

For Immediate Release

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES MEAN NOTHING WHEN IT COMES TO TARGETED GANG SHOOTINGS

Communities can fight back by providing information:

Linda Annis, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Vancouver, B.C. (August 2, 2022): Linda Annis, executive director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers, says municipal boundaries mean nothing to gangs and their targets.

“Whether it’s Whistler, Surrey, Vancouver, Abbotsford or any other city in the region, gang shootings can and do happen anywhere,” says Annis. “The recent shootings at the South Surrey Athletic Park are one more reminder to all of us that gangs don’t care about us or our neighbourhoods, which means that even when a shooting is targeted, innocent people can be at risk. These shootings are brazen, and the gunmen have no fear of public places, daylight hours, or being seen, it’s as though they think they are immune from being caught.”

Annis, who is also a Surrey city councillor, says everyone in the community can fight back by providing tips and information anonymously to Crime Stoppers.

“All of us can help police in their work by providing tips or information, and you can do it completely anonymously through 1 800 222 8477 (TIPS),” explained Annis. “Every call is anonymous, and the Supreme Court of Canada has ensured that tip remains that way. In addition, Crime Stoppers can take your tip in 115 different languages, not just English.”

Annis said that while gang shootings are typically targeted, innocent victims or bystanders mean nothing to gang members.

“Random attacks are pretty rare but when the bullets start flying, innocent people can also become victims,” noted Annis. “As communities and neighbourhoods, we can help our police departments by being their eyes and ears, and that’s where the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers tip line comes in. Police can’t be everywhere, but we can as citizens, and because your tip is anonymous your safety is assured. Often there are people who can provide inside information investigators need, but they won’t call police directly for fear of reprisal. Anyone can provide information to Crime Stoppers anonymously and without fear of being found out. In fact, the Supreme Court of Canada guarantees you will never be identified or called to answer questions.

(more)

“You may not think your tip is important, but every piece of information helps complete the puzzle when it comes to finding and arresting those who carry out the shootings,’ Annis adds. “Together we can make our streets and neighbourhoods safe, and if you think it can’t or won’t happen in your neighbourhood, think again. Gangs and their crimes don’t see municipal boundaries, they only see opportunities.”

Over the past few years, Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers’ successful “Guns and Gangs” advertising campaign has been credited with the arrest of 145 people for gang and/or illegal weapons offences. 219 guns were seized based on anonymous tips provided.

Since its inception more than 30 years ago, tips to Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers have led to more than 8,400 arrests and the recovery of half-a-billion dollars in stolen property and illegal weapons.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Anonymous tips may be provided through Crime Stoppers’ downloadable “P3” app for Apple and Android phones, calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, 1-855-448-8477 (new number), online at solvecrime.ca or by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook](#) page. Find MVCS on Twitter: [@solvecrime](#) and Instagram: [@metrovancouvercrimestoppers](#).

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages and will pay a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of a criminal, recovery of stolen property, seizure of illegal drugs or guns or denial of a fraudulent insurance claim. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to check back later and collect their rewards.

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