From: <Jim.Lambe@torontopolice.on.ca>
To: <johanne.messner@tdsb.on.ca>
Date: 9/21/2007 4:05:01 PM
Subject: Stairway on the hill at rear of Rockcliffe middle school.

Supt. Messner

This e-mail is about a safety issue with the Metal staircase at the rear of Rockcliffe Middle School.

Recently I have received a number of reports concerning drug dealing, prostitution and damage to private property taking place at the top of the metal staircase at the rear of Rockcliffe Middle School. This metal staircase starts at the bottom of the hill at the rear of the school and ends at the top of the hill at the rear of the apartment complex's of 190 & 200 Woolner Ave. An on site meeting was held, attended by the Local councillor Frances Nunziata , a Mr Paul Aujla, owner of Woolner Holdings Inc., Street Crime officers from 12 Division Toronto Police Service and myself. It became apparent that local drug dealers and prostitutes had taken over the top of the staircase and surrounding area to conduct their business. At this meeting the issue of ownership of the staircase and property came up requiring some further checking to be done.

On Sept 13 th. a second on site meeting was held which included yourself, the principal of Rockcliffe school and the local school board trustee Mr Chris Tonks.
At this meeting it was agreed that the property was owned by the city and the staircase by the board with some type of agreement made by both parties many years ago. Having worked in the area since 1974, I can recall when the hill was wide open and used by the locals for tobogganing and the stairs by the kids in the apartment complex as a shortcut to and from the school. Today things have changed. The hill and the stairs have become completely overgrown by trees and undergrowth. There is no lighting or line of sight whatsoever to the stairs. The owner of Woolner holding has fenced off his property at the top of the stairs to try and keep the drug dealers and prostitutes off his property. They continue to cut holes in his fence to use as escape routes. The locals no longer use the stairs.

It is my opinion that the stairs have outlived there original purpose and for safety sake should be removed.

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