

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION INDEX
Wednesday, November 22, 2023**

NOTE: The following recommendation was rescinded at subsequent meeting on January 24, 2024. Council is not requested to consider this recommendation.

- 1. City Grants to the Surrey Crime Prevention Society**



Public Safety Committee Minutes

2E - Community Room A
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023
Time: 6:04 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Stutt, Chair
Councillor Kooner, Vice Chair
P. McEvoy
P. Richards
R. Rai
S. Dooley

Absent:

Staff Present:

T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Community Services
P. Sanderson, Manager, Strategic Planning & Responses
B. Aasebo, Community Safety Manager, Community Services
J. Tokaryk, Community Safety Coordinator, Community Services
P. Thiara, Community Safety Coordinator, Community Services
S. Sidhu, Community Safety Coordinator, Community Services
J. Cairney, Deputy Chief, Surrey Fire Services
A. Ordeman, Police Support Services Director, Community Services
S. Lee, Administrative Assistant
J. Sung, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

K. Sidhu, Executive Director, Surrey Crime Prevention Society
K. Toor, President, KidsPlay Youth Foundation
A. Gopal, Director of Mental Health Programs, KidsPlay Youth Foundation
S. Gill, Chief Superintendent, Surrey RCMP

A. ADOPTIONS

1. Adoption of the Agenda

It was Moved by P. McEvoy
Seconded by P. Richards
That the agenda of the Public Safety Committee
meeting of November 22, 2023 be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – October 25, 2023

It was Moved by P. McEvoy
Seconded by Councillor Kooner
That the minutes of the Public Safety Committee
meeting held on October 25, 2023 be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Karen Reid Sidhu, Executive Director, Surrey Crime Prevention Society (SCPS)**

The delegation provided a presentation regarding *2022 Community Safety Program Deliverables in Surrey*. The following information was highlighted:

- SCPS started in 1984 and rebranded in 2012 to focus on community safety. In the past 11 years they have had 5000 youth volunteers contributing over 300,000 hours in enhancing community safety. Using Volunteer BC's in-kind value per hour at \$31.87 per hour, SCPS volunteer hours equate to 9.5 million dollars over the past 11 years.
- SCPS offers unique and diverse community safety programs five days a week. Over 90% of the volunteers speak multiple languages. 35% of volunteers are international students that are learning about public safety and giving back to the community. Volunteers receive training from SCPS and community partners. The volunteering experience influences their personal and professional development, with over 700 volunteers going into public service over the life of the program to date.
- SCPS works with community partners, City of Surrey, police agencies, ICBC, Transit police, Surrey schools, vulnerable youths, and telecommunication companies. SCPS volunteers have contributed to stolen vehicles recovery, emergency service calls, traffic safety, graffiti removal, youth mentorship, and public awareness campaigns.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation advised that SCPS recruits volunteers from college and university by emailing professors or by word of mouth.

2. Kiran Toor, President and Akanksha Gopal, Director of Mental Health Programs, KidsPlay Youth Foundation

The delegation provided a presentation regarding *Youth Programs - Providing Opportunities for Youth to Thrive*. The following information was highlighted:

- The delegation provided several examples of youth counselling service and emotional support by KidsPlay and advised that there is an urgency for further financial support especially for prevention of unhealthy and unsafe choices by youth.
- KidsPlay began their mentorship program in 2016 in Whalley and has supported over 750 vulnerable youths. Youths that joined the program gained confidence, which enabled them to return to the organization to give back to their community.
- KidsPlay needs more resources to continue doing their work and provide more counselling services. The City could provide more resources to help support the vulnerable youth population.

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- Any youths that seek assistance are accepted into KidsPlay program. The program is not limited to case referrals from Surrey schools as they consider all youths are potentially vulnerable.
- KidsPlay is supported by community donations, corporate funding, and grants from the provincial government.

The committee recessed at 6:55 p.m. and resumed at 6:59 p.m.

3. Shawn Gill, Chief Superintendent, Surrey RCMP

The delegation provided a verbal update on the Surrey RCMP Retail Theft Strategy outlining approaches to manage shoplifting and other retail theft in Surrey. The following information was highlighted:

- Retail theft has received significant media attention due to large retailers losing millions of dollars to theft that can sometimes be accompanied by violence. Surrey is taking a multi-tier approach to retail theft that peak around Christmas time at large malls.
- The first part of the approach was for police to meet with business associations, trade organizations, and large retailers. Retailers often experience theft as “shrinkage” that impacts their profitability but makes it hard to identify and target high theft areas. The RCMP campaigned with businesses to report more information and to hire more loss prevention officers. The second approach is crime prevention through environmental design. The third approach is a three week covert operation within the largest Surrey retailers to target frequent thieves and online resellers of stolen property. RCMP is investigating retailers that are reselling stolen grocery and meat.

C. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Deputy Chief, Surrey Fire Service

Staff provided an overview of the Community Risk Reduction work of Surrey Fire Service including the Distressed Properties, Community Property Safety Team (CPST). The following information was highlighted:

- Distressed Properties Model is a research method that looks at patterns of growth and decline related to stability within neighborhoods. Distressed properties are abandoned properties that attract unauthorized activities. The unauthorized activities create calls for service by the RCMP, bylaw, and fire to those locations. Program goals are to improve public safety, reduce fire occurrence, protect firefighters, and reduce calls for service. Distressed properties are identified by public complaint, prior fire response, partner agency referral, and available City data.

