Key Description: PROSTITUTES DO BUSINESS IN HOTEL

Problem Description:
During 93 April-May, NFP members noticed an increase in the number of known prostitutes operating in the Ambassador Motor Inn. Investigations showed that the 2nd floor of the hotel was virtually operating as a "Bawdy House". Hotel owners and staff were contributing to the problem in that they seemed to turn a blind eye to the activity. Previous warnings to the hotel owner went unheeded. The problem was highlighted when NFP members met a family leaving the hotel at night complaining about the prostitutes on the premises.

Problem solving strategies and results:
During the first week of June Sgt. O'GILVIE organized a meeting with all Downtown NFP members. Csts. BATA, HANDLEY, STRANG and MONSON, who work the Downtown neighbourhood, presented the history and relative facts about the problem. Supt. LINDSAY also attended the meeting. At the conclusion, a series of strategies were developed to address the problem. They were the following:
1. NFP would step up activities at the hotel ie. nightly checking of register and aggressive identification of JOHNS and prostitutes.
2. "Dear JOHN" letters to be sent to all qualified customers.
3. Supt. LINDSAY would write a letter to the hotel owner Mr. AZIM MANGALJI, advising him that: a) the Ambassador may become the subject of a vice investigation; b) that he may be compelled to inform both Alberta and Edmonton Tourism Authorities that the Ambassador ought not to be considered a destination for tourists or visitors; c) the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Association would also be notified. The letter concluded "of course, I am sure you will agree that the likelihood of public knowledge of these concerns is hardly compatible with the image of Best Western Hotels as a "family hotel". Please conduct yourself accordingly".

On June 11, 1993 the letters were sent and the NFP members commenced their activities in and around the Ambassador. Almost immediately, those members reported that all prostitute activity had ceased completely. Even the prostitutes complained to a local agency that they had been "kicked out" of the Ambassador.

In 93 July the hotel owner wrote to our department outlining his "client cleansing program" and offered to work closely with police to prevent a reoccurrence of the problem.

This problem took an interesting turn. Best Western wrote to EPS advising that the Ambassador had ceased to operate as a Best Western for over a year. They are considering legal action because the Ambassador was still using Best Western matches and paper napkins etc., thus reporting to belong to the Hotel chain.

A further measure of success was seen during Klondike Days in late July. During this time it has been normal to see an increase in the numbers of prostitutes active in the city. The NFP members reported that the Ambassador was free of prostitutes during K-Days and well into Sept., the time of writing.