

Coming Together & Moving Forward!

**Lower Lounge
Church of St. John the Divine
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

Record of Proceedings

(1) Participant List & Initiative Interest

- List attached

- Pre Registered 53
- Attended 47
- On Site Registration 09
- **Total Attendance 56**

- Pre Registered “Regrets” 17
- Registered “No Shows” 06
- Attendance on 18th 56
- **Total Interest in the Initiative 79**

(2) Welcome, Introductions & Overview

Reverend Munn, Rector, St. John the Divine welcomed all in attendance and took care of the housekeeping items. He acknowledged the contributions to the meeting:

- Registration – Marcia Williams;
- Parking Attendant – Flip Chart – Honora Johansson;
- Photographer for the day – Esther Wilzewski;

the sponsorship by BCCJA; and, the supportive efforts of John Braithwaite and Bob Brown. Reverend Munn provided an overview of the morning and then introduced the head table: Kathryn Gregory, President CCJA; Jeff Christian, President BCCJA; and, Jamie Graham, Chief Constable Victoria Police Department.

(3) Morning Presentations

Reverend Munn introduced this portion of the morning by reminding all in attendance that one of the key objectives of the event was to determine through the presentations and subsequent discussion if there was local Vancouver Island support for establishing a local Branch of BCCJA. Following this he re-introduced the three presenters, provided a brief biography and requested that questions and comments be held until the end of their presentations.

- National Involvement

The CCJA President provided an overview of the mandate of the association and referenced a number of their key activities: publication of the **Justice Report** and the **Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice**; biannual national Congresses held in leading Canadian cities; a bi-weekly electronic newsletter; development of position papers on key criminal justice issues and pending legislation; and, support for provincial affiliates.

- Regional Involvement

The BCCJA President indicated that the Association contributes to community by educating, informing and promoting debate on criminal justice issues. He stated further that such a mandate is consistent with the vision of initiating a Vancouver Island BCCJA Branch. He highlighted; however, that the development of such a branch or entity would be based on local input and local decisions with no paternal direction from BCCJA. He also highlighted some of the Association's recent activities such as their co-sponsorship of the "Public Safety is Everyone's Business, Let's Engage" public forum that took place in March 4, 2009 at the Simon Fraser University Campus in Surrey.

- Local View – Current Challenges in Policing

In a lively and entertaining address Chief Graham added his support to the creation of a local association. He stressed the importance of solid relationships and the significant contribution they make to an effective system. He stated that “maybe it is time for a body that would focus on information sharing, discussion and debate on critical and topical criminal justice issues. It is hoped that such a need could be met by the initiation of a branch of the British Columbia Criminal Justice Association”.

(4) Questions, Open Discussion & Moving Forward

The initial portion of this Agenda item was dedicated to questions and discussion related to the Chief Constable's presentation. Several questions related to positions that were historically at the Victoria Police Department or were highlighted as desirable to address preventative measures. Chief Graham indicated that he would support and champion any position that made sense and contributed to public safety. He indicated with regret; however, that the primary challenge to new developments that would be beneficial such as Car 87¹ in Vancouver would be the availability of additional funding. There was also discussion concerning the validity and efficiency of the Drug Courts. Two perspectives were provided, one in support as a creative response to the drug addicted offender and the counter argument that saw such an approach as “cherry picking” in lieu of providing treatment regimes for the addicted.

¹ Car 87 teams a Vancouver Police constable with a registered nurse or a registered psychiatric nurse to provide on-site assessments and intervention for people with psychiatric problems. The nurse and the police officer work as a team in assessing, managing and deciding about the most appropriate action.

The second portion of this item related to the potential for introducing a Branch of the BC Criminal Justice Association on Vancouver Island. Consistent with his presentation Jeff Christian as the incumbent President indicated his full support for such a possibility but made it clear that the “entity” that would possibly be “created” on Vancouver Island would be a home grown association that met the needs and aspirations of the involved, local community. Some participants questioned the need for affiliation with either the provincial association (BCCJA) or the national association (CCJA). It was deemed critical to have a further meeting to discuss and debate the merits of “affiliation” as well as financial and other considerations. It was also felt that further information concerning the actual mechanics of either approach including funding formulas was necessary to allow for an informed discussion.

It was agreed that those interested in pursuing the above would meet again at St. John on Friday October 2, 2009 from 09:30 AM to 11:30 AM. It was also felt that discussion is required concerning the appropriate timing (morning, afternoon or evening) for any subsequent meetings.

John Braithwaite on behalf of himself and fellow session coordinator Bob Brown stressed that neither were interested in any executive or board position if a local Branch was successfully introduced. Both agreed to continue to assist and advise as deemed appropriate.

(5) Acknowledgements

Facilitated by Reverend Munn the following acknowledgments and presentations were made.

- Bob Brown Assisted by the CCJA President presented a CCJA Certificate of Appreciation to Chief Constable Graham and the staff of the Victoria Police Department. The Chief also received a year’s membership to CCJA.
- John Braithwaite, a past CCJA President presented CCJA President Kathryn Gregory with a dream catcher made by an artist from the Tsartlip First Nation located on the Saanich Peninsula.
- Bill Foster, past CCJA President also presented BCCJA President, Jeff Christian with a dream catcher.
- Jeff Christian presented Jim Hackler with a CCJA Certificate of Appreciation and a caricature of Professor Hackler on his bicycle holding a lantern, with the BC legislature in the background and the caption “Leading the Way to Social Justice” In recognition of the considerable effort that Dr. Hackler has expended over the years in keeping a forum for discussion of criminal and social justice issues afloat, Jeff indicated that he has been named the Honorary President in anticipation of the possible introduction of a Vancouver Island BCCJA Chapter.
- Kathryn Gregory presented a CCJA Certificate of Appreciation to reverend Munn and the St. John’s congregation for their ongoing support of critical social issues. The Rector also received a year’s membership to CCJA.

(6) Closing Remarks

Reverend Munn referred to the “Parking Lot” flip chart and highlighted the issues that were shared by those in attendance. These would be issues or possible activities that could be developed further if a local Branch or entity was established. It was stressed; however, that these issues would not be part of the discussion at the next meeting scheduled for October 2nd, 2009. They would be left “parked” in the “lot” until the key decision concerning a local branch was reviewed, discussed, debated and determined. The list below is supplemented by the initial two suggestions that were offered prior to this meeting.

- Local symposium on the recent impact of the Youth Criminal Justice Act
- Forum on harm reduction and its’ relevance to Victoria
- Downtown community courts – lack of needed services
- Housing & the connection to criminal and social justice
- Crime prevention

Reverend Munn indicated that he was honoured to be involved in this initiative and pleased that St. John was chosen as the venue for both this meeting and the one held in late July, 2009. Those in attendance were very receptive to his kind offer of St. John the Divine being the home for a BCCJA Branch if this was the eventual outcome of the deliberations.

He again thanked all in attendance, reaffirmed a follow up meeting for the Lower Lounge, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Friday 2009 10 02 and invited those who could stay around for a little longer to engage in further informal discussion.

REB

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