ICMA 2012

Program Excellence Awards

Community Partnerships Award

City of Surrey

Crime Reduction Strategy

50,000 and Greater

 2012 Annual Awards Program

## Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

## Deadline for Nominations: March 16, 2012

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

### SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category *(select only one)*:

 Community Health and Safety

X Community Partnership

 Community Sustainability

 Strategic Leadership and Governance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of program being nominated: | Crime Reduction Strategy |
| Jurisdiction(s) where program originated: | City of Surrey |
| Jurisdiction population(s): | 484,000 |
| Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2011, to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.) |
| Month: | June | Year: | 2006 |
| Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, October 2012. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.): |
| Name: | Murray Dinwoodie |
| Title: | City Manager | Jurisdiction: | City of Surrey, British Columbia |

### SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of contact: | Michael McGreer |
| Title: | Economic Development Analyst | Jurisdiction: | City of Surrey, British Columbia |
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| City: | Surrey | State/Province: | BC |
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### Submitting a Nomination

Forward the nomination form and descriptive narrative to be received at ICMA by close of business on **March 16, 2012**. Please email all submissions to: awards@icma.org.

Questions should be addressed to ICMA’s Awards Program at awards@icma.org or 202/962-3656.

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The  relationship  between  crime  and  broader  social  issues  is  complex  and  interconnected.  In  recognition  of  this  circumstance,  the  Surrey  City  Council  adopted  the  City  of  Surrey  Crime  Reduction  Strategy (CRS)   to  guide  the  work  of  City  staff  in  collaboration  with  a  variety  of  stakeholders  to  reduce  crime by addressing the root causes of crime,  and  increase  public  safety  across  the  City. The four primary objectives of the Crime Reduction Strategy are:

1. Reduce crime and increase community safety;

2. Increase public involvement in reducing crime;

3. Increase integration between stakeholders involved in  crime  reduction;  and   4. Improve public awareness around the reality  and  perception  of  crime

  These  objectives  are  addressed  through  106  recommendations contained in the CRS  which  fall  within four  strands:

1. Prevent and deter crime;

2. Apprehend and prosecute offenders;

3. Rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders; and

4. Reality and Perceptions of Crime.

In 2011, the CRS released a 3 year progress report that showed a 10% reduction in total crime between 2006 and 2009. The City of Surrey attributes program success to the unprecedented level of partnership and collaboration that included Surrey RCMP, Fire Department, Transit Police, School District, University of the Fraser Valley, local businesses and over 50 community groups.

**PROBLEM ASSESSMENT**

 In the first half of the previous decade Crime rates in the City of Surrey were higher than the regional average; the crime for total criminal code violations were 114.1 incidents of crime per 1,000 people. High crimes rates had 3 consequences for the City of Surrey and its residents:

1. Reduced public safety;
2. Increased police costs; and
3. A negative influence on the perception of the City of Surrey as a place to live and work.

**PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

In 2006, a Crime Reduction Manger was hired in the City Manager’s Office to coordinate the programs and collaboration with partners including Surrey RCMP, Fire Department, Transit Police, School District, University of the Fraser Valley, local businesses and over 50 community groups.

In order to focus the resources of the City and its partners where they would be most effective, the  Surrey  RCMP  Detachment  Crime  Analysis  Unit  was  established  to  help  identify  prolific  offenders,  crime  hot  spots  and  problem  premises  in  Surrey.   The  Unit  generates  analysis  documents,  including  weekly  intelligence  briefs  and  crime  analysis  reports  on  emerging  crime  trends  and  crime  hot  spots.   These  reports  have  assisted  the  police  in  targeting  the  available  police  resources  to  maximum  effect.

 A critical component to program implementation was to identify and build relationships with all relevant stakeholders to ensure crime reduction actions were coordinated to maximize effectiveness, reduce duplication and minimize competition between agencies. Four (4) programs are outlined below that demonstrate the high level of cooperation and integration between agencies.

