



# City of Surrey

## Police Committee

### Minutes

REPLACEMENT PAGE

Executive Boardroom

City Hall

14245 - 56 Avenue

Surrey, B.C.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2004

Time: 1:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Chair: Councillor Tymoschuk  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Higginbotham  
Mayor McCallum

**Absent:**

Councillor Watts  
Councillor Priddy

**Staff Present:**

City Manager  
A/Commr. G. Forbes, Surrey RCMP  
Supt. K. Gates  
City Solicitor  
J. Sherstone, Manager, By-law & Licensing Services  
D. Jones, Manager, Officer of the Mayor & Council  
S. Palmer, Legislative Services

**Also Present:**

Constable T. Shields, Surrey RCMP  
Dr. E. Sopow, "E" Division Strategic Communications  
A. Wood, Liaison Clerk, Surrey RCMP  
B. Whiteford, "E" Division, Strategic Planning  
Inspector S. Boles, Surrey RCMP

The Chair advised that the agenda order would be varied, by consensus, placing Item B.4 at the end of the meeting.

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Police Committee - February 23, 2004**

The request was made that the minutes of the Police Committee meeting held February 23, 2004 be amended by deleting the third paragraph on page 8 of the minutes and inserting the following:

*"The City Manager commented that there is clearly a regional perspective that needs to be discussed in terms of dealing with drugs and crime, as part of an integrated initiative, to manage 'their displacement' from one area to another."*

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the minutes of the Police Committee meeting held February 23, 2004 be adopted, as amended.

Carried

**B. RCMP**

**1. Staffing**

A/Commr. Forbes stated that the target goal of having a full complement would be realized within 60 days and that commencing April 1, 2004 a contingency plan would be in place for additional resources to assist those members who have been performing double duty due to vacancies. He continued that of the requested 55 recruits, 35 have arrived and the remainder will be in Surrey by the end of May 2004.

He then noted that billing is often not reflective of the number of people on staff and is based on a percentage of hours worked. The comment was raised that in the past, a certain amount of budgeted dollars were allocated and under-spent, although it is expected that these dollars are to be spent for service provision.

The City Manager noted that as of May 1, 2004, all monies Council had budgeted for, pro-rated over seven months, would be fully spent. He added that there would be some savings, although much decreased, for the first five months of the calendar year within Surrey's budget cycle. He noted that the RCMP fiscal year is different as it runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year as opposed to Surrey's calendar fiscal year.

A/Commr. Forbes noted that they are working with Finance Department to look at steps to enhance available funding, and to develop a business plan that will deliver and enhance its service package.

The procedure for applying for additional staff members was then discussed and it was pointed out that such requests are submitted in letter form under the Mayor's signature to the Solicitor General. Discussion continued and the following comments were then provided:

- There is an agreement between the provincial government, the federal government and the RCMP, through the Solicitor General, which states formally and contractually the terms and provisions of RCMP services to B.C. cities.
- This contract states that the RCMP is required to fill staffing obligations within one year.
- This umbrella agreement has several operational, financial, and other arrangements for the City of Surrey (through the Solicitor General) with the RCMP administration regarding the provision of RCMP services to the City of Surrey.
- That the formal agreement with the parties expires approximately 2012.

The comment was made that Council allocates a certain amount of funding and it is Council's expectation that the monies be spent for service provision.

Councillor Higginbotham stated that overtime costs present a challenge because of the fact that overtime is used to compensate for the lack of officers; so the RCMP need to ensure they have all vacancies full.

## 2. Crime Trends

Supt. Gates provided the following comments:

- That the RCMP are continuing to deploy enhanced enforcement initiatives in Whalley.
- That the RCMP are working in conjunction with different agencies within the city and good results are being achieved.
- That there has been a definite reduction in crime in the Whalley/Skytrain/Central City areas.

Discussion ensued with the comment being made that successes occurring on the SkyTrain are also a result of the joint initiative between TransLink and RCMP. Supt. Gates noted that they have received many positive comments from citizens thanking RCMP members for being involved in making a significant and positive change to safety on the streets.

Mayor McCallum left the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

## 3. Community Policing

### (a) Communications

A/Commr. Forbes introduced Dr. Eli Sopow, "E" Division Strategic Communications, Constable Tim Shields, Communications Officer, Surrey RCMP, and Inspector Greg Callens.

