



Corporate Report

NO.: R112

COUNCIL DATE: May 26, 2003

REGULAR

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: May 13, 2003

FROM: **Fire Chief**

FILE: 2240-20

SUBJECT: **Responders Indemnity Agreement**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the Fire Chief on behalf of the City to enter into the *First Responder Indemnity Agreement* with the Emergency Health Services Commission.

BACKGROUND

Since the inception of the First Responder Program, the City of Surrey has provided emergency health care at the request of the Emergency Health Services medical dispatch system. In 1992-93, the *First Responder Indemnity Agreement* became available but this opportunity was not well publicized. The Fire Service is now aware of this opportunity and is bringing it forward for Council's consideration.

DISCUSSION

The *First Responder Indemnity Agreement* is a contractual transfer of risk in exchange for providing a service to the Emergency Health Services Commission. In the event that a First Responder is alleged to be negligent in the provision of emergency health care, the Commission shall defend, on the behalf of the City of Surrey and its employees, any action, even if the action is founded groundless, false or fraudulent. This agreement provides protection to the City by reducing staff time, legal research time and potential financial expense at no additional cost to the City of Surrey.

The City's Solicitor has reviewed the agreement and concurs this recommendation.

CONCLUSION

The *First Responder Indemnity Agreement* significantly reduces exposure for the City of Surrey. This agreement clearly defines the role of the Emergency Health Services Commission to defend the City in the event of any action in negligence is threatened or brought forward.

LG/jc

Len Garis
Fire Chief