

Present:

Chairperson - Mayor Watts
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Martin
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve

Absent:**Staff Present:**

City Clerk
City Manager
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Human Resources
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Planning & Development

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Josh Henshaw and James Towle, Regional Vice-Presidents, Ambulance Paramedics of BC**

File: 7100-01; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to provide a brief overview of ambulance wait times in Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The Ministry of Health has committed to placing 80 Community Paramedics throughout BC by summer 2015; the Province has allocated \$15 million to the program. Community Paramedics will target reduction in ER crowding, reduction in 911 calls, and reduction in hospital admissions.
- A Community Paramedic does non-urgent house calls with the objective of moving towards integration between different agencies. A Community Paramedic may be referred by a physician in an ER, by a municipal police agency, or by an emergency paramedic.
- The program has been used in jurisdictions throughout Canada, North America and Australia, and they are seeing drastic reductions in ER visits by targeted populations. In Calgary, Community Paramedics are accompanying home care nurses to extended care facilities to attend to things such as specimen collections and catheter maintenance, thereby drastically reducing ER visits from those facilities each year.
- Another initiative called ambulance PCP PRU (Paramedic Response Unit) is a single paramedic responder which responds to 911 calls and assesses further requirements for that patient. Single paramedic responders will be trained to assess the need for a paramedic-staffed ambulance to transport patient to hospital, or a Community Paramedic to follow up the next day, or perhaps referral to a home care nurse or other agency. This program also targets reducing ER visits.

Discussion

In response to an inquiry from Council, the delegation advised that triage is done through BC Ambulance Dispatch, and a professional paramedic goes to the scene and assesses the patient and their requirements.

The BC Ambulance Paramedics are asking municipalities to go to their MLAs and the Minister of Health to advocate for Community Paramedics in their communities in order to mitigate ambulance wait times and ER crowding. Council noted that a needs assessment would be required before approaching the Province with a request.

The delegation stated that the Ministry of Health, municipalities, local health authorities, and ambulance paramedics all participate in the needs assessment for each community. The Ministry of Health will ultimately decide where within the Province those 80 positions will be allocated. The delegation stated that they would not be taking the lead on a needs assessment and did not believe that there was a lead to undertake this project.

Council stated they would need more background information from BCAS to justify asking the Ministry of Health and the government for more paramedics. The delegation advised there is a link to the Framework Manual in the "Ambulance Paramedics Community Solutions" brochure, included in Council's agenda package.

The delegation noted that this is not a pilot project; that the 80 positions are full-time funded positions; however, he cannot speculate where deployment will occur.

- B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

- C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

- D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

- E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

- F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

G. ADJOURNMENT

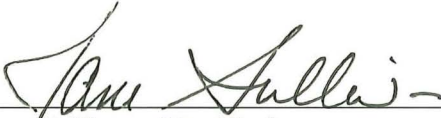
It was

now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Martin
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Mayor Watts, Chairperson