

Surrey / North Delta Leader, Wednesday, December 8, 2004

Nightshift closer to having a home

City staff will help the Christian group put down roots in North Surrey

KEVIN DIAKIM
Staff Reporter

A CHRISTIAN group feeding the hungry from Surrey streets is one step closer to having a permanent location.

Nightshift Street Ministries, which for months has been feeding about 50 people a night from a vacant lot in North Surrey, is hoping to locate in the Philippine Community Centre at 13674 Grosvenor Rd. The group has worked out an agreement in principle with the community centre for renovations in lieu of rent.

City staff have been instructed to work with Nightshift to get them started as soon as possible, and assist them with long-term goals of providing a host of social services.

Nightshift is planning to provide food and clothing for those in need, while offering rehabilitation, 12-step programs, worship, and a cold and wet weather shelter.

Some of the plans would require further zoning amendments.

"Several uses, such as the cold and wet weather emergency shelter, 12-step recovery program, drug recover and relapse prevention, Children-at-Risk... are not permitted under the site's current zoning," a city planning report states.

Those services could be offered sometime in the future, but would require a public hearing.

The report also points to several nearby services including the Front Room Drop In Centre, Gateway Shelter, Kia-how-eya Aboriginal Centre, Surrey Reconnect for street youth, the Salvation Army mobile food truck and Surrey North Community Health Centre. Representatives from most of those groups came to council Monday in support of Nightshift.

Mayor Doug McCallum insisted on a community impact statement before giving the group permission to locate at the community centre.

The study would examine the possible effects on neighbouring businesses and residences.

INORTH DELTA Pit bulls pair up in attack on dog

A North Delta family is haunted by the image of a pair of pit bull dogs that came barging into their back yard Friday morning and leapt a tall chain link fence to attack their German Shepherd.

They're also left with the sting of a \$455.34 veterinary bill for surgical repairs to their pet.

The two pit bulls – considered to be a dangerous species under Delta bylaws – escaped from their yard on 73rd avenue and were apprehended in the 11700-block of 72A Avenue last Friday.



see OWNER page 3 > Wounds from pit bull attack are visible on dog Max, shown here with owner Sanjeev Tugnait.

PHOTO/Anita Bhatt

WHALLEY / Surrey society has concerns about the way the group is serving food to street people Food bank may sever NightShift ties

The Surrey Food Bank might be cutting its ties with NightShift Street Ministries Society, a Christian group that runs a controversial soup kitchen in Whalley.

MARISA BABIC
Staff Reporter

Executive director Robin Campbell says the food bank's board of directors are growing increasingly concerned about the way the group is serving food to street people.

NightShift lost its former home last year and has been serving meals to Whalley's homeless people from the back of a van since last September.

In an interview on Monday, Campbell said the food bank has been supplying NightShift with "minimal" help in the form of three boxes a week of "cold food", items like bread, peanut butter and jam, juice and granola bars.

She claims the board's concerns include food temperature safety, a duplication and concentration of services in the city core, and allegations that the society doesn't have city and health permits to operate.

"As soon as they went to the street we expressed concern that they not serve hot food out there," Campbell said. "If you're going to do that from the back of a vehicle on a street corner it's very hard to keep food safe."

Campbell said the board was slated to discuss its support of NightShift at a meeting last night.

"They're going to talk about whether they want to continue working with NightShift, but no decision has been made."

She said the society promised the board it would supply

it with a document outlining the society's future plans by the end of December, but the food bank has seen nothing yet.

In a story in Saturday's *Now*, Mayor Doug McCallum said the city has warned the society that if it continues to operate without the proper permits, the city will shut down its operation.

In the same story, MaryAnne Connor, the driving force behind NightShift, denied the allegations that the society lacks the permits.

Connor said the society is doing a community impact study, as required by the city, and is struggling to secure a permanent home.

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Two local bids are among eight in the pursuit of a new ethnic radio licence ... more SURREY COMPANIES page 4 > A slice of local Toastmasters clubs

A vacant retail space in Central City mall plays host to one of the smallest clubs among the 29 in the local Toastmasters district, but the members of the TechToast club are an enthusiastic bunch. "It's a great way to learn how to communicate better," says the district leader, a tax collector who has used the teachings of Toastmasters to silence hecklers.

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