

Police Committee Minutes

Chair:

Mayor Watts

Present:Councillor Hayne
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Martin
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Steele**Absent:**

Councillor Villeneuve

Staff Present:Superintendent, OIC Surrey RCMP
City Manager
City Clerk
Fire Chief**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES****1. Police Committee - March 17, 2014**

It was Moved by Councillor Hayne
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the minutes of the Police Committee
meeting held on March 17, 2014, be adopted.
Carried

2. Community Safety Committee – February 26, 2014

It was Moved by Councillor Hepner
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the minutes of the Community Safety
Committee meeting held on February 26, 2014, be received.
Carried

Before the Committee moved into the Committee Report section the Chair clarified the reason for requesting that the April 7, 2014 meeting be rescheduled to today was due to the passing of her Mother.

B. NEW BUSINESS**C. COMMITTEE REPORTS****OIC SURREY RCMP DETACHMENT****Item No. P005 RCMP Operational Review and Mayor's Task Force Update**

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC explained that an external Operational Review on the Surrey RCMP Detachment is being undertaken and began in July of 2013.

The external review that was and is underway: has reviewed and is evaluating:

1. Surrey Detachment operations;
2. Public safety surveys;
3. Analysis of the Continuous Improvement Committee's work;
4. Analysis of the Crime Reduction Strategy and service delivery;
5. Police car crashes; and
6. Automated License Plate Recognition technology.

While this review was underway, there was a spike in homicides and in response; Mayor Watts called for the formation of Task Force with the following mandate:

1. to identify the root causes of homicide in the city;
2. design and implement multi-pronged tactics and strategies to address the root causes; and
3. to establish partnerships and policies to reduce the likelihood of future spikes.

The Mayor's Task Force included stakeholders from the City of Surrey, the Surrey RCMP, the RCMP "E" Division, and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, Transit Police, Surrey Fire Services, Surrey By-Law, Surrey School District, and an Academic from the University of the Fraser Valley. Three outcomes of the Task Force were the High Risk Location (HRL) initiative and two academic reports examining the socio-economic contributors to homicide.

Operational results included:

1. 250 Arrests;
2. 17 Search Warrants;
3. 1500 Street checks;
4. 1000 Vehicle checks;
5. A myriad of seizures including heroin, cocaine, methadone, guns and cash; and
6. Importantly, a shared database between the RCMP, City Fire and Bylaws Departments of high risk locations.

Further comments made by the OIC:

- A new Nuisance Bylaw was introduced to assist with the program.
- It was noted that with a more visible Police presence, more calls were received and dispatched.
- In the same timeframe of 2013 there were 11 murders vs this year, 2014 there has been 1 murder.
- The Detachment is finding efficiencies and restructuring accordingly.
- An ongoing examination of PRIME's workflow and the feasibility of a telephone reporting team using members on leaves (medical or other) with the new model including more visible policing, can realize savings of \$1.3m.
- The School District is pleased with the new mandate for the Youth Unit.
- The Crime Reduction Unit is working well.
- Changes to the members' shifts have been implemented. This change aligns members on duty with calls for service.
- Healthcare modernization has saved a lot of money. Formerly members were provided Federal coverage which resulted in members' fees being charged at non-resident rates. This has been changed so that members' working, residing in BC, are now charged as residents.

- Members in civilian work are transferred to the municipalities allowing a police officer to be assigned to the position putting more officers.
- Severance pay is now a negotiated item.
- Pay and benefits are now consolidated as a shared service with central accounting.
- Efficiency reviews are underway on OT, fleet, travel and kit.

