



City of Surrey

Police Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Steele
Councillor Priddy
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt
Mayor McCallum

Absent:

Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Watts
Councillor Higginbotham

Staff Present:

City Manager
Superintendent F. MacRae, RCMP
Superintendent K. Gates, RCMP
Inspector Craig Callens, Surrey RCMP
City Solicitor
D. Jones, Manager, Officer of the Mayor & Council
J. Sherstone, Manager, By-law & Licensing Services
S. Palmer, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 23, 2004 Police Committee meeting to be adopted.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That the minutes of the November 23, 2004

Police Committee meeting be adopted.

Carried

B. BUSINESS ARISING

1. Letter dated January 6, 2005 from Linda Lytle, Registrar, College of Pharmacists

In response to request for meeting to discuss drug scheduling status of methamphetamine precursors.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That staff follow up with the College of

Pharmacists regarding the status of methamphetamine precursors.

Carried

2. False Alarm Reduction Strategy

At the November 23, 2004 Police Committee meeting, staff was directed to develop a detailed implementation strategy, subject to further discussion.

Superintendent MacRae provided copies of the “False Alarm Reduction Strategies” progress report. He noted that the report provides information relative to practices around False Alarm Reduction Strategies in Richmond, Ridge Meadows, Victoria, and Winnipeg and dialogues with insurance companies and the community. He advised that the RCMP would continue to explore False Alarm Reduction Strategies and report back to the Committee.

Superintendent Gates left the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent Gates returned to the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

1. Staffing

Superintendent MacRae commented that current staffing deliverables stands at 29 positions over and above current strength. He continued that overstaffing is a new marketing strategy utilizing as much of the budget as possible in anticipation of the additional 41 positions coming on April 1, 2005. He added that the RCMP can now move forward and staff positions ahead of the April 1, 2005 date.

2. Plainclothes Unit

Inspector Callens provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to the Plainclothes Unit. He noted that the chief strategy is to:

- achieve the types of outcomes the RCMP wants to achieve relative to crime reduction;
- provide some feedback as to what the unit looks like;
- comment on some of the strategies employed in investigational endeavors;
- provide year end statistics and plans for 2005; and
- provide discussion about what the RCMP wants to achieve with restructuring of the Plainclothes Unit.

He further commented that:

- The Plainclothes Unit works in areas of serious crime, robberies, sex crime/child abuse, property crime (two property crime teams dealing with auto theft and break and enters), general investigation, and economic crime.
- The Plainclothes Unit maintains a connection to the community and focuses on individuals who commit crimes.
- The RCMP moved to a model of 24 hours/7 days a week general investigation support to general duty officers to ensure concerns in the community are handled immediately.

- The Drug Section involves the Street Crew, Special Projects, and Marijuana Grow Operations Teams, to provide better focus in terms of priority setting.
- The Criminal Intelligence Unit provides a focus on human intelligence, maintaining a variety of dossiers on various criminal factors.
- These results are formulated and a probe team created.
- Case Management includes methodology for handling major cases such as homicides, drug trafficking; and provides leadership and team building.
- The team commander is responsible for the overall investigative effort, and controls the flow of information, on a daily basis.
- The File Coordinator ensures all necessary reports and disclosure documentation will be provided to the Courts relative to the case being monitored.

Councillor Priddy left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

A brief discussion then ensued with respect to strategies in meeting goals. The comment was made that RCMP Units are well positioned to monitor that focus and to concentrate efforts on investigating the more sophisticated organizations and/or individuals causing concern.

Councillor Priddy returned to the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

It was noted that a priority for the RCMP is to target grow operations and those individuals responsible for multiple grow operations within the city. The statement was made that big cities need to take a higher profile when dealing with this matter and the attendant gang related occurrences.

With respect to accountability issues, it was noted that there is cost sharing among detachments, as well as between the provincial and federal government levels (not including salaries). The question was then posed as to what percentage of cases get to court, and the response was that the numbers depend on the quality of the investigative practice. The comment was made that the regional Crown level of enforcement statistics as applied to Surrey cases, indicates that the city has a high level of success of prosecution.

Superintendent MacRae commented that CIS probe teams are the best in the Lower Mainland in dealing with public safety threats. He added that they are working with the Crown on any identified shortcomings.

3. 2004 Crime Stats

Superintendent MacRae reported on 2004 Crime Statistics and provided the following comments:

- There were a number of reductions in some crimes during the period May to December 2004.

- The four priorities in crime reduction as identified by Mayor and Council are Whalley, Grow Operations, Auto Theft, and Prostitution.
- There were 257 grow operations dismantled in 2004.
- The 2005 tactical priority objectives are:
 - Property crime – commercial and residential break and enters; auto theft
 - Street level drug activity
 - Youth
 - Prostitution

Councillor Villeneuve referenced a press release regarding the “Safe Community Initiative” funding available from the province. She asked if this type of funding could be allocated to meeting those 2005 priorities. The comment was made that the Integrated Task Force would have a positive impact in Surrey in terms of direct dollars and resources.

Discussion ensued with respect to the upcoming community forum on methamphetamines (February 8, 2005). It was noted that the District of Maple Ridge, Chambers of Commerce, RCMP Detachments, and Rotary Clubs have done a lot of good work in methamphetamine education and the provision of information as to where these drugs are being sold and distributed.

The Mayor requested that percentage figures be used in determining crime reduction goals. He cautioned that intensive police presence must continue in Whalley and that this area be included in the Surrey Detachment’s enforcement goals and objectives.

Superintendent MacRae gave assurances that Whalley would continue to be front and center in terms of where the issues lie and that police presence and emphasis would continue. He added that his commitment remains that Whalley is a required priority for the RCMP detachment.

Councillor Priddy then discussed a Health Canada drug initiative and asked if consideration had been given to submit a proposal from cities for harm reduction measures specific to prostitution and drugs. It was noted that there are a number of organizations vying for funding to deal with drug and prostitution issues. Councillor Priddy then suggested that a central repository be developed, indicating the organizations and their mandates in dealing with the matters of street outreach and drug projects.

Superintendent MacRae then commented that his expectation for the district offices and community police stations would be to provide strategies in dealing with these types of issues and articulating this to their stakeholders.

The suggestion was made to include homeless figures in the RCMP statistics. It was noted that a lack of daycare leads to problems with early learning and presents the need for funding. The comment was then made that if we get ahead of the game early with respect to early childhood education, there will be better outcomes in the future.

The suggestion was made to provide further information on community consulting and Superintendent MacRae commented that he would report back on this matter.

Councillor Bose asked how the detachment manages information and it was noted that Surrey RCMP has an Operations Command Center that runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, collecting and disseminating information.

D. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

A brochure regarding Level 1 CPTED Certificate Course being offered February 28 to March 4, 2005 by the City of Surrey and presented by LIAHONA Security Consortium Inc. was provided for information purposes.

The Manager, By-law & Licensing Services reported that the Level 1 CPTED Certificate course would take place February 28, 2005 at Suncreek Estates in Newton. He noted that 25 to 30 candidates are expected to attend and that Surrey would be sending six officers as part of the Crime Free Multi Family Housing program. He continued that the Level 2 course will draw attendees from across Canada and has been scheduled for April 2005 to be held in the Central City College training room. He added that the Crime Free Multi Family Housing program is working very well and has resulted in a reduction of calls and complaints.

F. NEXT MEETING

The next Police Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom. Please note a light lunch will be offered at 12:30 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Watts
That the meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Councillor Barbara Steele, Chair
Police Committee