



City of Surrey

Police Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

Staff Present:

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

Also Present:

Inspector S. Boles
Inspector A. Virk
Constable M. Searle
B. Moy
K. Trenaman, Loss Prevention, ICBC
E. Shevetta, ICBC

A. INTRODUCTIONS

A/Commr. Forbes introduced Assistant OIC - Surrey Detachment, Fraser MacRae to the Police Committee members.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Police Committee Minutes - March 23, 2004

It was moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Watts
That the minutes of the Police Committee
meeting held on March 23, 2004, be adopted.
Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Karon Trenaman, ICBC Loss Prevention - Surrey

Karon Trenaman, ICBC Loss Prevention, Surrey was in attendance to present the "Community Crash Reduction Challenge".

Karon Trenaman provided the following comments:

- The Community Crash Reduction Challenge (The Challenge) provides participating communities throughout B.C. an opportunity to help reduce crashes and road-related harm and compete for prizes.
- There are 165 municipalities throughout B.C. invited to take part.
- In an average year in B.C., over a quarter million crash incidents are reported to ICBC.
- Car crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for youth in B.C.
- The five year average for Surrey indicates 2,488 citizens crashing and the goal for Surrey is to beat that average and achieve the biggest reduction in car crashes in 2004.
- The Challenge will take place over a 23-day period, May 5 to May 27, 2004.
- Communities may participate by registering through a Proclamation or signing a letter of endorsement on behalf of the community.
- Proclamation or endorsement is then sent to the ICBC regional loss prevention representative.
- Municipalities may also issue a friendly bet to another community in their category and after the Challenge results are tabulated, whoever reduced crashes by the greatest percentage beyond their Crash Prediction, wins.
- Individuals can also participate by taking a pledge to drive safely and be eligible to win prizes. Visit the Official Challenge Website at www.icbc.com.
- Schools, community groups, businesses, clubs and organizations can get involved by issuing challenges to schools, groups or branch offices in other communities.
- On a typical day in B.C. there is a car crash every two minutes and someone is injured every seven minutes.
- Registered communities in each prize category that show the greatest reduction in crashes can win a road safety grant based on population.
- Residents will become more aware of the risks of driving and how to prevent crashes, creating a safer environment for all road users.
- The winning community will receive recognition for their achievements in media announcements and inclusion in related websites, signage, flags or banners.

Councillor Higginbotham entered the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Discussion:

The suggestion was raised that an estimate on health care costs be provided relative to the numbers of those injured in car crashes and also, to provide a presentation to the Surrey School Board.

It was Moved by Councillor Priddy
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That the Police Committee recommends that
Karon Trenamon, ICBC, provide a presentation on the Community Crash
Reduction Challenge at the May 3, 2004 Regular Council meeting and that
Council accept The Challenge.

Carried

2. Constable Marc Searle - 1000 Lifesaver Program

Constable Marc Searle and Bonnie Moy were in attendance to provide an overview of the "Lifesaver 1000 Program".

Constable Searle provided the following comments:

- The objective of the "Lifesaver 1000 Program" is to encourage youth to play an active role in a safer community and empower them with the first aid skills to save a life to help in ensuring the safety of all residents of safety.
- St. John's Ambulance, CIBC Children Miracle Funds, RCMP, Federal Fishery Officers, B.C. Conservation Officers, Canada Customs, Transit Police, By-law & Licensing Services, Fire Services, United Nations Peace Keeper Sgt. Mullick, Canadian Forces, and B.C. Ambulance are a few of those individuals/organizations that have provided support through funding or loaned resources, and has resulted in increased communication inter-agency.
- Pamela Cameron was murdered on October 4, 1994 in this community and the circumstances surrounding her death included witnesses observing criminal acts involving the perpetrator of her murder prior to her death and did not call 911.
- This youth initiative, in memory of Pamela Cameron, will involve training over 1,000 youth in first aid, stressing the importance of calling emergency services and/or 911 when faced with any incident of concern.
- On May 28, 2004, the largest first aid class in the world be will held at Pamela Cameron's High School (Semiahoo Senior Secondary) and invitations have been extended to Council and other officials to attend.
- This story has gone nation-wide on CTV News and Surrey has led the way.

