



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former RCMP Superintendent to Lead Downtown Maple Ridge Public Safety Program

Maple Ridge, BC: On Monday, July 4, 2016 Maple Ridge Council adopted a number of recommendations to enhance public safety in the downtown based on the comments of business owners and residents at a mid-June stakeholder's workshop. The first recommendation was the creation of a temporary position to support public safety in the downtown.

"Council is very pleased to hear that Dave Walsh has agreed to fill this role for the next nine months. Dave is the former Officer in Charge for the Ridge Meadows RCMP and has an extensive background in community policing," said Mayor Nicole Read. "His knowledge of this community, his relationship with the RCMP combined with his existing relationships with community and business leaders will be a tremendous asset as we move forward with our work on addressing homelessness in our community."

Former Superintendent Walsh will work directly with the business owners, residents and temporary shelter operators to ensure that any issues are dealt with in a timely manner and that there is a balance between the provision of service to homeless citizens and the overall feeling of security for all residents.

"I look forward to working with the businesses and residents of the downtown as the community moves towards solutions to homelessness. My role will be very much 'boots on the ground' to create stronger collaboration with everyone involved and to ensure that there is a strong line of communication between the residents, businesses, the City, RCMP and the agencies working with homeless citizens," said Dave Walsh.

For more information about these reports or the City's work on homelessness issues please contact Wendy McCormick, Director of Recreation at wmccormick@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-463-5221.