CONCLUDED
PROBLEM REPORT
PS-1

Problem ID : 9

Reporting Division :TRAFFIC   **District**:   CITY WIDE

Neighbourhood: **Address:**

Reg	Rank	Last Name	First Name
1327	CST	LAWS	DOUG

Key Description :   HAZARDOUS TRAFFIC AT SCHOOLS

Problem Description:

Careless habits in school areas at critical times such as daily arrival and departure of students can create catastrophic and sometimes fatal results. Arrivals and departures in these areas most often result in increased pedestrian and vehicular congestion. Safety problems by students such as jay-walking, running between parked or stopped vehicles; by parents such as illegal U-Turns, illegal parking and even speeding are common traffic safety problems. Everyday approximately 20,000 vehicles visit Edmonton area schools at least twice, thus resulting in art estimated 6,000 traffic safety violations taking place daily. Translated, these 6,000 violations then turn into 6,000 opportunities for children to be injured or become the next fatal statistic.

Throughout the school year the Edmonton Police Service averages five calls per month requesting assistance in solving problems with traffic safety violations in school areas. The Service responds and issues summonses and warnings for a few days at a time. Problems would then clear up, however without Police presence these would return. As a result a short term solution for a long term problem. City Transportation Officials were also bombarded with requests for signage changes and installation of new driveways. These requests total thousands of dollars per year and again offered no solutions.

Problem solving strategies and results :

In 1991 a new program was formulate and evolved as a Community-based initiative to tackle traffic safety problems faced by school children daily. This new initiative was called the Parent Parking Patrol (P.P.P.).

Early 1993 saw the inception of the Parent Parking Patrol at five pilot schools throughout Edmonton. The aim of the Program "Choose Safety Over Convenience". The target group to educate - Parentsf As Cst. Doug LAWS, Traffic Safety Education Unit, Edmonton Police Service said, "We are not talking about criminals here, we're talking about parents who are not doing safe things."

The Parent Parking Patrol was formed as a non-confrontational Community-based Solution to a long term problem. Members of the patrol consist of volunteer parents, trained on safety and the Highway Traffic Act by the Edmonton Police Service. **The** volunteers are then outfitted with safety vests, identification as well as violation warning notices. Offending **parents are** issued warning notices and given an explanation of the offence committed by the volunteer and requested to "Choose Safety Over Convenience" when bringing/dropping off their children at school. Parents who choose to refuse to cooperate and have been issued with several notices are then contacted by the Police Service and requested to help make school areas safer. Further violations by the parents then result in a traffic summons issued to them by the E.P.S.

The response to the program has been overwhelming. Schools taking part in the pilot project showed over 90% compliance rate by parent drivers, mainly because of parent peer preassure. Parent Parking Patrol volunteers are showing parents and children the correct safety procedures. Procedures that may save a life or prevent injury in the future.

Due to the success of the Parent Parking Patrol pilot project in June of 1993 a goal of one hundred schools has been targeted for the Fall of 1993. By all signs now, this goal will be surpassed. The Parent Parking Patrol is also enjoying both national and international exposure with inquiries being received from the Ontario Ministry of Justice as well as a Police Service in the United States.

This program is proof itself of Communities banding together to tackle traffic safety issues affecting their children and bringing in an "Everyone Wins - Nobody Looses" solution.