

District 2 Public Safety Committee Overview for February 2016

The RCMP have been doing such a great job in District #2, there wasn't much to report at the last meeting in the way of problems. We would like to comment on a couple of items generally:

Student reps:

The student reps from North Burnaby Secondary and Burnaby Mountain have been busy with their Crime Prevention clubs. They are extremely dedicated to the projects they are doing and are proactively passing along crime prevention information to their student communities. Burnaby Mountain is currently doing an outreach /educational program with feeder schools and the Burnaby North rep is taking his club on walking tours of the school area.

The North Road BIA is so grateful for the support they receive from the RCMP. Over the past few months the Business Watch / Crime team has been very proactive with their programming, reaching out into the community with their Awareness seminars (like Senior Fraud & Financial Fraud Awareness) and handy "Digital Tips". These are easy to pass along via posters throughout the business area and emails to our membership, who often comment that they find them very helpful.

The RCMP have put together a team of security experts to come to the aid of a 24 hour gas station owner who is always under siege from vagrants and other thieves in the area who seem to live off goods stolen from his store. While the store owner has many completely obvious security cameras in place, the thieves know they can't be detained by him and so keep walking out the door laden down with his goods, thanking and/or threatening him on the way out. It has been a tremendous source of frustration for him. With a Tim Horton's "On the Run" on the premises, it is the busiest Esso location in the Province, processing over 2000 transactions per day. There should be no reason that the owner would feel forced to look at selling his business at a great loss.

The BIA reached out to the RCMP in District 2 and also to the Crime Prevention / Business Watch people, who quickly put together a team to address the many issues around the chronic theft problem. The team was able to make recommendations to the business owner right away regarding the way his merchandise is displayed and are going to give him suggestions as to how he can change the overall layout of his premises. They are also looking at ways they can effectively get these 'regulars' charged. The business owner feels a renewed sense of hope after initially purchasing this business 3 years ago and we feel confident that the team will make it happen for this business person.