

Police Committee Minutes

Chair:

Mayor Watts

Present:Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Martin
Councillor Gill**Absent:**Councillor Hepner
Councillor Steele**Staff Present:**Superintendent, OIC Surrey RCMP
City Manager
City Clerk
Manager of Bylaws and Licensing
Deputy Fire Chief**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES****1. Police Committee - February 17, 2014**

It was

Moved by Councillor Hayne

Seconded by Councillor Gill

That the minutes of the February 17, 2014

Police Committee be adopted.

Carried**B. NEW BUSINESS****1. Transit Police – Service Delivery**

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy introduced Neil Dubord, Chief Officer, Transit Police to present to provide an overview of the Transit Police intelligence lead service delivery model used to assist the City of Surrey in the reduction of crime and disorder at SkyTrain stations and major bus loops.

The Transit Police Service is a multi-jurisdictional police agency, dedicated to the provision of policing services to 22 different jurisdictions and four modes of transportation in the lower mainland. They provide policing services to:

- Three advanced light rail rapid transit lines – Expo, Millennium and Canada Lines – covering 68.5 kms and 49 stations
- One heavy rail line – West Coast Express – with 65 kms of track and eight stations
- 1800 square kms of Bus Service – Coast Mountain Bus Company – with 200 routes and 1400 buses at peak times.

Transit Police has over 165 sworn officers and over 65 civilian support staff providing service to the Metro Vancouver area. Their mandate is to protect the transit community through the protection of people, property and revenue.

Staff include Skytrain Attendants who serve as customer service assisting the public to use the system efficiently; Transit Security are the visible presence and

ensure the safety and security of Translink property; Transit Supervisors keep track and ensure that the buses keep to schedule; and Transit Police address disorder in and on the line.

Transit police officers have the same authority as other police officers in British Columbia to enforce the laws relating to the criminal code offences, provincial acts, bylaws as well as apprehending those wanted on outstanding warrants.

The Transit Police Service collect statistics on all reported incidents, including the location, time of incident and the type of incident. As a rule, 5:00pm to midnight are the busiest times and Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the busiest days with the majority of incidents at the skytrain stations.

Analytics are run in the background with these statistics and this method allows for a type of predictive policing through a crime forecasting model. Management can see where and when to deploy the right staff to the right location to address the expected issues. Random deployment gives about a 1% success rate whereby this predictive model has shown there are proven metrics showing crime rates going down and the clearance rate on files going up.

The following comments were made:

- Priority is mental illness, police should not be the frontline. Transit is addressing mental illness the same as other policing jurisdictions, through the Health Authorities and their relationships with counselling services. 23 people at skytrain platform intent on suicide this past year and a counsellor was brought in each time to assist.
- Although the legal authority to move along the homeless is there, it is preferred not to move them so that it becomes another authority's problem; Transit Police try and get resources there to address. Much more value to have the resource come to you, but do not have relationships with local resources so cannot depend the same network of available resources at present in Surrey.
- More crime on the train platforms due to the numbers of people moving through constantly vs a bus stop.
- Bus drivers being assaulted but significant progress has been made to keep them safe, still the provision of protective cages were not a solution accepted by the drivers. "Don't Touch the Driver" campaign and as of March 31, 2014, the ability to text on a Transit mobile app allows patrons to report incidents discreetly, without fear for their own safety.
- In comparison to other systems in Canada Edmonton is equally safe and we are safer in a ratio comparison to Toronto.
- Vancouver has the most incidents followed by Surrey then Burnaby. Majority of incidents are at skytrain, followed by bus loops and then parking lots.
- CCTV film is useful and more cameras should be placed at problem locations. This initiative is being researched currently.
- Perceptions of safety and security have improved in the past few years giving our highest confidence rating to date of 78%.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS**OIC SURREY RCMP DETACHMENT****1. Poo4 – Community Safety Officer Program**

The Community Safety Officer (CSO) pilot program was approved for an 18 month period in “E” Division by the RCMP SEC in February 2008. CSOs are unarmed RCMP members who complement and support General Duty (GD) members, providing visible and accessible uniformed. Their key duties include community policing, crime prevention, traffic support, investigative support and community safety.

