

NO:

COUNCIL DATE:

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 6, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Community Services  
General Manager, Corporate Services  
General Manager, Finance**

FILE: **7400-01**

SUBJECT: **Maintaining the RCMP as the Police of Jurisdiction – Progress Report**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

The Community Services Department, the Corporate Services Department and the Finance Department recommend that Council receive this report for information.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a progress report regarding Council's decision to maintain the RCMP as the Police of Jurisdiction ("POJ") in Surrey.

## BACKGROUND

In November 2018, the transition of the City's policing model from the RCMP to an independent municipal police service was initiated by Council motion.

On November 14, 2022, Council directed staff to prepare a plan, to be endorsed by Council, to maintain the RCMP as the POJ.

On December 12, 2022, Council endorsed *Policing Surrey: A Plan to Retain the RCMP as the Police of Jurisdiction in Surrey* (the "Plan"), that was subsequently forwarded to the Minister of Public Safety (the "Minister") on December 15, 2022. The RCMP restaffing plan was included in the City's December 15, 2023 submission.

On April 28, 2023, the Province publicly released a redacted version of the *City of Surrey's Police Model Transition and Decision to Retain the RCMP: Director of Police Services' Report to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General* (the "Director's Report"), attached as Appendix "I". On May 23, 2023, a minimally redacted version of the Director's Report was made available to Council and select staff, contingent on signing a Confidentiality Agreement. The Director's Report outlined a number of binding conditions the City must meet in order to maintain the RCMP as the POJ.

On June 15, 2023, the Mayor announced the decision of Council to maintain the RCMP as POJ in Surrey following consideration of a confidential report prepared by staff. On June 19, 2023, following Council direction, staff's confidential report was forwarded to the Province for review.

Staff are currently working with all parties to prepare a redacted version of the confidential report, which contains highly sensitive police information, for public release. The redacted version will be released publicly once available.

## DISCUSSION

As of July 2023, the RCMP will provide the City with a monthly update to the restaffing plan. The July 2023 update is attached as Appendix "II" and is based on the RCMP's own information and analysis and has been provided by the RCMP to the City for public release. Key elements of the July 2023 update include:

- Updated figures and additional details regarding the RCMP's plan to re-staff the Surrey RCMP;
- Confirmation that the plan has been approved by the Commanding Officer, "E" Division;
- A structured cadence for the onboarding of SPS Officers and recruits, RCMP cadets, and other experienced police officers over an 18-month period;
- An update on the number of total projected hires of 232 through the restaffing plan; and
- A July 2023 staffing update confirming that the following individuals are in process as part of the restaffing plan:
  - 8 RCMP cadets - joining Surrey detachment by August 2023;
  - 15 SPS Officers - currently in the hiring process, or hired;
  - 2 experienced police officers ("EPO") - transferring to the Surrey RCMP; and
  - 81 SPS Officers - indicating they will join the RCMP.

The Surrey RCMP is the POJ in Surrey. Beyond core policing duties, the RCMP continue to provide a variety of community safety activities which have together led to a reduction of the crime rate in Surrey for the last ten years. Appendix "III" provides a *Surrey Police Operations and Activities Update*. Appendix "IV" provides an update on the *Surrey RCMP Public Safety Programs and Partnerships*.

Given Council's direction to maintain the RCMP as the POJ in Surrey, staff have developed and implemented plans to support Council's direction. Staff prepare weekly status reports outlining the progress made to date to ensure compliance with the Minister's binding conditions. The most recent update from July 6, 2023, is attached as Appendix "V". Key elements of the July 6, 2023, update include confirmation that:

- The two required RCMP staff resources to provide support to the project have been appointed;
- An updated RCMP restaffing plan complying with the binding requirements has been provided to the City;
- The binding requirement for the City to provide an Individualized HR Plans for Surrey Police Service members falls outside the authority of the City and requires an adapted process to allow the City to comply with the binding requirement; and
- Staff continue to advocate for the creation of a collaborative process with the Province to move forward on Council direction.

## Finance Review

The Finance Department has reviewed this report. The RCMP restaffing plan is in alignment with the adopted City of Surrey 2023 – 2027 Five Year Financial Plan.

## Legal Services Review

Legal Services has reviewed this report.

## CONCLUSION

Following the release of the Director’s Report and Council’s confirmation to maintain the RCMP as POJ in Surrey, staff have developed and implemented plans to support Council’s decision and satisfy the Minister’s binding conditions. The RCMP provides the City with monthly updates to their restaffing plan and staff prepare a weekly progress report outlining the progress made to date to maintain the RCMP as the POJ in Surrey.

Terry Waterhouse  
General Manager, Community Services

Rob Costanzo  
General Manager, Corporate Services

Kam Grewal  
General Manager, Finance

Appendix “I”: *City of Surrey’s Police Model Transition and Decision to Retain the RCMP: Director of Police Services’ Report to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General*

Appendix “II”: RCMP Updated Restaffing Plan - July 2023

Appendix “III”: Surrey RCMP Police Operations and Activities Update

Appendix “IV”: Surrey RCMP Public Safety Programs and Partnerships

Appendix “V”: City of Surrey Weekly Status Report - July 6, 2023