

# Mayor, Solicitor General Announce Community Support Officer Patrols for Beltline and East Village

Alberta Solicitor General Harvey Cenaiko and Mayor Dave Bronconnier announced a creative community safety partnership today that will see Community Support Officers patrolling the Calgary communities of Victoria Park, Connaught and East Village.

"Community Support Officers provide an enhanced safety presence in our Beltline and East Village neighbourhoods," said Mayor Bronconnier. "They are an important additional link among police and the business people who operate in the area and residents who are choosing to live in our evolving and desirable inner-city communities."

The officers, who are experienced bylaw enforcement personnel, will concentrate their efforts on monitoring and responding to issues like damaged property and graffiti, freeing up police officers to concentrate on crime issues in the area.

The Solicitor General added his support for this community safety program, which reflects his encouragement of enhanced cooperation among police and other law enforcement agencies.

"As Solicitor General, I am committed to providing safe and secure communities in the Beltline and East Village," said Solicitor General Harvey Cenaiko. "The Community Support Officer project will complement the law enforcement presence in these areas. This is one of several policing initiatives the Province and The City of Calgary will undertake to ensure the safety of Calgarians."

"This is a good example of the kinds of partnerships that allow the Calgary Police Service to fulfill its mission, which is to optimize public safety in the city of Calgary," said Inspector Dan Jahrig, who assisted the committee that recommended the creation of Community Support Officers.

The Community Support Officer program was a key recommendation contained in a report commissioned by the Community Life Improvement Council (CLIC) called *Safe Streets-Safe City*. The report documented the success of similar community safety programs in the United Kingdom and helped establish guidelines for initiating the program in Calgary.

"We are pleased that the City and the Solicitor General's Office recognize the importance of this enhanced safety presence in these neighbourhoods," said Marilyn Arber, president, CLIC. "This program demonstrates the commitment the City and the Province are making to safety and growth in our inner-city communities."

"This is a great day for Calgarians, and particularly for my constituents in the Beltline. They need more safety on the streets and now we're doing something about it. This is an excellent joint project of community volunteers, the Province and the City," added Ward 8 Alderman Madeleine King.

Community Support Officers will begin patrolling the communities of Victoria Park, Connaught and East Village in May.