

Hello All,

The LPS Crime Prevention Unit is in the process of launching a partnership with 529 Garage. The program is a bike registration app that connects riders to one another in a geographical area. Riders register their bikes with descriptions, photos and serial numbers. If a bike is stolen, the app sends out an alert to riders in the area to be cautious about their own property; but also serves to have them be on the lookout for suspicious activity. The user can directly message a bicycle owner, in the event that they have information about the bike, as well as reporting any other observations to the other riders in the area. By championing the app, police services use their influence to encourage more citizens to register their bike and become aware of the problem. The app also redirects riders to the LPS website where they can make an online report in the event of a theft. This helps to ensure that more bike thefts are reported to the police. The LPS will be utilizing this program as a crime prevention measure; but will also benefit from the valuable information contained within as an investigative aid.

This program is being used by other police services in Vancouver, Regina, Ottawa and St Thomas. Here is a link to the Ottawa PS website: <https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/529-garage.aspx>.

We would like to establish a partnership with the City of London in moving this program forward. Any assistance and / or promotion would be beneficial to the cause. This is clearly a community problem with several stakeholders to involve. Would this fall under any of your areas? I will also be contacting the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Committee, to see if they are willing to assist. Any other ideas or thoughts? Please note, this program will be launched after the upcoming Police Services Board meeting on May 21st. Do not share or disclose this information to the public as of yet.

Thanks,
Chris

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