

## 2. COMMUNITY WATCH RICcarton INCORPORATED

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Community Services, DDI: 941-8534
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Community Support Unit Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with information regarding a request for funding from the Community Watch Riccarton Incorporated Society of \$800, for representatives to attend a Community Patrols New Zealand training seminar in June 2007.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Community Watch Riccarton Incorporated Society has been operating for six years. The purpose of the group is to enhance the aspect of safety in Riccarton by providing a visual presence in the greater Riccarton area. A Community Patrols New Zealand training seminar is being held in Invercargill from 15-17 June 2007 for patrol members. The group would like to send four of its members to the seminar and is seeking financial assistance from the Board's 2006/07 Discretionary Fund to help with the cost of the fees.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

3. There are no legal considerations. The total cost of the training seminar for four members to attend is \$1,800. The group is requesting \$800.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board agrees to allocate \$800 from its 2006/07 Discretionary Fund for costs associated with sending four members of the Community Watch Riccarton Incorporated Society to a national training seminar being held in Invercargill in June 2007.

## **BACKGROUND ON COMMUNITY WATCH RICcarton INCORPORATED SOCIETY**

- 4 Community Watch Riccarton has been operating for six years. It comprises forty volunteers who work over 3,075 hours per year. The group covers the greater Riccarton area and acts as another set of eyes and ears for the Police. The group's presence helps to make the community a safer place to live and work in. As a mobile patrol, Community Watch Riccarton is able to notify agencies of any problems within the community, thus working together to make Riccarton a safe place for residents.
- 5 A Community Patrols New Zealand National Training Seminar is being held in Invercargill in June 2007. The seminar comprises workshops where information is shared as well as presentations by guest speakers from overseas. The group is seeking financial assistance for the registration fees (\$200 per person) only and will cover the remaining costs from their own funds (\$1,000). An audited report of the group's finances has been sighted. The surplus amount is targeted for training, clothing and general running expenses. The group is also aware that a time may come when they will need to pay their own fuel expenses, which are currently covered by the Police.
- 6 Training seminars are an opportunity for members to hear and learn from the experiences of other groups, nationally and internationally. It is expected that those attending the training will take back the knowledge that they have gained and share it with other members. All members are volunteers and put in a large number of voluntary hours. In a time where it is very difficult to attract volunteers to manage and assist with community services, Community Watch Riccarton has done extremely well. Safety is an issue for all our communities and the presence of a Community Watch group provides a presence and a service which is valued by most residents.
- 7 The Community Watch Riccarton Incorporated Society provides a service which is in line with the Council Community Outcomes: "A Safe City".