



**Richmond RCMP
Crime Prevention Unit
Business Watch Newsletter
June, 2008**

Shopkeeper's Right to Refuse Service

Did you know as a business owner and employee you have the right to refuse service? Most business employees and owners are unaware of their right to refuse service to patrons under certain conditions. Stores and malls are private property, thus the public is invited in to conduct business. As a result, the invitation can be withdrawn at any time under the following circumstance; if a customer disrupts the business, threatens others, steals from the retailer, is inappropriately clothed or if he/she has an overpowering odor (perfume, cologne, body)

It is important to be aware that merchants can not exclude persons on the basis of race, religion, color, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, in doing this, you are violating the patrons rights. In order to maintain the integrity and safety of your business, it is crucial to ensure all employees and staff are aware of their right to refuse service, and trained on how to do so if they feel the need to.

Your Business, Your Concern

Is your business a target for crime, do you know how to decipher if your business is a target? To safeguard your business from thieves you must think like one. Thinking like a thief means looking at what could potentially be targeted in your business. Do you have computers, copper wire, scrap metal or large sums of money on site? Do you sell electronics or products that can be easily sold for quick cash? Is the premises of your business vulnerable to break and enters (lighting, gates, doors, windows, fences). How would your business be effected if victimized? These questions are merely a start of what to ask when deciding whether or not your business is an easy target for crime.

Furthermore, it is important to have a thorough understanding of the area your business is located in and the types of problems that may exist in the area. Have the businesses around you been targeted, what are your neighbors attitudes toward crime prevention and security? The Richmond RCMP Crime Prevention Unit works to educate residents and businesses about break and enters in your area. We update the City of Richmond Crime Maps daily, with information on commercial break and enters for your area. We also include stats on residential break and enters, theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicles. Please visit our crime maps online at www.richmond.ca/crime to learn about what is going on in your area.

The Richmond RCMP Crime Prevention Unit offers a free business security assessment for businesses in the Richmond area. If your business hasn't had one yet and you would like to schedule an appointment please call 604-207-4790.