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Strategic Plan 2010-2012

Partners for a safer community

CRIME PREVENTION OTTAWA

Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) is dedicated to crime reduction and enhanced community safety in Ottawa through collaborative evidence-based crime prevention. Established in 2005 by Ottawa City Council as a quasi-independent body, CPO is jointly responsible to the City of Ottawa and to the people of Ottawa.

The first three years

What have we promised?

CPO's role is to build community capacity, foster community action, nurture partnerships and engage in policy dialogue. Crime Prevention Ottawa attempts to bring together in partnership all local aspects of crime prevention. While Crime Prevention Ottawa does not deliver direct services, it does support service delivery with advice, training, information and funding. Our focus for the past three years has been:

- to reduce violence against women,
- to reduce crime in high risk neighbourhoods and
- to work with youth in high risk environments.

What did we deliver?

In the first three years, CPO launched an ambitious program to address these priority areas. It has shown itself to be nimble and flexible, taking advantage of emerging opportunities. CPO has worked with local groups and agencies to increase local capacity through training, research and partnership.

Selected achievements:

- CPO, working with residents and community agencies in Vanier, successfully catalyzed and supported community revitalization, which has contributed to significant reductions in the number of crack houses and increased community pride.

“Your role as an arms-length body provides sufficient distance from City government and your recent work in Vanier has helped to build your credibility and reputation.”

Respondent to web survey

- CPO is a financial contributor and is an active participant in **No Communities Left Behind** – a multi-stakeholder partnership supporting programs in low income, multi-cultural community housing communities.

“... CPO has proven that it can make an important contribution towards rallying community partners together ...”

Respondent to web survey

- CPO implemented a Speaker Series which has offered debate, insight, controversy and facts about crime prevention.

“As a coordinator in neighbourhood watch, I have found the information meetings invaluable; helping me understand issues, answer questions and educate members.”

Respondent to web survey

- Crime Prevention Ottawa is the driving force behind the **Ottawa Youth Gang Prevention Initiative** which has mobilized 60 agencies in the city. The Initiative’s comprehensive report - *Now is the Time to Act: Youth Gang Prevention in Ottawa* – brought media attention to an action plan to address these issues. Conferences and public forums have engaged over 750 people in gang prevention.
- CPO has worked successfully with Ottawa’s two largest school boards to implement “*The Fourth R*”, a comprehensive and proactive curriculum for Grade 9 students that provides coping skills on dating violence, sexuality, substance abuse and violence.
- CPO worked with local agencies to implement the *Neighbours, Friends and Families* program which supports women who are victims of violence and helps to increase awareness of domestic violence.
- CPO initiated the **Community Adult Justice Network of Ottawa (CAJN)**, a strategic leadership group dedicated to building and enhancing coordination, partnerships, education and advocacy regarding adult justice issues in the Ottawa area. CAJN has created opportunities for agencies to learn, to work in partnership and to identify priorities.
- CPO published *Safety and Security in Rental Buildings: An information guide for Ottawa’s residential landlords* to assist landlords in keeping their buildings safer. It is now in its 3rd printing.
- CPO advocated for provincial *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods* legislation.
- CPO has provided support to many agencies to build their capacity to work in high risk situations or with at-risk groups.
- CPO has been successful in leveraging an additional \$934,190 for community services and CPO initiatives.

The next 3 years

Consultations initiated through this planning process have confirmed that Crime Prevention Ottawa is held by its community partners and agency partners in high regard. A solid foundation has been laid but there is much more to be done. The Institute for the Prevention of Crime has demonstrated that crime will be reduced and communities made safer if municipalities, local agencies and citizens act to tackle crime before it happens. Over the next three years Crime Prevention Ottawa will direct its efforts and resources to effective crime prevention planning and action.

Crime Prevention Ottawa's strategic directions for 2010-2012 are:

- 1. To build on the successes of the past three years and continue to respond to emerging issues.**
- 2. To put crime prevention on the public agenda.**
- 3. To ensure there are sufficient resources to implement priorities and programs.**

The strategic directions are interrelated and action affecting one strategic direction will affect the others.

