

Hello, I'm emailing you the minutes from the GWAC police harassment forum. Thanks again for attending.

Issues with the police: lack of due process, downtown ambassadors, treating people differently based on race, class, harassment/brutality (strip searches in the park in the freezing cold, etc.), police rape of sex trade workers, failing to follow-up on rape and murder of sex trade workers, private police, suspension of civil liberties in the downtown east side, violence against aboriginal women, strip searches, huge response to property crime/poor response to violent crime, mind police (mental health act), stealing money from squeegee people.

Possible Goals: Make sure police badges are sewn on, end rape and assault, look at other models of policing, separate and independent police complaints process, lobby against repressive laws (like new law expanding police powers), question the "broken windows" theory and role of CPC, close CPC (or let it die)

Possible actions: Follow-up with police board re: badges sewn on, put pressure on Police Board by attending their meetings, attend meetings of CPC (6-7 confidential, 7-8 open), write a letter to police chief re: lack of open meetings at the CPC, show the video: "through a clear lens" and "through a blue lens" and have a community discussion afterwards, host a discussion of policing theory, forum on role of CPC, legal observer training, support DAWG (direct action watch dogs) - DAWG provides legal and first aid support at demonstrations.

Committees/Proposals:

1. organize a forum on the CPC (connect with the park benches issue) Audrey is the contact person for this group. - 215-1490
2. Work with other groups in the community (e.g. - PACE and Jamie Hamilton - support groups involved in these issues). Action: GWAC
3. Host a forum on other models Eric (877-1223) is the contact
4. Show through a clear lens and through a blue lens at Britannia and outdoors  
Maryann and Leela are contacts for this (877-1223 or leela@vcn.bc.ca)
5. Workshop on the police complaints process: Jess and Cara are the contacts  
(253-7668 and 454-9559)
6. Police Accountability Day in the Park (Athene will work on this - lathene@vcn.bc.ca)
7. Attend BIA/CPC meeting - action: GWAC/everyone

Thanks again for attending this meeting.

# Police Harassment Forum

Jun 15 '01