



NEWS RELEASE

Crime Task Force Members Announced

Abbotsford, March 16, 2009 – “The members of Abbotsford’s Crime Reduction Task Force have been appointed,” announced Mayor George W. Peary today.

“This new Task Force addresses one of the most significant issues our community faces – public safety,” said Peary. “We have lots of ground to cover and the stakes are high; it is vital that citizens have a proactive role in our public safety and crime reduction strategies.”

Peary announced the formation of the Task Force in January at the Community Forum on Public Safety. He is Chairing the committee personally.

“We are very appreciative of the support we’ve received from the community,” said Peary. “There were many qualified applicants for the Task Force and because of this, we will be inviting everyone who applied to participate in a focus group in the near future.”

The role of the Task Force is to address community safety from all angles and to look at existing and new opportunities. The committee will begin by reviewing local crime reduction and crime prevention strategies and programs, exploring the creation of neighbourhood associations and networks, and ensuring the City is receiving appropriate funding for education, housing, mental health and other community support services. From there, the Task Force will develop a work plan and make recommendations to the City for implementation of various initiatives.

“We have a very unique opportunity in Abbotsford today to cultivate a great city from the ground up,” said Peary. “By working together, I am confident that we can continue to make great strides in improving public safety in Abbotsford and continue to make Abbotsford a great place to live.”

Members of the Mayor’s Crime Reduction Task force are named in the attached Backgrounder.

-30-

For more information contact:

Katherine Jeffcoatt
Manager, Corporate Communications and Marketing
E: kjeffcoatt@abbotsford.ca
Tel: 604-864-5564



BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Crime Reduction Task Force Members

Mayor George W. Peary, Chair

Councillor Les Barkman

Councillor Bill MacGregor

John Davidson, Community Member

Manpreet Grewal, Community Member

Scott Heal, Community Member

Peter Qumsieh, Community Member

Cheryl Sarkosy, Community Member

Len Stagg, Community Member

Paul Wadhawan, Community Member

Trustee, Uultsje DeJong, School District 34

Trustee, Korky Neufeld, School District 34

Superintendent Julie McRae, School District 34

Gerry Charles, Abbotsford Police Services Board

Sergeant Doug Sage, Community Policing, Abbotsford Police Services

David Hull, Executive Director, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Frank Wong, Fraser Health