1. Build on success and respond to emerging issues

CPO recognizes that building capacity within communities and fostering partnerships may take a number of forms and may require a variety of supports from Crime Prevention Ottawa.

CPO will:

- work with communities to reduce crime
- seek to reduce the number of youth at risk
- seek to reduce violence against women
- continue to support existing initiatives
- identify new initiatives which support the identified priorities
- identify and respond to emerging needs and issues.

What we will do

- provide leadership and support for the *Ottawa Youth Gang Prevention Initiative*
- work with the Vanier community and project partners to develop an ongoing plan and an exit strategy for CPO by 2012
- work with a Business Improvement Association to develop a plan for increasing community safety in a high-crime area
- support reduction of domestic violence through programs such as *Neighbours, Friends and Families*
- continue to promote the strategic use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- identify emerging needs and ensure a connection is made to existing services
- expand "The Fourth R" or similar programming to all Ottawa school boards
- take active measures to build partnerships with community groups involved in crime prevention and community safety
- continue to work closely with community partners, institutions and agencies.

What will we deliver

- concrete programs that work with youth at-risk and victims of woman abuse
 - clear, concise information and tools for parents and communities
 - safer communities.
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2. Put crime prevention on the public agenda through active engagement of decision-makers at all levels of government and active participation in related initiatives.

CPO will

- look for opportunities to place crime prevention issues on the public agenda through on-going participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives, submission of briefs, and production of research reports
- seek to become the “go to resource” for crime prevention in Ottawa
- demonstrate the impact of crime prevention and community safety initiatives through evidence based research and evaluation of current programs.

What will we do

- continue to develop on-going relationships with members of City Council and City officials, and federal and provincial representatives
- participate in crime prevention related advocacy initiatives
- continue the speakers’ series

- promote crime prevention and community safety in broader initiatives such as the City of Ottawa’s *Community Development Framework*
- play a public education role by providing accessible information and relevant statistics, toolkits, and documents for use by councillors, community groups and community newspapers
- address community safety and crime prevention issues in proposed legislation at the federal, provincial or municipal level
- support evidence based research, including through work with other cities to share best practices and build an evidence base for crime prevention and community safety programs across communities.

What will we deliver

- well researched background papers, research synthesis and policy briefs
 - increased profile for crime prevention issues; reflected in legislation at provincial and federal level, and in allocation of resources by all levels of government to initiatives that prevent crime.
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3. Ensure there are sufficient resources to implement priorities and programs.

To date CPO has leveraged \$934,190 for community services and CPO initiatives.

CPO will

- work with partners to continue to seek funding and support from other sources to ensure the current programs are sustained
- act more strategically in determining where limited funds will be spent. The current open call for proposals which has provided funding to groups in Ottawa will end in 2010

- continue to provide support for specific projects that align with its identified priorities or respond to emerging trends and issues
- work with agencies and community groups to identify and convene potential partners to help fill those gaps.

What will we do

- demonstrate the impact of community safety programs
- build relationships to help broker new funding
- leverage funds from provincial and federal levels to support local initiatives
- explore funding partnerships with foundations and private sector organizations such as insurance companies
- seek multi-year funding for strategic youth initiatives
- invest strategically in priority projects such as helping to train workers involved in dealing with youth gangs
- invest strategically to meet emerging needs and gaps i.e. disability and abuse
- build partnerships with School Boards
- continue to support smaller community groups to help fill gaps in services
- seek secondments from partner agencies to help CPO implement priorities.

What will we deliver

- new funding agreements to support ongoing programs and new initiatives
- measurable outcomes for success.

A technical paper detailing both the evaluation of the first 3 years and the strategic plan for 2010-2012 is available at www.CrimePreventionOttawa.ca

For more information contact:

CRIME PREVENTION OTTAWA

110 Laurier Avenue West, 2nd Floor,
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Tel: 613-580-2424 ext. 22454

Fax: 613-580-2593

E-mail: cpo@ottawa.ca

www.crimepreventionottawa.ca