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To:

cc: (bcc: NHB NASReg/NHB/SINGOV)

Subject: 1) PA Press Release, 4 Dec 99

2) (Embargoed) Speech by Mayor Eugene Yap, 5 Dec 99, 10.30am

4 December 1999

News Editor/Programme Manager

LAUNCH OF Marine Parade CDC Community safety and Security PROGRAMME

There will be a media briefing chaired by Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC after the launch of the Marine Parade CDC Community Safety and Security Programme (CSSP) and national CSSP tagline by Mayor Eugene Yap on 5 December 1999 at the Bedok Stadium. Mrs Lim will unveil the details of the training programme for foreign maids.

2 Your journalist and photographer are cordially invited to the launch of the Marine Parade CDC CSSP and national CSSP tagline and the media briefing. Please meet at the main stage in the Bedok Stadium at 9.45 am.

3 The speech of Mayor Eugene Yap is at Annex1.

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Joint news release by: People's Association Public Relations Section and
Singapore Police Force Public Affairs Department

Annex 1

Embargoed till Sunday, 5 December 1999 10.30am

Please check against delivery

SPEECH BY MAYOR EUGENE YAP AT THE LAUNCH OF THE
MARINE PARADE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAMME
ON 5 DECEMBER 1999 AT BEDOK STADIUM

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My parliamentary colleagues, community leaders, ladies and gentlemen. A very good morning to you. It gives me great pleasure to be with you today to launch the Community Safety and Security Programme or CSSP in Marine Parade District and to unveil the new national CSSP tagline.

2. Some of you may be wondering what CSSP is all about and what its implementation in the Marine Parade community will mean for us? There may even be a few among us who fear that with CSSP, the Police and other Home Team agencies will take a back seat and expect residents to solve their own problems. Nothing can be further from the truth.

3. Indeed, with the implementation of CSSP, Home Team agencies will work hand in hand with community leaders to play a more proactive role in addressing the safety and security matters of our community. Instead of simply responding to accidents, fires and incidents of crime, the Home Team through CSSP, will strive to help neighbourhoods tackle the root causes of problems. I believe that CSSP will result in nothing less than the transformation of the Home Team officer to become an important partner in the community development process. The basic idea behind CSSP is to make safety and security a community responsibility – Our responsibility – rather than simply the responsibility of the professionals. Through CSSP, our Home Team officers will become catalysts in the process of community self-help, providing the resources, the training and the backup that will enable the community to solve its own problems.

4. Let me give you a few examples of how this model of community-oriented law enforcement has empowered our communities to solve their own problems. The Braddell Heights Zone 'B' Residents' Committee (RC) with the support of the Aljunied Neighbourhood Police Post, drew up and implemented an action plan to warn residents about unscrupulous contractors who pose as HDB-recommended contractors to solicit business from unsuspecting residents. The RC, RC volunteers and members of the Neighbourhood Watch Zone produced and distributed newsletters warning residents about such contractors. They even made home visits to ensure that all were aware of the problem. But without the implicit and explicit support of their Local NPP, their efforts would not have been as effective or may not even be implemented.

5. Another example of the kind of bottom-up initiatives that CSSP hopes to encourage comes from the Serangoon Civil Defence Executive Committee. Noting the recent spate of home accidents involving foreign domestic maids, the committee worked with the Singapore Civil Defence Force to devise a home safety training package for foreign maids. This training package would provide instruction on a wide range of home safety matters, including fire hazards, fire fighting, first aid, the proper use of the '995' and '999' emergency lines and crime prevention. I am glad to note that this training course for foreign maids will start on 11 December 1999.

6. To encourage more of such bottom-up initiatives from residents, I am glad to announce that the Marine Parade CDC will work with the Home Team to set up Community Watch Groups or CWGs in all 13 constituencies in the District. The CWGs will act as the "eyes and ears" of the local community to identify the safety and security concerns in their communities. Then, in collaboration with the Home Team, grassroots organisations and other relevant authorities, they will propose solutions to these concerns and monitor the implementation of those solutions that are adopted.

7. Already, the Mountbatten CWG has identified and dealt with road safety problems in the vicinity of Kong Hwa Primary School. The high volume of vehicular and human traffic after school posed a safety hazard to the students of Kong Hwa Primary School and road users. The CWG has been working closely with the officers from the Land Transport Authority, Mountbatten NPP and the Traffic Police. Their simple yet effective measures involved the conversion of Jalan Satu from one-way to two-way traffic, installation of a pedestrian crossing and mobilising teachers and parents serving as traffic wardens to regulate traffic. The Fengshan 'RC' 2 CWG was also similarly successful in enhancing road safety along an accident-prone road.

8. I am encouraged by the good start made by the CWGs and hope that you will be

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inspired by their success and embrace the CSSP. My parliamentary colleagues and I are also pleased to launch the national CSSP tagline that will guide CSSP efforts in all CDCs. The tagline: A Caring Community and Safe Homes captures the simple yet powerful idea that by encouraging citizens to care for their communities, we foster the sense of shared responsibility that is so vital for our community's safety and security.

9. Ladies and gentleman, it is now my pleasure to invite my parliamentary colleagues to join me to launch of the CSSP for Marine Parade District and the national CSSP tagline. Thank you.

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