Bonnie Moy, friend of Cameron family, was in attendance and provided the following comments:

- She is a real estate agent and had sold the Cameron family their home in South Surrey.
- The Realty Watch program uses a pager system to notify real estate agents to be on the lookout for specifics, such as vehicles, persons of interest, etc., when there has been a report of a missing person.
- The 1000 Lifesaver Program is a good idea and will provide first aid training to 1,000 youths, providing one more tool they can use the rest of their lives.

Discussion:

The Chair noted that Mayor McCallum read the "1000 Lifesaver Program" proclamation at the Regular Council meeting held April 26, 2004.

The comment was made that in Washington State, students must have a first aid certificate in order to graduate.

A/Commr. Forbes commented that Constable Searle will be awarded the prestigious B.C. Achievement Foundation Award on May 4, 2004. He noted that he is the only police officer from the 30 chosen from British Columbia.

Constable Searle and B. Moy left the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

D. RCMP

1. Staffing

A/Commr. Forbes stated that staffing levels are 4 positions away from full strength and it is anticipated that staffing will be at capacity by the end of May 2004. He added that currently, there are 487 officers in total.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the RCMP advised that the actual number of officers totals 491.

2. Crime Trends

Supt. Gates provided the following comments with respect to crime trends:

- Continuing success is being met with both the SkyTrain and 135A Street projects.
- SkyTrain police have been provided with authority to make arrests, which will have a positive effect along the SkyTrain.
- There has been an increase in the trend toward meth amphetamine use in the Lower Mainland and increasingly popular in the USA.
- Several searches recently resulted in substantial seizures and seven persons charged.
- The philosophy around uniformed response is changing to use intelligence gathered in relation to crimes occurring and focus on resources in those areas to be as effective as possible.
- A look at projected growth areas in Surrey will take place and a plan implemented to strategically provide resource concentrations where necessary and as available.
- A special strike team has been struck to develop crime reduction strategies.

- Increases in charges will result from increased enforcement in certain areas, in particular two strategies: municipal response to crime strategy (normal 911 and an initiative dealing with crime reduction, focusing on root causes, and going after repeat offenders on a continuous basis.

Discussion ensued with respect to the Drug Court in Vancouver and the question was raised as to the status of the project. It was noted that there was no information to share at this point in time, but that the Attorney General's office would provide a report at the end of 2005.

The Mayor commented that there are other cities utilizing Drug Courts and could provide information, at least in the short term.

A/Commr. Forbes stated that Criminal Operations Officer Gary Bass has agreed to speak to various Municipal Councils regarding organized crime in communities and will be providing a presentation on June 10, 2004. He added he would provide further information on this forum.

Grow Operations:

A/Commr. Forbes noted that there has been a tremendous effort to reduce grow operations in the city and that the RCMP would be releasing some information re-emphasizing the activities taking place in that respect and a zero tolerance for such activities.

Councillor Villeneuve referenced a film relative to the city of Dublin, Ireland and how grow operations were reduced through changes in legislation.

Discussion ensued with respect to the proceeds of crime and whether those monies were being returned to the City of Surrey. A/Commr. Forbes noted a UBCM resolution coming forward on that subject and added that through legislation, defense lawyers have access to forfeited money to provide service to defendant(s). He added he would have further information to provide the Police Committee at the next meeting. Councillor Higginbotham noted that a similar resolution is being heard at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities also.

Councillor Priddy left the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

The comment was then made that the B.C. Solicitor General is drafting legislation based on the same premise as income tax evasion and the onus will be placed on the person arrested to prove the monies were gained legally.