Mayor McCallum returned to the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Inspector Callens then provided the following comments regarding auto theft programs:

- That the RCMP has undertaken prevention and education programs in the community around auto theft.
- That Hot Wheels 2 is an enforcement initiative which started in full force over the past six weeks.
- That as of March 22, 2004, four more members were added to assist in street level surveillance targeting repeat offenders, and secondary crimes that auto thieves are committing in conjunction with theft of vehicles, in order to realize more meaningful sentences in Court.
- That the Hot Wheels 2 program comprises 6 members from Surrey and 4 from IMPACT per shift.
- That preliminary discussions with Inspector Diak indicate a permanent team specific to the City of Surrey would be allocated within the next year in order to reduce auto theft numbers in a long term, sustainable fashion.

- That the number of auto thefts has risen slightly from last year.

Discussion then ensued regarding repeat offenders and the question was raised as to the availability of prevention services for these individuals in the way of counseling, education and other proactive measures to aid in turning their lives around.

Inspector Callens commented that there are a number of programs in existence and noted that the majority of auto theft suspects are not necessarily young offenders but adult repeat offenders. He continued that interdiction for youth before they enter into the cycle of substance abuse and/or theft is available through the School Liaison officer program, providing positive role models for youth, education around drug and alcohol use and abuse, and opportunities for engagement in positive activities.

Councillor Villeneuve commented that she had attended a Policing Conference where she learned that it is possible to tell which children will get into trouble as early as age 5 or 6. She added that these same children by the age of 13 or 14 are into the drug scene and by age 20 are in and out of jail. She continued that an interactive program at an earlier stage in these children's lives would avoid the longer-term problems which is destructive to their own and others' lives.

Inspector Callens then commented that when the RCMP come into contact with at-risk youth, the RCMP contacts the Ministry of Children and Family Development who will provide support.

The status of the Hot Wheels 2 and Bait Car programs were then discussed. The following comments were provided:

- That the Hot Wheels program has been in place in Surrey since December 2003.
- That the Bait Car program is expected to commence in April 2004 in Surrey.
- That training is currently underway for those members involved in the Bait Car program.

Discussion then turned to a recent increase in break and enters through garage doors inadvertently left open by residents. Constable Shields indicated that a number of arrests have been made and that the RCMP are continuing to investigate the situation. He noted that thieves are using stolen vehicles as transportation to break and enter locations and that the number of incidents is less than media had originally claimed.

A/Commr. Forbes then referenced a letter of appreciation he received regarding Constable Shields, noting some of the good work he has undertaken in working with the community.

Constable Shields then provided comments regarding RCMP communications:

- That there are strict guidelines surrounding how the RCMP requests assistance from or warns the public about dangerous crime trends.
- That the RCMP wants to profile certain accomplishments and good news stories.
- That as a result of media coverage in the Province newspapers, the public provided tips which assisted RCMP in investigating a recent hit and run incident.
- That high profile crimes tend to generate more media interest but the RCMP is obliged to warn the public about dangerous crimes, including car theft, in the name of public safety.
- That the RCMP receives regular media enquiries regarding incidents and at times are alerted to new incidents by the media.
- That Surrey has the third lowest drug crime rate in the Lower Mainland area, not the highest as recently reported in a local newspaper.
- That crime statistics increase as enforcement levels increase.
- That the RCMP likes to profile accomplishments such as the recent coverage of an RCMP (Police Dog Services) member catching four car thieves during one shift - this is positive media coverage.
- That the RCMP force is competent and keeping the community safe.
- That the addition of a part time civic employee (A. Wood) has greatly enabled the Communications Officer in performing research.
- That reference was made to a recent CTV news story in which Constable Marc Searle provided information on a positive initiative to train 1,000 youth in First Aid in memory of Pamela Cameron.
- That other examples of positive media coverage include the stories of off duty police members taking underprivileged kids to Canuck games and members of the Whalley Beat patrol providing free lunch to homeless people in the area.

Councillor Hunt entered the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

- That RCMP media releases are posted to the RCMP "E" Division website at [www.rcmp-bcmedia.ca](http://www.rcmp-bcmedia.ca).

Dr. Sopow then provided the following comments;

- That he is a Strategic Communications Analyst and part of an 8 person unit, funded by "E" Division.

