

3.8 Safety and Security

Despite declining crime rates in recent years, the relatively high crime rate in the City of North Vancouver compared to other North Shore Municipalities has contributed to an ongoing concern about safety and security among City residents and business owners. The City, through its various land use and social planning functions, and its support of crime prevention programs delivered by the RCMP, can have a significant influence on reducing the opportunities for crime to occur in the community. In 1996 the City completed the Lower Lonsdale Safe City Initiative which identified a number of actions the City could take with regard to the physical environment to address the opportunity for crime.

In addition to the actions listed below, the City's response to safety and security issues will include the continued implementation of the Lower Lonsdale Safe City recommendations previously approved by Council. Furthermore, the City acknowledges the effectiveness of social development initiatives that improve the lives of individuals and families to reduce the likelihood of crime occurring. The City supports social development programs for children, youth, families and members of other vulnerable groups, as demonstrated in other sections of the Social Plan.

GOAL

To maximize the safety and security of community members by preventing and reducing the opportunities for, as well as the social and economic factors contributing to, criminal activity.

Objective 1: Increase community involvement, awareness, and collaboration in crime prevention initiatives.

Actions

The City will:

1. Continue to support community initiatives such as the "Together Against Violence" Network.
2. Continue to co-sponsor the North Vancouver Violence Prevention Awards Program.
3. Continue to support the RCMP in the continuation, promotion, and expansion of crime prevention programs.
4. Continue to support a Community Policing Centre and Neighbourhood Constable in Lower Lonsdale.

5. Continue to implement the Zero Tolerance Policy on Violence Against Women and to support community-based programs designed to address violence against women.
6. Monitor the need for additional Community Policing Centres and Neighbourhood Constables, in the City along with the RCMP.
7. Work with the RCMP to develop a crime prevention strategy for Lower Lonsdale in cooperation with the community with a focus on business, youth, and seniors.

Objective 2: Support programs/projects that deal with conditions in the physical environment that may encourage crime.

Actions

The City will:

1. Continue to use the principles of “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” with all new development proposals, and in designing public areas and parks in the City.
2. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Lower Lonsdale Safe City Initiative.
3. Coordinate the development of short and long term plans to eradicate graffiti.
4. Audit parks to identify potential crime opportunities and develop strategies to address the issues identified.
5. Consider including in the long term capital plan, a City-wide pedestrian level lighting program based on guidelines to be established for the Lower Lonsdale Development Area.