



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
Youth Services Section

January 20, 2008

To: Deputy Chief Constable Steve Sweeney
Operations Support Division

From: Inspector Scott Thompson
Youth Services Section

Subject: Serious School and Youth Related Incidents- Youth Services Section
Advisement

This memo is a follow up to an earlier report submitted in late 2007. In that report a change in procedure and protocol with respect to the advisement of the Youth Services Section (YSS) in the event of a serious school and/or youth based incident with youth/student involvement in a criminal incident or investigation was recommended. DCC Rich reviewed the report and conferred with the Duty Officers. They requested that the criteria under which YSS is to be advised be clarified and defined further. Sgt. Ian Upton has provided his recommended criteria which I concur with. Excerpts from Sgt. Upton's report as well as recommendations report have been included below.

Analysis (Sgt. Ian Upton)

Part of this issue is capacity and the ability of the Youth Services Section, in particular the Youth Services Unit (YSU), to respond to an incident in a primary investigative role. This is not the primary mandate of YSS and the ability to assign major investigations to YSU is hampered by personnel shortages.

Currently, most serious investigations requiring substantial investigative expertise and resources are taken on after consultation with the NCOs' in both Robbery/Assault and GIU. This is problematic however as these NCOs' don't hesitate to contact YSU in the cases where the situation calls for it. Many of these situations have resulted in major cases being assigned to YSU detectives, due to their knowledge of the suspects, youth gang intelligence, and ability to identify school age suspects.

Further, there is no current callout/standby procedure in the YSU or the School Liaison Unit (SLU). This would be cost prohibitive and not required. For the most part, YSU detectives can deal with a follow-up investigation the next day if required and assist detectives who have been called out.

The issue becomes as to when the YSS Inspector or his designate need to be contacted by the Duty Officer so that appropriate notifications can be made (such as the Vancouver School Board- VSB) so that timely assistance can be sought and/or offered, particularly on weekends when YSU detectives are not on duty.

Policy Recommendations/Criteria for Callout

Deputy Chief Rich advised that the duty officers concern is when to make the call to YSS. As well, it must be remembered that there are relief Duty Officers so the policy should be clear. The following criteria are recommended.

- 3) *The Duty Officer should consider contacting the Youth Services Section (YSS) Inspector or designate in major crime incidents where young people are either the suspects or victims, and the units from the Investigation Division (Homicide, SOS, Robbery/Assault) have been called out. The Duty Officer will consult with the YSS Inspector or designate and determine whether the YSS can be of assistance. Consultation should then take place between the NCO of the assigned investigative unit and the YSS Inspector.*
- 4) *The Duty Officer shall contact the Youth Services Section (YSS) Inspector or designate in an incident involving young persons where there is an identified threat to a school (e.g. weapons seizure with threats to school community).*

Attached is a contact list for the YSS. The above is submitted for review and approval. It is also requested that this recommended procedure be reviewed by the Deputy Chief Constables of the Operations and Investigation Divisions.

Inspector Scott Thompson
Youth Services Section