

**Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Information Session**

Radisson Hotel Calgary Airport, 2120 – 16 Ave NE

2008 September 25

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

**Thank you Kim.**

**Good afternoon everyone and thank you for being here.**

**I'm pleased to be here because, like you, a safe community is a top priority for me.**

**As Chair of the City's Marijuana Grow Op's Committee and the Vice Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services, I'm striving to achieve even higher standards for safety and quality of life in this city.**

**Community issues are a high priority for these committees and we know we have both challenges and opportunities before us.**

**My focus is on helping to build a safe and strong community.**

**We all know that houses that harbour illegal activities pose many risks to neighbourhoods and communities.**

**First and foremost, there is the safety element...**

**...some of these houses put the entire neighbourhood at higher risk of violence.**

**Drug houses are targeted by other criminal elements and these disputes pose safety risks to neighbours.**

**There are health risks from drug use and chemical contamination, many of which have serious health impacts especially for children.**

**Fires, electrocutions and structural damage are other risks, to name a few...**

**...not to mention declining property values.**

**While we know what the challenges are, the next step is to something about it.**

**That's why SCAN is so important...**

**...it gives all of us a tool to help get rid of these unwanted elements in our communities.**

**The City of Calgary welcomes this and we're willing to work as partners to make sure SCAN succeeds.**

**But even the province and city working together can't do it alone...**

**...that's where you come in.**

**Get to know your neighbours, report suspicious activity to SCAN or the police.**

**Landlords and property managers need to interview all prospective tenants or renters.**

**Get their credit histories, photo IDs and check all references.**

**We also need you to check your property regularly.**

**It is by working together that we can begin to rid our city of these blights in our neighbourhoods.**

**The City of Calgary is happy to be a front-line partner with both the province and you, the citizens of Calgary, on this important initiative.**

**We are all committed to creating a safe, healthy and vibrant city and SCAN is an important part of making that happen.**