Further comments:

- New Nuisance Bylaw is effective, no matter Police, Fire or Bylaws called it was put into the database and then the owner contacted; this identified the problem properties and they are dealt with sooner and at the same time;
- Calls are triaged by the agency called, if it is Police and assessed that it should go to Fire it is re-routed and for each agency, visa-versa;
- The benefits of “Real-time” Crime-Mapping for the public was discussed being so the neighbours get to see the problem properties and could be pro-active and engaged in the solution, however caution must be given- the threat of malicious, public mischief toward a neighbour must be considered. The added benefit of investigation would assist on understanding the alleged issue and history;
- Will use Dr Cohen’s report to move forward with evidence based analysis to examine priority calls and proactive, evidence based deployment;

The Fire Chief introduced the CCTV Strategy which is being created to look to move forward and to build efficiencies with our current system. The genesis for this strategy started in 2005 with a trip to the UK looking at their Crime Reduction Strategy and their recommendations for use of CCTV in this manner. Privacy laws differ greatly between countries however there were a lot of value in what was shown.

Moving forward, the idea of technology to address monitoring so many screens of information and the promise of smart technology was the catalyst for reviewing and analyzing what would be possible. City of Surrey has 200 cameras in operation. IBM Smart Cities brought forward technologies being used for this purpose and it was recommended that the City attend some of the Cities that are currently using their technology to see what could be brought to the City. Several cities were recommended globally, but to keep cost down it was decided to go to the two recommended in the US – Chicago and New York. Arrangements were being made however the Chicago system was not available for viewing and IBM suggested Puerto Rico who are using a variety of hardware of interest and are a similar sized City so would be of interest to the City. The Mayor, OIC, Fire Chief, GM Engineering and two academics from the University of the Fraser Valley attended.

The Fire Chief noted that it was somewhat disappointing where the technology is presently at, however at the rate it is being developed and improved it is well worth keeping abreast of. As privacy is very different in the US, UK and Canada we have a ways to go in our strategy and will need more consultation with the public and Council approval before an operational plan could be developed and implemented.

Comments made:

- This review was under the umbrella of the “Smart Cities” initiative from the fall;
- This initiative is separate from the Real Time Intelligence Centre that was reported on at an earlier Police Committee; the RCMP did go down and review however

their purpose was different they were reviewing real-time intelligence, real-time policing and not looking at the CCTV piece.

- Looking at leveraging integrated traffic systems, CCTV using 230 real-time cameras whereby with a 911 dispatch call cameras can be re-aligned to view situation at a crime scene, we are not there yet.
- Agenda documents need to be circulated in a more timely manner;
- Clarification was requested on numbers of RCMP members to increase last year in Financial Plan. OIC clarified that the numbers were adjusted by Division Administration changes with administrative members transferring over to be City staff. RCMP financial year is April to April so have a good sense on where we are at, and where efficiency can be more precise;
- The HRL is part of the RCMP review as the Mayor's Task Force was broader in scope.
- When the RCMP 360 is complete some of the detail may be released to the community;
- A chronology of ongoing reviews at the RCMP, Dr Cohen's work, HRL - when the work started and the components of the Mayor's Task Force was requested;
- There was a report on the Mayor's Task Force components on the Police Committee agenda earlier this year that could be provided;
- The "shared data" referred to multiple calls to specific locations which were scored and then this data was shared between the RCMP, Bylaws Department and the Fire Department. After 3 calls, albeit Fire, Bylaws or Police, the owner was contacted, which flushed out the problematic properties and they were dealt with sooner by all agencies at the same time;
- Whichever agency is called takes the information, clarifies facts then triages the call to the appropriate authority;
- Real time crime mapping should be available to the public so they may engage in solutions although it was noted that as a rule, the neighbours are the first to be aware of a "problematic" property as they are the ones that usually report it;
- Concern was expressed on how soon the data goes into the system as the complaint may be vexatious and unfounded and it was noted that the complaints are always vetted, verified and discussed as a team before a response is undertaken.

It was

Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the Surrey RCMP Detachment

recommends that:

1. the Police Committee receives report - P005 as information; and
2. that they recommend to City Council that, upon completion of Dr. Irwin Cohen's RCMP Operational Review, they endorse the proposed increase of 95 members to the RCMP establishment within the 5 year Capital Budget Plan, as directed by Council during the budget process; and
3. Approve the development of a comparable crime data set in the City's Open Data Plan catalogue to be published monthly, as described in the report.

