

Hello, my name is Amanda Halderman, President of Regina Crime Stoppers. Joining me today are Ron Podbielski, Executive Director of Regina Crime Stoppers and Cory Little, Vice President Finance for Regina Crime Stoppers.

I am pleased to speak in support of the proposed budget for Regina Police Services.

We are a community service program that combines the efforts of the public, the media, and the Regina Police Service to prevent and solve crime.

Our volunteer Board raises operating funds and informs the citizens of Regina about the Crime Stoppers program to provide anonymous tips to the Regina Police Service. The program is intended to benefit the citizens of Regina and assist the Regina Police Service.

Regina Crime Stoppers, which was founded in 1984, has experienced tremendous success in its core mandate. In 2019, we were recognized amongst 1,700 Crime Stoppers organizations in five continents around the world for achieving the best yearly performance in drugs and properties recovered for any community our size.

In 2021, we are well on our way to having another outstanding year in terms of tips leading to arrests, charges and cases cleared. In short, we are making a meaningful and tangible difference in keeping our community safe.

But our success and our outreach would not be possible without the infrastructure provided by Regina Police Service, as well as the enthusiastic support of Police Chief Evan Bray.

We are fortunate to have a full-time police constable assigned to coordinating tips and as mentioned, our success is building year by year. Just last week, we were advised by our Crime Stoppers Constable about three tips solving cases that week alone. We also see firsthand the demands on RPS Officers, and the increasing effort required to prevent and solve crime.

However just as importantly, we share a vision with the city and RPS of where the future of policing should go – that together, we must do more to address the root causes of crime and support building a healthier and more resilient community.

The Regina Police Service is committed to a community policing philosophy that promotes partnerships and community engagement. Regina Crime Stoppers supports the increasing focus on Community Safety and Well Being to address the prevention of crime from occurring in the first place.

Our Board at Regina Crime Stoppers is diverse – including women and men, older and younger members as well as people of different cultural backgrounds.

We do community outreach to young people, to new Canadians, and to the general public because we believe our mandate, although formed on the basis of tips, cannot be about tips alone. We must keep an eye on what will keep this community healthier and safer in the long term.

In this challenge, we have found an amazing partner in Regina Police Services and Chief Evan Bray. Chief Bray has not only encouraged us in our outreach work, he speaks with a genuine empathy and passion for how policing must evolve.

There are many challenges in our community . . . but we support the City passing the police budget, because we know firsthand how RPS can marshal its resources to make positive change in Regina. It is the same kind of change we hope to keep supporting in our roles as volunteers with Regina Crime Stoppers.

On behalf of our Board, I would encourage council to pass the Regina Police Services budget. Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.