

Present:

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

Absent:

R. Rai

Staff Present:

T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Community Services
P. Sanderson, Manager, Strategic Planning & Responses
B. Aasebo, Community Safety Manager, Community Services
A. Ordeman, Director, Police Support Services, Community Services
B. Edwards, Assistant Commissioner, Surrey RCMP
L. Thomas, Fire Chief, Surrey Fire Service
T. Ahmad, Senior Policy and Program Lead, Community Services
H. Dosange, Superintendent, Surrey RCMP
M. Atwal, Sergeant, Surrey RCMP
D. Lowe, Corporal, Surrey RCMP
S. Lee, Administrative Assistant
J. Sung, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

R. Pedersen, CEO, Goes to 11 Media

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by P. Richards
Seconded by P. McEvoy
That the agenda of the Public Safety Committee
(PSC) meeting of January 24, 2024, be adopted.
Carried

It was Moved by P. McEvoy
Seconded by P. Richards
That the agenda of the Public Safety
Committee meeting of January 24, 2024, be rescinded.
Carried

It was Moved by P. Richards
Seconded by P. McEvoy
That the amended agenda of the Public
Safety Committee meeting of January 24, 2024, be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – November 22, 2023

It was Moved by P. Richards
Seconded by P. McEvoy
That minutes of the Public Safety Committee
meeting of November 22, 2023, be adopted as amended by replacing the word
RCMP with *police of jurisdiction* in the committee recommendation.
Carried

B. DELEGATION

- B. Edwards joined the committee at 6:12.

1. Rick Pedersen, CEO, Goes to 11 Media

In attendance to provide a presentation regarding speeding and to offer possible solutions. The following information was highlighted:

- Drivers are now commonly going beyond the posted speed limits, impacting traffic safety. Drivers are speeding possibly because of racing, congested construction zones, and unsynchronized traffic lights. Delegation provided several videos of speeding drivers on road sections near Nicomekl bridge.
- Delegation recommended Black CAT and photo radar to track traffic volume and traffic speed. Law enforcement may benefit from automating traffic enforcement to relieve stretched resources. Delegation suggested that provincial government may be able to provide funding for automated ticketing photo radar systems.
- Delegation provided suggestions to increase road safety. The measures include harsher penalty, safe road design, and green wave traffic light synchronization.

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

- The presentation used data from ICBC, separated into Surrey regions. The Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) data is another set of data available that can be used to request for provincial traffic monitoring support. Delegation is currently working with Vision Zero Vancouver to reduce dangerous driving.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- RCMP Assistant Commissioner offered the delegation to connect with him for more accurate information. Demerit system allow traffic enforcement to use criminal sanctions to deter drivers with multiple offenses. Traffic enforcement was reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic based on reduction in road traffic volume.
- Chair invited RCMP Superintendent to speak on the discussion. Black CAT radar has been in use by the RCMP to assist them in determining hotspots for deployment. There are significantly more traffic enforcement teams than what the presentation showed but the staff is spread throughout the city. Surrey has more roads than other municipalities which correlates to more incidents on the road. Serious car accidents are treated as crime scenes which require heavy resource and staff investment. Black CAT radar is now up on Nicomekl section to monitor traffic. Photo radar typically does not result in demerit on the driver license; however the monetary penalty to registered owners can still act as a deterrent to most drivers.

- Photo radar is able to monitor multiple lanes whereas conventional laser monitoring cannot. An increasing penalty system on photo radar ticketing may become a more efficient deterrent than the current model where successive tickets do not increase in fines.

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Senior Policy and Program Lead, Community Services

In attendance to provide an update on the development of the integrated community safety and wellbeing strategy (ICSWS). The following information was highlighted:

- Committee directed Community Services to develop ICSWS with public engagement in the Fall. Public consultation will end in February 2024 and ICSWS is moving into strategy development afterwards. The main strategy goals are to nurture a sense of belonging and safety, foster feelings of physical and psychological safety, and connect with their communities.
- ICSWS builds upon Surrey's prevention and intervention programming. The public consultation portion obtained input from surveys, focus groups, community roundtable, and community events.
- Five preliminary broad themes from public engagement are: deliver broad public safety programming, mental health and addictions supports, road safety and transportation improvements, homelessness prevention and housing, and fostering cultural safety.
- Community Services will draft a strategy in Spring 2024 to bring to the committee for endorsement. Public Safety Committee can then make Council recommendation to direct the implementation of ICSWS.

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

- ICSWS will cooperate with similar programs in partner organizations to increase program efficiency.
- The public engagement process used multiple communication channels to promote the event. Communication channels included: newspaper, ads in high traffic areas, promotion at events, and outreach to organizations and communities.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- The proposed cover art for the ICSWS includes an image of Skytrain that may be seen as a city central focused plan rather than for all residents of Surrey.

2. Community Safety Officer, Surrey RCMP

In attendance to provide a presentation on retail theft, Surrey RCMP Basketball Classic, and Shattering the Image campaign. The following information was highlighted:

- Retail theft was a major focus for RCMP, and several programs ran in tandem during the holiday season. RCMP met with loss prevention officers of major businesses to encourage theft reporting. As a result, reports and arrests increased.
- RCMP is continuously cooperating with crown counsels to obtain criminal charges for retail thieves. The programs will continue to run to keep retail theft rate down as severe theft could shut down businesses and decrease livability of an area.
- RCMP Basketball Classic is an outreach program created to connect with youths; it is now the largest tournament of its kind with 48 participating teams. 2023 was the 32nd round of the event. The event also serves as a recruitment opportunity and fosters community good will towards law enforcement.
- Shattering the Image is a gang prevention initiative that presents the realities of gang life to disrupt young people's perceptions of gangs. The program has been running for several years but a new video is launching January 25, 2024, in schools to educate youth. The program is available for schools and other youth groups in the community. The video contains strong language and hard-hitting themes, so viewer discretion is advised.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- The best support for victims of crime is connections with families of victims.
- Parents must support vulnerable youths and be the pillar in their lives so that they know to go to parents in a crisis.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

It was

Moved by P. Richards

Seconded by P. McEvoy

That committee recommendation *City*

Grants to the Surrey Crime Prevention Society as amended be rescinded.

Carried

The committee noted the following comments:

- Surrey Crime Prevention Society was unable to provide transparency in management expenses. The City was also unable to obtain an explanation for the benefits that are provided to Surrey and students. The society has well documented volunteer hour contributions, however there is a lack of documentation to show the impact of the volunteer hours. The committee recommendation is being rescinded until aforementioned issues are resolved.
- Vice-Chair invited Strategic Planning & Responses Manager to speak on the discussion. Federal tax filing is required of charities, but the filing does not allow a detailed assessment of city grant funding and to date the charity has not provided such information.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by Councillor Kooner

That the Public Safety Committee meeting

be adjourned.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Stutt, Chairperson