Councillor Priddy returned to the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

3. Community Policing

A/Commr. Forbes stated that Inspector Virk has been assigned to the role of operational support to emphasize RCMP crime reduction strategies.

Inspector Virk provided the following comments:

- There are currently 60 auxiliary members on board and it is hoped to raise those levels to 200.
- Auxiliary officers would be utilized in bike patrols and to complement existing staff in targeting the youth community.
- Teams would be built with a youth initiative focus to work with youth at an early age.
- Diversity would be reflective in auxiliary officer hiring practices and work is ongoing with departmental staffing to bring people back with experience.
- The dedicated youth team would provide services beyond the current school liaison program by attending gathering places and these teams would be in place in the near future.

Councillor Priddy made the suggestion that the media be involved in initiatives to publicize this project to the community as a whole before summer.

Inspector Virk left the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

A/Commr. Forbes announced that May 12, 2004 is the Annual Police Honours Night and that he would be honoured to see as many members of Council in attendance as possible.

4. Update on Guildford/Fleetwood/Fraser Heights Community Policing Offices

Inspector Boles commented that the RCMP is proceeding with the new District Office 2 building on 148 Street and 104 Avenue which should be completed by November 2004. He added that storefront offices at Highway 1 and 105 as well as Fleetwood Community Centre at 84 Avenue and 160 Street would be opened with one community liaison police officer and volunteer support staff at each location.

E. BY-LAWS/LEGAL

F. OUTSTANDING ITEMS

1. Draft Strategic Plan

Inspector Boles provided the following comments relative to the draft Strategic Plan:

- RCMP are in the process of defining strategies to deal with specific issues identified.

- The final draft version of the Strategic Plan for 2005/2006 would be provided to the next Police Committee meeting for review.
- Priorities will focus on developing working partnerships.
- It is hoped to establish 4 or 5 community consultation groups within each town center to solicit the public's contribution and assistance in developing strategies for 2005/2006 for each district.

2. Restorative Justice Program

File: 1855-04; 0480-20

Memo from City Manager dated April 19, 2004 regarding Restorative Justice programs.

Note: At the March 23, 2004 Police Committee meeting, a letter from the City of Williams Lake regarding Alternative Justice Program funding was referred to staff to review the effectiveness of the model and provide advice to Council.

Councillor Watts commented that the Joint Family Court Committee is also dealing with the Restorative Justice Program. It was noted that the Youth Justice Program is not up and running as of yet, however there is one running in North Vancouver, Maple Ridge, and Williams Lake. It was noted that the Province has not provided funding for Restorative Justice Programs.

It was added that the RCMP has taken the lead on Restorative Justice programs and youth justice programs for first offenders with a high rate of success.

The comment was made that Prince George has a Restorative Justice Program with a successful court watch program.

The following points were raised:

- This initiative could be included in the strategic plan for social systems; the notion of city involvement through a business case on delivery of social programs.
- This could be an example of reducing recidivism by taking crime away from the state and making it a victim's crime.
- There are funding problems.
- The Joint Family Court Committee is in the process of pulling together a youth justice program whereby first offenders are referred by the judge to other programs.
- Youth intervention takes place before charges are laid (300 such cases have taken place in Surrey).
- Community involvement and mentorship is required to assist young offenders.

Councillor Priddy asked for further discussion relative to aboriginal healing circles and how it differs from restorative justice. The comment was made that the Justice Institute offers training in restorative justice.

G. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Dogs and Pets in Police Stations

It was noted that dogs and other pets are no longer allowed in police stations due to associated safety and health risks (i.e. allergies) to employees, officers, and the general public.

H. NEXT MEETING

The next Police Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom. Note: A light lunch will be provided at 12:30 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the Police Committee meeting do now

adjourn.

Carried

The Police Committee adjourned at 2:36 p.m..

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson: Councillor G. Tymoschuk
Police Committee