

# SLNA: CPLC-51's Activities &/or Meetings in February 2008

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TPS General Web-site: [www.torontopolice.on.ca](http://www.torontopolice.on.ca) — Division 51 Web-site: [www.torontopolice.on.ca/51](http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/51)

27 February 2008

## CPLC-51's Regular Meeting for 20 February 2008

This meeting would have been on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The latter date was Family Day; hence, the change to the 20<sup>th</sup>.

As you will recall, the 20<sup>th</sup> was also the day of the fire at Queen and Bathurst. A considerable police presence was necessary to maintain a public-safety perimeter. Because he is an Acting Staff Superintendent (additional to his Division 51 role), Superintendent Chris White was in charge of that operation. Thus, he was not immediately able to join the meeting. Therefore, Inspector John Tanouye offered greetings and welcomed Delegates to a busy, productive evening.

To facilitate productivity, Delegates sat in several round-table discussion groups — roughly reflecting their member organisations' locations within Division 51. Beside each table was a whiteboard, to allow each group to present its views to the meeting.

After formalities were complete (eg, adoption of the previous meeting's minutes), S/Sgt Frank Bergen read a summary of the law-enforcement issues that member organisations had submitted. S/Sgt Bergen then asked me to facilitate the ensuing discussion.

Without seeking to limit the groups' free-ranging discussions, I suggested the following limitations to ideas that they might wish to propound.

- ❖ Try to choose goals that are feasible or, in layman's terms, "do-able" by Division 51's personnel. Thus, for example, try to avoid goals that lie within the political and/or judicial arenas.
- ❖ Try to choose goals whose outcomes are quantifiable; for example, as part of a "before and after" scenario. This suggestion generated some discussion of methods or means vs outcomes or results. (This sub-topic surely deserves further attention.)
- ❖ Try to choose goals that Division 51 can use to generalise a sustainable solution or template — for possible use locally and/or in other Divisions.

With those limitations in mind, discussion groups then began exploring the following tasks.

- 01 **What** are the three top law enforcement issues for each discussion group's neighbourhood?
- 02 **Who** is responsible (or, at very least, primarily responsible) for resolving those top three issues?
- 03 **When** can we reasonably expect a resolution or an acceptable amelioration of those top three issues?

04 **Which** and/or **how many/much** resources will be necessary to resolve/ameliorate the top three issues?

05 **What** are the criteria by which we will decide that we have resolved/ameliorated the top three issues? In other words, if do not specify the destination, how will we know we have arrived?

06 **How** do we sustain the success that we achieve as and when we reach Step #05 — bearing in mind that Step #04 is a recurrent challenge?

Given the task's magnitude, and given the evident willingness to respect intra- and inter-group beliefs, the meeting completed only Step #01. The top issues are...

- 01 Drugs — consumption, sale, distribution, ancillary crimes arising from, etc;
- 02 Street prostitution and its damaging impact; and,
- 03 Panhandling and its similarly damaging effects.

Completion of Steps #02 to #06 should occur in subsequent meetings. Step #02 should be especially interesting, given the evident and eminently realistic belief that the TPS does not bear sole responsibility for resolving these issues. Similarly, Step #05 should produce useful debate about attainability and sustainability in this and other downtown neighbourhoods.

Somewhat whimsically, I have included a steel etching by Hogarth — depicting London at a time when cheap gin was the era's version of crack cocaine. The picture should remind us all that there never were any "good old days", and that we are neither the first city nor the first era to confront urban stressors. We should be confident in facing such challenge — as prior eras and other cities have been.

Respectfully submitted  
Keith Bricknell  
SLNA Delegate to the CPLC

