

# *Police Committee Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
MONDAY, JULY 26, 2012  
Time: 9:10 am  
File: 0540-20

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**Chair:**

Councillor Rasode

**Present:**

Mayor Watts  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Hepner  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Hayne  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Councillor Gill

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

City Manager  
City Clerk  
Superintendent, OIC Surrey RCMP

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**B. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

**D. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**1. Policing Costs for Community Events**

At the June 11, 2012 Regular Council Public Hearing meeting, Council requested staff to review the policing charge costs associated with special events outlining in further detail how events are charged.

Staff explained that the City has a Festival and Events Support Team (FEST) to provide guidance for community groups that are organizing special events. The fees charged are within the Surrey Special Event Regulation By-law No. 14731. The By-law provides that prior to the issuance of the event permit; payment for the additional policing services must be made to the City. These costs are said to be prohibitive to many community groups thereby quashing any possibility of hosting their various events. The policing cost is based on a formula that ensures the necessary police presence is on place to deter unwanted nuisance and/or criminal behaviours. The fee itself is static and part of a negotiated contract. The requirement calls for a minimum of 2 officers for events up to 500 attendees and a further officer for each additional 250 persons and the Commanding Officer has

the discretion to lower or increase this number based on history of the event and a number of other factors. The officers are charged out at \$84.70/hr which is an overtime rate plus a police vehicle present. Most events are during the summer months when the police service is very busy and no feasible way to reschedule or shuffle resources. In practice the Commanding Officer frequently reduces the number of required officers when the event organizer is able to provide suitable, trained security personnel to augment the police resources. Over time if the event is incident free, the requirements for police presence are reduced. Some Police are required even with low trouble call or incidents for any event with large numbers as they need to be properly dispersed and the traffic controlled to avoid any unfortunate incidents.

The issue of fairness was discussed as there are 2 non-City events that appear not to be charged Policing costs. These are long standing events that the City has supported for a long time being the annual Santa Claus Parade and the Big Rigs for Kids Lighted Truck Parade that runs from Cloverdale through to the City Centre. A discussion followed with regard to "leveling the playing field" and with that there were no positive solutions found.

It was decided to send this back to staff to take another look and see if there is anything to be done to assist with the costs involved. Staff are requested to check recovery of policing costs with other urban centres such as Mississauga, Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. MOTION TO HOLD A MEETING IN A CLOSED SESSION**

It is in order for Police Committee members to pass a resolution to closed the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) and (i) of the *Community Charter*, which states:

"A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment; and,
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Councillor Hepner  
That Council close the meeting to the public  
pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) and (i) of the *Community Charter*, which states:


"A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and,  
Carried

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Councillor Martin  
That the Police Committee meeting do now  
adjourn.  
Carried

The Police Committee adjourned at 10:07 am.

  
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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

  
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Barinder Rasode, Chairperson