



MEMBER UPDATE

FROM CHIEF DEVON CLUNIS

April 8, 2015

Restore Our Core

When I first came to Canada in 1975 I lived on Selkirk Avenue between McGregor and McKenzie.

Selkirk Avenue had a unique atmosphere. It was “the heart of the North End”, a separate downtown with a number of retail and speciality stores for the largely immigrant community. It was a wondrous time for me.

Shortly before I became Chief, Sidney Green, a former NDP cabinet minister who also grew up on Selkirk Avenue, wrote in the Free Press “I am afraid that Selkirk Avenue will have more of a past than a future unless somebody makes a monumental effort to restore its wonders”.¹

On May 29/30, 2015 I will take up that challenge. In collaboration with community groups and various City of Winnipeg departments, the Winnipeg Police will come together to bring a positive presence to the Block-by-Block area along Selkirk Avenue.

I have already met with key civic groups including Public Works, Community Services, Fire Operations, By-law Enforcement, Water and Waste, City Assessment, 311 Contact Services, and Economic Development

We will assist with door-to-door visits, informing citizens about the Neighbourhood Livability by-law, ensuring yards are free of garbage and that properties are in good repair, checking for graffiti and conducting a neighbourhood inventory to assist the community in targeting areas of concern.

¹ Sidney Green, Selkirk Avenue Can Have a Future, April 23, 2012. Winnipeg Free Press.

I believe that the most effective way to make sustainable positive social change is through multi-disciplinary collaborative approaches that include the community and all relevant stakeholders as partners.

As Chief of Police I am co-chair of *LiveSAFE*, a multi-sectorial, multi-government committee established by the City of Winnipeg with a mandate to achieve crime prevention through social development.

LiveSAFE aims to enable, empower, and operationalize the vision and goals of the Police Service to improve public safety through enhanced partnerships that engage other levels of government, as well as encourage the participation of the private sector, non-profit organizations, community groups, and citizens.

In conjunction with other civic initiatives in the Block-by-Block area on May 29 I have tasked Staff Sergeant Ron Johansson with being the point person to coordinate with members of the Service, community and civic resources to include May 30 as a *LifeSAFE* initiative along Selkirk Avenue. Please give him your support.

Initiatives such as this fit in to our broader goal to provide more support for the work being carried out by our uniform members. My sincere hope is that if we can identify and help address some of the issues facing our communities, there will be fewer calls for service over the long term.

It's about trust. It's about action. We can say we want to help build a stronger community – but getting out there and demonstrating our commitment will trump any messaging we can provide.

Restoring Our Core is a critical step on the path to our City achieving its potential.

CREATING A CULTURE OF SAFETY