Total Pages: 11

947-3452
Attn: Joe Marks

Further to:

The Park Police Issue

some of this was not submitted
now expressed yesterday and
may not have been legible.
The last few pages were
not heard and I believe
I was scheduled today as
a delegate but unable to
attend due to weather
conditions

There are further sheets of
signed petitions.

Sincerely

Susanne Wiesnett

Winnipeg Manitoba

To Whom It May Concern 5th March 10/2009.

I don't agree with the City of Winnipeg's decision to eliminate the current model of Park Police and replace it with a new model that cuts the number from 14 to 7 Officers.

The Park Police Officer's command a respected presence of safety & authority for citizens like myself.

The Winnipeg Park Police provide a community based on-site policing that assures the safety and security of our citizens in Winnipeg's Parks.

I am a single mom and a Park patron for well over 15 years, as a mother of children & frequent Assiniboine Park especially in early Spring to late Fall every day & every other day, we live close by.

I knew of the Park Police presence when I was a little girl growing up in Elmwood in a large family, we all spent a great deal of time in Kildonan Park.

A proposed or possible crew of Ambassador's on bicycles does not give me a feeling of safety and security as does the Park Police

Officers, the Ambassador's do not command the presence & authority that do the Police Officers.

I believe the Ambassador's presence will promote more violence because the gang members, drug dealers & criminals who already use the Parks for their dealings will realize quickly there is not the same presence & authority and will use it for their advantage. I personally have witnessed these things happening in the Parks. Most people don't know this is happening because these officers do the jobs they were trained to do. Less officers means less presence & less safety & security.

In the future I believe we will need more not less officers as drug dealing and crime escalates esp. in Charlestowood and I believe it will. I wish it wouldn't but there is reality economy etc. effects this type of criminal activity.

Unfortunately in Charlestowood there are a large number of young people involved in drug dealing & crime due to the fact they have a lot of access to money & aren't monitored properly.

In Charleswood there are 3 High Schools within a couple of miles of each other. These young people involved spend a fair bit of time in Assiniboine Park and surrounding skate parks.

I am personally aware of an incident I believed to be a drug deal happening at the Duck Pond shelter which a Park Police Officer attended to. There is also drug dealing going on in Charleswoods most popular restaurant.

Witnessed Personally:

Last 2 yrs. - Leo Mol Garden - Young people drinking and partying smashing their bottles and throwing them around - Park Police attended.

- Gang incidences - Park Police attended to late at night I was driving through.

- Bonfires Young people drugs drinking my sons & I go often in the summer to have Bonfires. Park Police attend to and visit the sites regularly during use in the summer.

- Vandalism to statues in the large

Floral garden entrance on Roblin front gate.

- Domestic violence - I witnessed a adult assaulting a young boy intervened and reported immediately to Park Police.

- I've seen drug dealers (Gang) in broad daylight.

- Lost Child OBO Security involved Canada Day July 2008 6 yrs. old security said oh her parents will come out of the crowd she'll be O.K. I promised her I wouldn't leave her as was suggested by security I called Park Police within minutes they called back then 5-10 minutes later a call saying Parents were at Lost & Found. There were 20,000.00 people in attendance no her Parents wouldn't just come out.

I hope that the people who are responsible for this uninformed decisions will now change it to accomodate a community of support for these officers positions and leave them just where they belong, 14 officers not 10 officers.

Ambivalence is a shame and I hope that the decision makers will really hear this Public Opinion to keep our Men In Uniform

the Winnipeg Park Police where they are as a force of 14 men.

We all have relatives who use the parks because they feel safe and know about the presence of the Police others don't, for example my son's friends mother from his elementary school saw me in the library asking what I was doing, I discussed with her the possibility of eliminating Officers, she informed me she didn't enjoy any existed but always felt safe in the Parks and secure but didn't really know the reason for the feeling but felt secure anyway and was glad to voice her opinion on this and believed that all Officers continue.

The Lyric Stage in Assiniboine Park is becoming very popular attracting more & more People the Park is full all summer long to early fall both concerts. One evening Lady summer people decided they could have their own party drinking wine right on the grounds surrounding the Lyric Stage, the Park Police Quickly intervened

I would like to reiterate now the fact that sometimes if people don't frequent areas personally they can

become ambivalent and make changes in authorative positions without enough thought, I would like to say if they did they would see a glimpse of with open eyes whats actually going on in the Parks, how the Officers impact the well being and safety of the publics welfare (ie) children's family's, clubs and organizations safety and security. The Park Police do an excellent job. They are out of their cruiser cars dealing hand in hand with situations, walking through crowds driving in front and behind running groups, children in groups representing schools these among some of the duties they preform.

If these decision makers come out and see the partying with alcohol drugs going on, violence gangs, domestic violence that I have personally witnessed I believe they would understand the publics and communities uproar about this particular subject.