- That they provide support to various RCMP detachments including Surrey.
- That they work on a regular part-time basis with the Surrey Detachment because of its size and case volume.
- That the unit provides ongoing work on strategic communications and research.
- That a year and a half ago, "E" Division conducted a survey in the Lower Mainland asking the public if they wish more information about crime in their community, particularly from police or were they satisfied with basic facts. The results indicated that the public wants as much detail as possible from police (74%) and the statistics were relatively even across four municipalities polled.
- That there is a 3% to 5% margin of error in how local police forces are providing that information.
- That residents in both North Vancouver and Richmond indicated they were receiving the right amount of information, but those in Vancouver and Surrey felt they could use more information.
- That Surrey is a fast growing, large and dynamic community and crime is growing in tandem with the population.
- That the public's need for more information and communications from the police and other agencies should be seen as a positive trend.
- That media relations programs are important because the majority of individuals get their information from the news media 90% of the time.
- That information received through the news media does not always change the public's opinion but can and does raise awareness.

Councillor Villeneuve raised the suggestion of using media coverage to alert the public about certain incidents such as an increase in property crime and provide ideas on how to prevent or reduce opportunities for such crimes, such as ensuring garage doors are closed and not leaving vehicles running in the driveway.

The comment was made that it is important to have proper media coverage of what is reality, then people would be more alert and make some contribution to crime prevention. The request was made that the RCMP provide a statistical review indicating changes in crime levels.

Constable Shields commented that the media has an extensive network and utilizes tips from individuals who are encouraged to phone in news stories for monetary rewards.

## **C. BY-LAWS/LEGAL**

**D. OUTSTANDING ITEMS****E. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

- 1. Letter dated February 19, 2004 from Judy Newbery, Administrative Assistant, City of Williams Lake Regarding Alternative Justice Program Funding**  
File: 1855-04; 0480-20

At the March 1, 2004 Regular Council meeting, Council passed the motion that the above letter be referred to the Police Committee for review.

It was  
Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Police Committee would  
recommend to Council that staff be instructed to review the effectiveness of the model and provide advice to Council.

Carried

At the Regular Council Public Hearing meeting held March 22, 2004, the following items were referred to the Police Committee:

- 2. Constable Marc Searle  
Community Liaison Officer  
South Surrey District - Surrey RCMP**  
File: 0630-02; 0550-20-10

Requesting to appear before Council regarding "Lifesaver 1000".

*"That the delegation request from Constable Marc Searle,  
Community Liaison Officer, South Surrey District, Surrey RCMP  
be referred to the Police Committee."*

It was  
Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That Constable Marc Searle, Community  
Liaison Officer, South Surrey District, Surrey RCMP, be heard as a delegation at  
the April 27, 2004 Police Committee meeting.

Carried

- 3. Karon Trenaman  
ICBC Loss Prevention - Surrey**  
File: 0410-20 ICBC; 0550-20-10

Requesting to appear before Council to make a presentation regarding the "Community Crash Reduction Challenge".

*"That the delegation request submitted by Karon Trenaman, ICBC Loss Prevention, Surrey be referred to the Police Committee."*

It was  
Prevention - Surrey be heard as a delegation at the April 27, 2004 Police Committee meeting.

Moved by Mayor McCallum  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That Karon Trenaman, ICBC Loss

Carried

#### **4. Exercise Equipment**

A/Commr. Forbes commented that some new exercise equipment financed out of Provincial funding has been installed at District Office 5, which houses some of the RCMP's provincial contingent on a cost-sharing ratio. He added that this was a good example of partnering and further funding from the province may be provided towards more exercise equipment.

At 2:01 p.m., the request was made to hold the meeting in a "closed session".

It was  
Committee-of-the-Whole meeting in accordance with Section 90(1) (f), (g) and (i) of the *Community Charter*.

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham  
That the meeting proceed to an "in-camera"

Carried

#### **B. RCMP (continued)**

##### **4. Draft Strategic Plan**

Discussion ensued with respect to the draft Strategic Plan. The Chair requested that Council members provide comments and changes and noted that the modified Strategic Plan would be provided to the April 27, 2004 Police Committee meeting.

#### **F. NEXT MEETING**

The next Police Committee meeting has been scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom. Note: A light lunch will be provided in the Executive Boardroom at 12:30 p.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the meeting do now adjourn.  
Carried

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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Chair: Councillor G. Tymoschuk