



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 28, 2011

Open Letter to the Citizens of Mission:

Re: Public Safety Inspection Program (PSIT)

On January 24, 2011, the District of Mission put the Public Safety Inspection program on deferral as a result of public concerns and initiated a full review of the program. The review completed in March made a series of recommendations that were adopted by Council, which can be viewed at www.mission.ca. One of those recommendations was to review all PSIT-led open files. This has now been completed. The District has determined that 15 of these properties did not meet the evidentiary test. These properties have had their fees reversed and a written apology has been issued.

The continuation of the PSIT program, if at all, is going to be considered by Council in July. I am certain we will carefully weigh the lessons learned from the review with the intended goals of the program.

I feel it is necessary at this time to communicate directly to the people of Mission to clarify some misunderstandings about the Public Safety Inspection Program.

Mission's program is very similar to the many programs in the Lower Mainland and is in response to the demands of families and people of our community wanting their neighbourhoods rid of controlled substance properties. The Province made changes to legislation to give the many municipalities dealing with this issue the tools necessary to be more effective.

The District does NOT charge fees to properties inspected that do not have evidence that the property was used as a controlled substance property, regardless of the amount of electricity used.

The fees charged are not designed to create revenue for the municipality. The fees are intended to cover the cost of the program only, so it is not supported by general taxation.

The program is being reviewed and, if it is the will of Council, the program will continue with the improvements identified in the March report and the comments received from the public through the review process.

In closing, I want to assure the citizens of Mission that the program is intended to create safe neighbourhoods. There are numerous unsafe activities associated with controlled substance properties and we want to find and discourage them in your neighbourhood. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we redesign the Public Safety Inspection Program.

Yours truly,

James Atebe
MAYOR