

# Proposed Solution to Reduce Crime Charleswood Tuxedo Westwood as put forward by Kevin Nichols

## **Background:**

Crime has been on the rise in the area for a while now as well as the increased use of drugs, specifically Methamphetamines. Drug use is on the rise all over Winnipeg, needles are found in parks on a daily basis, placing the general public in danger not to mention the City employees maintaining the parks. With increased drug use comes other related crimes. A multi-faceted plan must be put together to help combat crime in our area and all over Winnipeg. I have put forward the following proposals to work in conjunction with WPS in order to provide safe communities.

## **Proposed solution:**

The proposed solution I am putting forward has 5 parts to it.

1. Increase the number of patrol officers on the streets
2. Re-establish community police offices
3. Enhance the education program of the community police officers
4. Provide adequate resources to the Smart Policing Initiatives program
5. Provide programs to assist in substance abuse rehab

## **Descriptions:**

1. The Police service is not unlike any other City department, the workforce is aging and retirements are occurring. This workforce needs to be maintained or increased at a level to match retirements and vacancies. In addition, more civilian employees can be hired to run some of the day to day operations that police officers should not be doing. This will free up time for the police officers to actually provide service in the community and not at their desks/offices.
2. The City has built new police stations in various areas to minimize the number of buildings and offices in the police inventory; however, this has proven to inadvertently disconnect the police from the community. As stated by the Winnipeg Police Association "Short-sighted cuts to community policing will set us all back." We need to renew our community based policing.

3. The Police school education program helps to establish a rapport between kids and the police. The police can provide essential information at an age appropriate level that the schools may not necessarily be able to provide. This, together with community police offices, will provide a place where kids can feel safe and connect with a police officer knowing they are there to help.
4. The Smart Policing Initiatives program is an intelligence based policing program to help identify trends in order for the police resources to be placed in "Hot Zones" to prevent crime rather than react to crime. I would ensure adequate resources are allocated to this program in order for it to function as it was intended. Identifying trends and providing proactive policing has proven to reduce crime in many areas in Winnipeg.
5. The drug and crime problem runs hand in hand. People in need will require help in order to reduce or eliminate the dependency on illegal substances. I would enter into talks with all stakeholders in order to facilitate programs and help establish facilities to accommodate treatment for those that want help.

**Summary:**

No one solution will stop crime dead in its tracks. Working from many different directions and using proven models for crime reduction will provide the citizens of Winnipeg a safer city in which to live. As City Councillor I will work to ensure the police have the tools they require to achieve safe communities throughout Winnipeg.