**Electrical  Fire  Safety  Inspection  Activity**

The  City  of  Surrey  has  been  a  leader  in  developing  and  implementing  alternative  solutions  to  address  public  safety  risks  associated  with  marijuana  grow  operations.  The  City’s  Electrical  Fire  Safety  Inspection  (EFSI)  Program   Fire  Services,  RCMP,  Electrical  Inspections  and  By‐law  Enforcement are engaged  in  a  process  to  ensure  the  safety  of  homes  in  Surrey. Since its  inception   EFSI  activity  can  be  summarized  as  follows:

* More than 1,460 former grow operations remediated.
* 82% reduction in confirmed grow operations between 2007 and 2011.
* 81% reduction in marijuana production files from 2004 to 2008.

 **WRAP Program**

The  RCMP,  the  Surrey  School  District  and  the  City  of  Surrey  have  continued  to  partner  in  the  Wrap  Program,  which  has  served  as  a  means  of  intervention  with  gangs  and  gang‐associated  youth.   The  project  was  launched  in  January  2009  by  the  Surrey  School  District  and  ran  in  partnership  with  the  City,  the  Surrey  RCMP,  the  Integrated  Gang  Task  Force  (up  to  2009)  and  several  community  service  organizations.   Youth  are  referred  by  schools  to  the  Wrap  Team,  who  assess  and  develop  individual  support  plans.   The  Wrap  Team  then  works  to  ensure  all  elements  of  the  plan,  including  support  from  the  student’s  family,  school  and  community,  are  implemented  and  maintained.   The  youth  involved  in  the  program  have  had  reduced  police  contacts  by  67  per  cent.

Although  the  program  is  designed  to  handle  up  to  60  students,  76  students  were  enrolled  by  the  end  of  2010.

**Crime  Prevention  Through  Environmental  Design**

 The  City  and  the  RCMP,  in  partnership  with  residents  and  businesses,  have  focused  on  addressing  environmental  factors  that  attract  or  support  criminal  and  drug  activity.   Applying  proven  Crime  Prevention  through  Environmental  Design  (CPTED)  principles  (i.e.,  improving  lighting  and  sight  lines,  pruning  trees,  removing  unwanted  debris  and  graffiti)  to  sites  and  buildings  across  the  City  has  helped  to  deter  or  eliminate  crime  and  nuisance  activities  in  many  areas.

**Response to Illegal  Drug  Operations – Expansion of the Meth Watch Program**

To  control  the  retail  sale  of  products  that  can  be  used  in  the  production  of  methamphetamine,  the  Surrey  Fire  Service  has  agreed  to  play  a  lead  role  in  the  City’s  Meth  Watch  Program.   This  Program  that  was  launched  in  2007  has  188  participating  businesses  as  of  2010.   Under  the  Program  the  Surrey  Fire  Service  personnel  has  distributing  information   during  inspections  and  targeted  visits    about  what  to  watch  for  in  relation  to  the  sale  of  certain  products  that  can  be  used  as  precursors  to  the  production  of  methamphtamines.

**RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The  Surrey  RCMP  have  reported  continued  decreases  in  crime  rates from  2006  –  2009  as  noted  below  in  Table  1.

**TABLE  1    Percentage  Decrease  in  Crime  Rates  2006  –  2009**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type  of  Crime** | **%  Decrease  2006  –  2009** |
|    |    |
| Total  Criminal  Code | 10% |
| Property  Crime  (Total) | 19% |
| Violent  Crime  (Total) | 5% |
| Breaking  and  Entering   | 20% |
| Motor  Vehicle  Theft   | 24% |

In addition to significant reductions in crime, the perception of the City of Surrey from both residents of Surrey and across the region has improved. The City of Surrey’s Crime Reduction Strategy won the 2011 Solicitor General, Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award, in the local government category.  The award recognizes outstanding leadership in the area of promoting and implementing crime prevention and community safety strategies.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

Highly integrated and coordinated action from all stakeholders involved in crime reduction activities will increase program effectiveness by maximizing shared resources and reducing duplication. Also, communicating successes is important to improve the perception of crime among residents, where the perception can be worse than the reality.