

Winnipeg Committee For Safety - Progress Report - Year One

Message from the Chair



Councillor
Jenny Gerbasi

The Committee is pleased to provide this progress report that outlines our achievements and future plans.

Following the October 1998 election, City Council recognized safety as one of the Top 5 priorities for our City. Created over one year ago, the Winnipeg Committee For Safety has taken that priority and developed a mandate to support, assist, stimulate and mobilize the work of the community on safety concerns.

This grassroots approach has led us in a direction that focuses on crime prevention through social development. People being active at a local level in building safer neighbourhoods and communities.

One of the Committee's finest accomplishments thus far, has been the "Community Conversations" events which were held in various parts of the City. With over 800 participants, the events were extremely successful in brainstorming ideas, setting priorities, networking among organizations and people, and empowering residents to take action in their own neighbourhoods.

The Committee has also been successful in developing "tools" for the community to use in building safer neighbourhoods. This includes a new Safety Audit Manual, as well as the Winnipeg Safety and Security Guide Call Card. The Committee is also taking a leadership role in the process of developing material related to a reconciliation process involving learning circles.

The Winnipeg Committee For Safety is comprised of citizen representatives, representatives of the Province of Manitoba, and Mayor Glen Murray as an ex-officio member. I would like to recognize the efforts of the current and past committee members and the numerous individuals and community organizations that have contributed to making Winnipeg a safer place, and I would also like to recognize the hard work of all the volunteers and the Committee Assistant, Angela Mulgrew.

The Winnipeg Committee For Safety is focused on building partnerships and building on the capacity of communities to develop a more resilient and safer city.

Regards,

Jenny Gerbasi, Chair

Background/ Terms of Reference

The City of Winnipeg Council created the *Winnipeg Committee For Safety* in April of 1999, in recognition of the need to support action on citywide safety concerns. Its membership consists of individuals with a demonstrated commitment to working with citizens and governments alike, to make this a safe and healthy city.

Through participation in a variety of focus groups, citizens identified the need for support as one of their main priorities within their neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood involvement and access to the Committee's resources continue on an on-going basis.

The *Winnipeg Committee For Safety's* mandate from Council is to support, assist, stimulate, and mobilize the work of the community on safety concerns.

The Committee has enthusiastically embraced its mandate by:

- providing **support** to community activities
- **assisting** in public education and awareness
- **stimulating** interest by using best practices
- **mobilizing** people to take action in their communities and,
- providing **bridging** and advisory services to Council and the community.



Highlights



The *Winnipeg Committee For Safety* meets monthly and the following list highlights activities from the past year:

- The Committee developed a **Strategic Plan** with community participation. The process helped to identify specific goals to be addressed during the year.
- **Safety Tool Box.** A Safety Tool Box in binder form has been developed to hold a number of resources to "skill" the community in the implementation of safety processes and activities within their own neighbourhoods.
- **Safety Audit Manual.** A new Safety Audit Manual has been created and appropriate training provided. It is the first of many "tools" which will be included in the Community Safety Tool Box.
- **2000-2001 Winnipeg Safety & Security Guide Call Card.** The Call Card is a telephone resource list designed to assist citizens directing their calls to the appropriate persons/agencies. The Call Card was developed in partnership with the Downtown Safety Working Group.
- **Building A Safer Community Town Hall & Community Workshop.** Coordinated the "Building a Safer Community" televised town hall and workshop events in partnership with community representatives.
- **Community Conversations - Winnipeg** events were held with over 800 residents in the areas of Issac Newton, Gilbert Park, River Osborne and Brooklands Weston. These "conversations" helped build contacts within the community between residents and agencies with similar goals for building a safer community. There is tremendous interest and support for having continued local conversations and taking immediate local action on safety concerns and neighbourhood improvements.
- **Winnipeg Development Agreement (WDA) - Urban Safety Program.** Successful submission of a Combined Safety Strategy between the Winnipeg Committee For Safety and the Downtown Safety Working Group to the WDA. Funding will support a variety of public safety initiatives and build partnerships.
- **Information Sharing** - The Committee Assistant has conducted many speaking engagements and meetings with individuals and groups. As well, the Committee Assistant has participated in the City's Arson Taskforce partnership and has responded to numerous requests for safety information/sources.

Future Tasks

The following list identifies some of the prioritized future tasks which the Committee will undertake with the assistance of Council and the WDA:

- Development of an integrated approach in crime prevention through environmental design and social development.
- Development of reconciliation learning circles, peacemaking and community justice forums within a restorative justice framework.
- Development of new partnerships with cross cultural, youth, and older people, and improved connection with the business community.
- Production and distribution of the Safety Tool Box and Winnipeg Safety & Security Guide Call Card.
- Web Page development with a City of Winnipeg link and collaboration with other City of Winnipeg services.
- Development of a Community Conversations - Winnipeg "How To Manual".



Financial Report

1999 Approved Budget (prorated)

Revenues:

Council Funding.....\$30,000

Expenditures:

- Contract fee - Committee Assistant.....\$14,000
- Office and Committee supplies\$ 8,000
- Research\$ 2,500
- Action planning\$ 1,300
- Project costs.....\$ 1,000
- Returned to Council\$ 3,200

Total.....\$30,000

2000 Approved Budget

Revenues:

Council Funding.....\$65,000

Expenditures (projected):

- Contract fee - Committee Assistant.....\$35,000
- Fee for service - Administration.....\$10,000
- Office and Committee supplies\$ 3,700
- Committee maintenance\$ 1,100
- Working groups\$ 7,000
- Action planning\$ 1,200
- Project costs.....\$ 6,000
- Promotion\$ 1,000

Total.....\$65,000

Committee Membership

Winnipeg Committee For Safety

Chair

Councillor Jenny Gerbasi

Ex-officio Member

Mayor Glen Murray

Provincial Representatives

Wendy Huggan/Marci Mattern
Ben Thiessen

Committee Members

Carolyn Buffie
Jennifer Chu
Glenn Cochrane
David Jopling
Barbara Palace
Sharon Perrault
Linda Williams

Past Members

Judy Fijal
Ruth Laveman
George Jarvis
Deborah KiiskeeN'Tum

Committee Assistant

Angela Mulgrew

Partnerships

The Winnipeg Committee For Safety would like to take this opportunity to *thank* the countless number of residents who participated in the planning workshops and community conversations, and those who have taken immediate action on safety in their neighbourhoods in partnership with their neighbours and service agencies.

We also wish to *thank* the Provincial government and the many agency representatives and businesses who have worked in partnership on making Winnipeg a safer city.

Contact Us

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