STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 683
Councillor Gerbasi cited the issue of beat officers and the lack of police presence on the streets and questioned what innovative policies could the Committee come up with to get those officers back on the street.

Councillor Steeves noted that the Committee has been dealing with the matter extensively, but it was not abundantly clear as to what the community necessarily means when they talk about community policing. He went on to state that there are three immediate things that have to be dealt with within the Police Service:- strengthening the community administrative connection through whatever means necessary, issues with call prioritization and reporting system problems.

Councillor Gerbasi questioned if there was any sense of a timeline when officers would be restored in the communities to which Councillor Steeves noted that the CrimeStat program was in place to respond to true areas of concern.

Councillor Thomas advised that there were no longer any foot patrol officers in her area and that the beat offices have closed. She questioned where the foot patrol officers went and if there was a contravention of an agreement if the foot patrol officers were not there to which Councillor Steeves replied that he would take the question under advisement.

Councillor Vandal questioned if there was a strategy or a plan for addressing the problems in the downtown area.

Councillor Steeves stated there was an attempt to get some increased presence in the area and noted that on Friday and Saturday nights, there was no shortage of police officers in the Market and bar districts.