- The team began by examining regulatory authorities that can enable the program. The Fire Services Act, Fire Bylaw, Abandoned Property Bylaw, Community Charter, BC Fire Code, and Fire Prevention Bylaw provided the comprehensive legal process for fire team to act as inspectors and regulators for hazardous abandoned properties.
- CPST performs property assessment survey once it identifies a distressed property to determine if action is required. An inspection is performed at the property to allow CPST to issue further orders and educate the property owner on City standards by registered mail. CPST and Fire Suppression Crew will periodically patrol the distressed property to ensure continued compliance by the owner. Non-compliant owners will be charged the cost of CPST securing their properties for them.
- In 2019 the three stage Escalating Compliance Model was developed to secure properties with repeated break-ins after boarding and fencing. The first break-in of the property will require owner install a guard monitored camera system. The second break-in requires owner to have a guard patrol every three hours. On third break-in a 24/7 guard service is required. The escalation is continued until the property is demolished or brought back into repair and is no longer abandoned.
- In the future, CPST will continue to focus on prevention and encourage voluntary compliance. Distressed Properties Model was built on residential area data, CPST is looking into building a model for commercial properties.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Once owners understood the requirements, the willingness to reinvest or demolish is higher compared to in the past.
- CPST has yet to engage with insurance companies but will consider the suggestion to put a zero-dollar valuation on distressed properties.
- Apartments and condominiums are becoming more at risk due to redevelopment. Fire prevention inspectors handle abandoned units within buildings, CPST will take over once the entire building is abandoned.
- Distressed property owners are required to pay for fencing their own properties once the building has been identified by CPST.

D. OTHER BUSINESS**1. City Grants to the Surrey Crime Prevention Society
File: 1850-20**

The Committee noted the following comments:

- The City has proudly supported the Surrey Crime Prevention Society (SCPS) for many years. In 2023, the City provided the Surrey Crime Prevention Society a \$330,000 grant to provide a variety of proactive programs that enhance safety for residents and businesses in the City of Surrey. Over the years there have been attempts to align SCPS work more closely with the strategic objectives of the police of jurisdiction, which in this case is the Surrey RCMP. This motion is brought forward since there have been ongoing challenges with respect to aligning SCPS resources with the RCMP's strategic priorities and the City's goals.
- If the motion is adopted, SCPS would work to align its goals with the RCMP and ensure resource allocation of volunteer resources and patrols was informed by RCMP intelligence about known crime hot spots or areas of interest. The Surrey RCMP would measure volunteer hours and locations of patrol to monitor alignment with Surrey RCMP as the police of jurisdiction. The Surrey RCMP has many existing strategic objectives that will allow SCPS to better demonstrate their contribution. The aim of this motion is to ensure SCPS service delivery is aligned with the City's Public Safety goals and that volunteer hours are targeted at the areas of greatest need.
- The City should be able to see transparency on the grant spent as SCPS has one of the highest grants received. A requirement for reporting would therefore be made regarding SCPS funding.
- Associating contribution with hours and number of volunteers does not sufficiently show the outcome of the hours spent. The delegation was unable to identify clear accomplishments as the data was not displayed in a year-to-year format. There was no clear outreach data on how volunteers were impacted to continue onto public services.
- One suggestion to see impact is to send some SCPS volunteers into areas identified as crime prevention hot spots with a police officer to ensure their safety. The Surrey RCMP lost volunteers after COVID and is welcoming new volunteers. SCPS programs that involve RCMP are not currently being tracked. By cooperating with RCMP, the volunteer hours would be tracked by RCMP for each activity, and volunteers would have increased exposure to RCMP officers and support staff. This will help to identify development of career paths and have professional guidance on activities.
- Programs that are beneficial to young people should be supported and it should be ensured that the funding is valuable to programs.
- SCPS would be required to work more closely with the police of jurisdiction as a condition of funding. By working with the police of jurisdiction, volunteers can gain relationships and contacts with professionals that assist in their career paths.

- Another measurable metric for SCPS program is the number of stolen vehicles recovered by volunteer effort. The activity is not crime prevention by nature, but it is still a valuable public service. A good example of positive contribution is the speed watch program where SCPS volunteers reduced the number of vehicular crashes at 152nd, 64th, and 72nd intersections over a three-month period.
- The Surrey RCMP utilizes a 28-day cycle of analysis of crime trends and hot spots to inform operational deployments. By cooperating with RCMP, SCPS can be guided by that data and be directed to areas where their resources are better spent.
- The Surrey RCMP has a robust community engagement program that is very involved with Surrey Schools to present gang prevention message. The Surrey RCMP believes that with the assistance of Surrey Gang Enforcement Team or other officers, the volunteers would be able to give sustained and uniformed messages to the public in more strategic locations.
- Both SCPS and KidsPlay referred to Surrey Schools, but it is unclear if there are overlaps with existing City of Surrey Parks and Recreation programs. This motion is the first step to obtaining operational information so that analysis could be done for programs to align with City goals and improve effectiveness.

It was

Moved by P. McEvoy

Seconded by P. Richards

That the Public Safety Committee recommends
that Council authorize the following requirements for the disbursement of any future grant funds to the Surrey Crime Prevention Society:

1. Future grant contributions provided by the City of Surrey to the Surrey Crime Prevention Society be apportioned on a quarterly basis; and
2. The funding for each quarter be dependent on at least 50% of Surrey Crime Prevention volunteer hours supporting identified program priorities of the police of jurisdiction, and with validation by police support services staff that services meet preapproved performance measures.

Carried

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by P. Richards

That the Public Safety Committee meeting be

adjourned.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Stutt, Chairperson