Carried

Item No. Poo6 Community Safety Officer Program and Tiered Policing Update

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC reviewed the Committee report and commented that the Community Safety Officer (CSO) program is in transition, it is not a loss of manpower or loss of the intent of the original program in the City. The transition will allow the Police to be better positioned to address issues. Clearly more Police Officers are wanted on the street. Bike patrols have been re-instated, the CSO's will become Community Constables and in this new position they will fulfill the same job, keep their focus on the community, maintain the relationships, however in a significant event they are trained, armed and have the power of arrest. The OIC can assign these positions as required. The former CSO's must attend 21 week training course and in this transition the RCMP are looking to bridge with a Community Safety Patrol (CSP).

The CSP program would be a 36 week pilot based on citizen contact including businesses, customers and service users from local Rec Centres, transit areas etc. The program will be evaluated to determine the impact with respect to crime reduction, client satisfaction and community perception based on consultation with the community and Police Managers.

Comments Made:

- Qualifications for the Community Constables (CC) may be too high and they are more like regular Members so they would be called away and not fulfill the community mandate;
- Concern was expressed with using Commissionaires and possibly would make more sense to use the Auxiliary Officers or a tiered program with Bylaw officers;
- Commissionaires are well respected and have a long term relationship working with Police;
- Concern was expressed with ads run by the Commissionaires, a job description without sign off by the City, and how this was initiated;
- Clarification was made that the RCMP has met on several occasions with the Commissionaires to see if they could be a viable option during transition period of the CSO to CC and was to bring forward the recommendation to the last Police Committee that was re-scheduled due to the unfortunate passing of the Mayors Mother.
- The RCMP will fund the cost of training of the CSO's and discussions are underway on funding their salary during this transition.
- There is a 5 week difference in training for a regular constable over a community constable; the CC training focus is on community and crime prevention programs.
- The CSP will take orders from the RCMP District Offices;
- When the numbers of Community Constables grow as proposed, some may come from outside of the lower mainland as they are classed as regular RCMP members and would be recruited as such.
- Training for the current CSO's may be this fall;

It was
Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Hayne
That the Surrey RCMP Detachment

recommends that the Police Committee:

1. receive this report as information;
2. Support an enhanced service delivery option, namely the Community Constable (CC), for an armed uniform delivery model that would function similar to the original intent of the CSO program;
3. Direct City staff to enter into a contract with the BC Commissionaires to conduct a 36 week Community Safety Patrol pilot project, with 10 Community Safety Patrol Personnel for 2014;
4. Recommend that Council set the expenditure authorization at \$554,400.00, excluding taxes; and
5. Further consider increasing the total number of Community Safety Patrol Personnel to 20 in 2015.

Carried with Councillor Rasode opposed

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Update – Recovery Houses

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC was in Victoria and met with various Government Officials with regard to Recovery Houses in Surrey yesterday. The correlation of crime in the area with the residents is an issue, cataloguing these houses, licensed and un-licensed is challenging. All of the agencies need to work together to address the myriad of issues that arise with many of the Recovery houses. All present were very supportive of working together in this regard and further meetings are planned to work on solutions together.

Comments made:

- There is a relationship between crime and broader social issues which are complex and interconnected; these root causes are what must be addressed to reduce crime in the City;
- Policy for reporting crimes to Council seems to have changed possibly through the new Police contract, clarification was sought however there were no changes noted. The OIC reports come to the Mayor or delegate which is the City Manager.
- Both a recent attack on a senior citizen, and the cell phone thefts appeared on Facebook before Councillors were informed. It was suggested that the RCMP share their information with regard to crimes happening with the public more openly and faster.
- A discussion on the chronology of the evolution of the Police Committee to the Public Safety committee and then its split into the Police committee and Community Safety committees last year.
- It was requested that the Police Committee be held in the Council Chambers and be streamed to the public and that they be held when the public can attend.

F. NEXT MEETING

The next Police Committee meeting is set for 10:30 am on May 5, 2014.

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hepner

Seconded by Councillor Hayne

That the Police Committee meeting do now

adjourn.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Mayor Watts, Chairperson