaby Board of Trade, regarding the impact of Homeless on businesses in Burnaby, but the timing was off (it was an early summer questionnaire) and we didn't get many responses except from North Road merchants. This made it look like a North Road only problem, but we know for a fact it is not, from our conversations with different groups around the City.

We are looking for more solutions – long term solutions. We are aware that the City doesn't operate any permanent homeless shelters, but are looking for some support, whether infrastructure or otherwise that can help us out with our problem.