Point Douglas Residents Committee

Presentation on:
The Choosing of a Chief of Police for Winnipeg

Efficiency & Effectiveness

The first point I wish to make is that poor people and inner city people depend on the police more than any one else.

Offenders tend to gather in poorer areas and offend against others who choose to live there or have to live there.

Presently the linkage between the police & the community is very problematic.

I have tried with very limited success to develop communications with the police.

Individual senior officers have shown an interest but the system does not have a mechanism to cooperate with community…and it is the community that has the information.

The policing systems set up under the Ewatski Zacharias management team are extremely inefficient. Police responding to an ever greater backlog of calls seem to have no knowledge of previous events.

One address on my street is visited at least twice a week by police cars. I asked a senior police official to run that address on his computer and he bitterly said, no point, it would break the computer.

How efficient or how effective is it to have different officers show up at an address and not deal with the reason that address has so many calls.

There is one street in Point Douglas, Lisgar, that is like a street out of new york. A known drug dealer owns 4 houses on the street and controls others. I have discussed this drug dealer with police officials. They know all about her and her activities but they are so busy dealing with the 911 calls that they can't take the time to do the investigation and make the arrest. In terms of effectiveness measurements would it not make more sense to arrest the public drug dealers and wholesalers than allow them to recruit more & more young people and expand the number of criminals.

Winnipeg has more police officers per capita than any other major city….

Winnipeg has more police officers in desk jobs than any other city.
Winnipeg police services have more sections, each with their own administration, such that even the police don't know where to refer you.

I noted defeated city councilor Garth Steek calling for more police officers.

I would ask you look beyond such simplistic answers.
I would ask that you look for a police chief that has modern management skills
I would ask that you look for a police chief that is strong enough to make changes in a paramilitary organization.
I call for a revamped management. A management that can utilize the existing police force in a more effective manner.

A management that has the capacity to use the community to support the police.

A management that can move police from reactive mode to a preventative mode.

A manager that can think outside the box.
a couple of examples:
In Point Douglas our safety committee has created a network of 25 people who are knowledgeable of what is going on in their street. They are identifying crack houses and gang houses and we are giving that information to the provincial community safety team. I would think a police force would be excited about the potential of such a network….

Our letter carrier and our health inspector know all the problem houses in the area. A modern efficient and effective police manager would be utilizing this knowledge to help remove the serious criminals from our community.

when I was a rec director for the city, we had so many youth programs going that the deputy chief of police drove through my area to see why the crime rate had dropped 75%.

Now there are few teams, few programs for youth and the crime rate is climbing

An effective chief of police is one who would recognize that community activities are crucial to providing an alternative to crime.

Others will talk about the concept of community policing. I support their position. However without effective management of person power the more immediate 911 calls will sap its effectiveness.

To achieve the goals that we in the inner city desire we require a police chief that is very different from the Ewatski/zacharias management.

We require a police chief that is a modern manager.
We require a police chief that can work with the community
We require a police chief that can utilize the community as a resource
We require a police chief that can think of innovative ways to bring safety to our community
We require a police chief that can lead his officers to act differently

We require a chief that can advocate for increased programs that will prevent crime from happening.

We require an effective police chief.
The choosing of a police chief will be one of the most important tasks the city administration will undertake. On behalf of the Point Douglas Residents Committee I wish you well in your deliberations.

Sel Burrows
Chair Point Douglas Residents Committee