

STREET CRIME FORUM - JUNE 23, 2004

SESSION 1 - DISCUSSION GROUP G

VIOLENCE AND STREET CRIME, PANHANDLING

PARTICIPANTS

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- Level of violence
 - Panhandling
 - Drunks
 - Street persons
 - Criminal – theft – drugExample: knives on staff, Aggression amongst panhandlers
- 800 Granville lane (drugs)
- Worse than last year
- Increase in LCLA establishments
- WECAN (West End Citizens Action Network) = consists of citizens in West End (75 – 100) who are concerned about B&E, thefts, threats, damage, drug labs; facilitate representation of citizens to government
 - citizens – police strapped. Facilitate cooperation, unrealistic expectation of citizens upon police
- 800 Granville
 - dumpster issues
 - gathering (unclear)
 - health issue
- CPO – community police office
- Extra lighting
- More dumpster diving
- Symphony – lack of attendance
- Keep calling 911

SOLUTIONS

- Active involvement of citizens
- Safe Streets Act
- Police presence – proactively
- Message sent out
 - All components of community
 - Police #s down
 - Look at where we are today rather than past issues
 - Do not blame
- Levels of government working together and on same page toward solutions

VIOLENCE ISSUE

- perceived feelings
- police presence
- media less negative – not always the case
- tourism impacted (general)
- education (awareness)
- remove outside tent city – move out of downtown (issue – discussion)

DEALING WITH VIOLENCE – SOLUTION – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- education
- advocacy
- all on same page
 - consistent message
- police visibility – proactively
- Safe Streets Act enacted

LONG TERM

- Rehabilitation
- Quicker processing of criminal element
- Separate those mentally and drug abused