These Police Officers are trained in procedures & weapons just like Winnipeg Police Officers who are also our finest of which the decision makers are aware but not some of the public, I believe they should.

stay just where they are in secure jobs they deserve to keep, because we as a public deserve to be protected and kept safe just as they have been doing for a Hundred Years!

I believe if you put Ambassador's on Bicycles in their place you will jeopardize the safety of these individuals because they are not trained in procedures and weapons like our Park Police Officers are.

We need our Parks at the Level of safety we have now to stay as it is in fact we could use more officers to go to the Skate Parks. I know of a number of them where teens and young children go to skateboard and are experiencing difficulty there as bullying, theft and physical assaults going on.

I propose they be patrolled by the Winnipeg Park Police Officers. I contend that these Officers be allowed to keep their positions and possibly more to be hired to patrol the Skate parks that are newer popular and will continue to be as skateboarding is becoming

a recognized sport or soon will be due to popularity.

Thankyou for your time. I hope and pray this will happen.

Sincerely I Remain,

Susanne E. Wherrett

Susanne Wherrett

Winnipeg, Manitoba

I believe and read Chief McCaskill believes the Winnipeg Police Service is far to busy to go out on the streets and do photo radar enforcement as he quoted in March 10th, 2009 newspaper (article, page B1 by Gabrielle Giroday) let alone patrol the parks and keep them safe like the Park Police do.

Chief Keith McCaskill's Quote

He said, "We've got so many demands on the police service, so its very (hard) difficult for us to take somebody off a criminal investigation or even uniformed officers and put them down there to do radar enforcement." So too busy for parks I believe. The Above Signed S.E. Wherrett.

Despite [illegible] mains concerned [illegible] does not have a long-term trail-building plan and has trouble completing the commuter and recreational trail projects it plans to build.

In 2008, roughly one third of the city's active-transportation projects were not completed or were delayed until this year, mainly because the work was not [illegible]

"Now that these processes are in place, the work is expected to proceed more quickly," he said in a statement.

The 2009 trail plan still requires city council approval.

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Police chief seeks more photo radar on the streets

By Gabrielle Girnday

THE chief of police says he wants more photo radar used on the streets, not less, even after a recent court case that's jeopardized the practice of handing out tickets in dormant construction zones.

Winnipeg Police Service Chief Keith McCaskill said Monday photo radar improves public safety and discourages drivers from speeding.

McCaskill said he'd like to see use of the cameras expand.

The controversial cameras have been under renewed debate after a University of Manitoba law student got nine photo radar tickets mixed this January, arguing successfully the tickets were invalid.

However, McCaskill said the cameras can be a useful tool to save police time.

"If done right, it can benefit policing," the chief said, speaking to reporters after he presented the police service's 2009 budget to city council's protection and community services committee.

"We've got so many demands on the police service, so it's very difficult for us to take somebody off a criminal investigation, or even uniformed officers, and put them down there to do radar enforcement."

McCaskill said he wanted to see a "balanced" approach to use of the cameras.

"It wouldn't matter to me if we have to notify the public where they are, it's about getting people to slow down," he said.

McCaskill said there should be no photo radar at construction sites where no workers are present, unless there are restrictions to the roadway that would make it unsafe.

Those restrictions could include narrowed lanes or soft shoulders.

The issue will come before the province's Court of Appeal this April.

McCaskill's remarks emphasized promoting public safety and not the revenue that the city collects on the tickets.

"I would be supportive if we could expand photo radar and even notify the public. Guess what? The photo radar van is right there. I don't have a problem with that, because the whole idea is to stop people from speeding and that's what we should be focusing on," he said.

He later added, "We'll never be in a position to have police officers on every corner."

Nancy Thomas, part of the Road Safety Awareness Group, said the chief's remarks are frustrating.

Thomas has collected a petition with about 1,200 names opposing photo radar use.

"I would ask, based on the safety data, why would you be promoting this?" she said.

gabrielle.girnday@freepress.mb.ca

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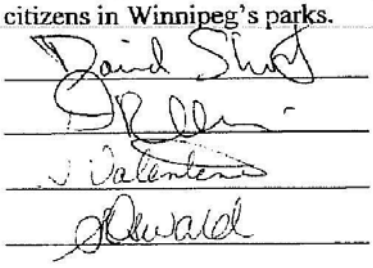
I the under signed, do not agree with the City of Winnipeg decision to eliminate the current model of Park police and replace it with a model that cuts their number from 14 to 7 officers. The Park police provide a community based on-site policing that assures the safety and security of our citizens in Winnipeg's parks.



Re: Josie Marbes Mar 4/09

(Further to last page last paragraph.)

I don't believe Chief Keith McCaskill was consulted before assuming the Winnipeg Police Service would take up the slack if 7 Park Police Officers are eliminated.

I believe it should be and would be protocol to have the approval before asking his task force to take on more territory than they already have.

Sincerely

Susanne Wherrett