In July of 2012, an evaluation report was completed on the CSO program by the RCMP National Program and in January of 2013 RCMP outlined that the CSO program as it stands in “E” Division would transition into alternate roles that would provide an enhanced service delivery option; namely the Community Constable (CC), Community Police Officer (CPO) or the option of a transition to being a Regular Member (RM) of the RCMP.

Consultation with the City, the community and business community clearly showed the necessity of keeping the enhanced presence in the community alive. The City sees this service as vital. An independent report is expected soon that will discuss the current roles and responsibility of the CSO and the required service delivery model, for Surrey. The CSO’s will not be removed from the Community District Offices. The CSO’s have yet to determine their alternate role and the logistics of this transition are still to be determined once these decisions are finalized.

The City and the RCMP are demonstrating their commitment to providing an enhanced presence in the community through the reallocation of the current 9 CSO Officers within Surrey as well as the implementation of an independent body of 20 non-police personnel that will work in a duty function that is similar to that of the CSO. These personnel will be in uniform and keeping with the needs of the community.

It was

Moved by Councillor Hayne

Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the Police Committee receive Poo4 –

Community Safety Officer (CSO) Program report as information.

Carried

D. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Health Canada Changes to Medical Marihuana Regulations**

The Deputy Fire Chief reported that amendments to the Medical Marihuana Access Regulation (MMAR), and the transitioning to the new Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR) are effective March 31, 2014.

He noted that since the MMAR was introduced there have been many shifts and changes to the number of medical grow-ops in Surrey. Through the Electrical Fire Safety Inspections (EFSI) 2001 to 2008, 5 grows increased to 10 grows found within Surrey. In 2012 - 2013 number went up to 309. Through an FOI request to Health Canada in October 2013 it was discovered that there were actually 1,100 in Surrey.

The Federal government, through Health Canada realized that this program was not working so set the old legislation to expire this March 31 and for the new regulation to come into effect. The change is that Health Canada will phase out and no longer allow personal use and designated person production licenses and instead only license commercial producers who will be regulated by Health Canada. These licensed producers will be the only legal source of dried marihuana.

Remediation of all of the homes with unpermitted modifications will be the issue for EFSI. Letters have been sent to all 309 known operations. The letters included a brochure and documentation on proper remediation. They will have 30 days to notify the City of remediation and have a further 60 days to request inspection at no charge during this timeframe. If they do not initiate, normal fees apply.

There is a National Class Action Suit in process asking for continuance of the current licenses until it has worked its way through the courts.

Further comments were as follows:

- Disclosure forms on real estate purposes have a check box - if remediated you must still check the box as the designation is in perpetuity, however proper remediation would be noted.
- Health Canada requires the growers to fill in a form to state how many plants they had and how and when they were destroyed and if they do not comply their name and address will be turned over to the RCMP.
- City to track costs of EFSI and RCMP cost in these inspections and submit the bill to the Feds.
- There are no guidelines to assist Dr's in prescribing marihuana for medical purposes and this should be addressed by the Federal government.

2. 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) of the Community Charter. “

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
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."


Carried

E. ADJOURNMENT

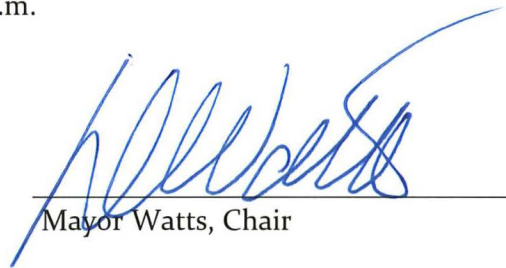
It was Moved by Councillor Hayne
Seconded by Councillor Rasode
That the Police Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Police Committee adjourned at 1:42 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Mayor Watts, Chair