



Peaks Island Council

COMMUNITY DELIBERATIONS-- ISLAND SAFETY SERVICES

Who: Island residents

What: Community Deliberation Forums - to help refine strong Island Safety Services proposals for Peaks Island.

When: Saturday February 27, 9:00-noon
Wednesday, March 3, 6:30-9:00

Where: Douglas E. MacVane Room

How: Last month the Peaks Island Council initiated a series of focus group sessions to develop the Island Safety Services Proposal for presentation to the city. More than 40 islanders, selected to represent a broad range of island demographics, contributed to delineation of the issues and to prioritization of a variety of approaches.

We have developed a set of choices - to include both city and island participation- for addressing fire, police, and medical needs.

We now seek public input on the work thus far; your ideas, recommendations, and support are critical to improving the proposal.

Why: During the past few years, islanders have repeatedly expressed concern about the City's capacity to respond to emergencies on the island. Meetings have been held to discuss the issue and to request resources from the city, but staffing has not been restored. Then, in 2009, two houses burned to the ground and in at least two cases medical services were delayed or made more difficult due to lack of adequate emergency staffing. Islanders became alarmed and requested that the PIC work with the city to address emergency services needs.

In winter of 2009 and again in the fall of 2009, the PIC requested of the city's Public Safety Committee that funding to restore full-time staffing be included in upcoming budgets. While generally supportive, the Committee has not yet moved to act. At this time, budget preparations for 2011 are under way; therefore the PIC has determined that this is the correct time to present the island's needs. Unfortunately, current economic challenges make any budget increases extremely difficult, so it is critical that we justify our request thoughtfully and with strong island support.

After these two meetings we will generate a written action plan for Island Safety Services on Peaks, to be presented to city officials in March 2010.

PLEASE ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS SO THAT YOUR IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE HEARD.