

Police Committee Minutes

2E Community Room B
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014
Time: 10:30 a.m.
File: 0540-20

Chair:

Mayor Watts

Present:

Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Martin
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve

Absent:

Staff Present:

Chief Superintendent, OIC, Surrey RCMP
City Manager
City Clerk

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Police Committee - April 23, 2014

It was Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the minutes of the Police Committee
meeting held on April 23, 2014, be adopted.
Carried

2. Community Safety Committee - April 9, 2014

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Gill
That the minutes of the Community Safety
Committee meeting held on April 9, 2014, be received.
Carried

Terms of Reference (TOR) were not adopted and will be brought forward to the
next meeting.

B. NEW BUSINESS

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS**OIC SURREY RCMP DETACHMENT****Item No. Poo7 RCMP Service Delivery**

It was
RCMP Service Delivery be received as information.

Moved by Councillor Hepner
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That Committee Report Item No. Poo7
Carried

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC, advised that Committee Report Poo7 provides an overview and timeline of the analysis under way with respect to the RCMP Service Delivery model, including implementation dates.

D. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Verbal Update - 1st Quarter Crime Stat Report 2014**

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC presented the 1st Quarter Crime Stat Report 2014, and noted a significant reduction with respect to homicides.

Background was provided regarding how data quantify sexual assaults is compiled during a typical investigation. When a complaint initially comes in it may be scored as a sexual assault; however, during evaluation of the investigation, it is often rescored to another crime type. Regardless of the noted increase, it is important to demonstrate the significance of the process of rescoring. The total for Q1 2013 was 53. For the same time last year, the number was 64. During the course of the year investigation scoring changed on 11 cases.

Clarifying this, it was explained that a sexual assault investigation can lead to a change in scoring if it is not in fact a sexual assault, where a break and enter (B&E) is more likely to always be a B&E. A sexual assault may be rescored as public mischief.

Kidnapping/abductions are down 14%; property crimes increased 27%. Majority were theft from auto, auto theft, theft under \$1,000, and fraud.

Three significant operations ongoing in the detachment saw a reallocation of some HR from property crime:

1. Three males were charged with a series of sexual assaults of street trade workers. Suspects were identified and a commitment was made to allocate resources to this case.
2. A well-known subject was released from jail who posed a significant public safety threat. The subject was arrested in Langley after shooting two individuals.
3. A third investigation is ongoing.

There has been a significant increase across the Lower Mainland region with respect to issues involving Canada Post. Theft of mail results in identity theft as well as fraud.

Now that those three investigations are complete, allocated resources will return to their original assignments.

A member of the Committee asked for clarification regarding whether resources are deployed based on statistical analysis and whether the community policing model is effective. In response, Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC noted that having two teams does work well. Benefits will be seen, not necessarily right away. Teams re-engaging in their duties will take time. Nuisance calls will be handled by District Offices, i.e. problem residences, recovery homes.

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC noted it is important to recognize that the increase in offensive weapons is a result of pro-active policing.

2. **Memo from City Solicitor - Use of By-law Enforcement Officers**

File: 7400-01

The City Solicitor was in attendance to provide a response to questions from Council regarding the establishment of Auxiliary Police Officers as a unit within the By-law Enforcement and Business Licensing Section.

Under the *Police Act*, By-law Officers are not permitted to perform police functions; in order for them to do so the *Police Act* would need to be amended. There are provisions under the Municipal Police Agreement between the City and the Province to have Special Constables. Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC noted that Aboriginal Policing and Auxiliary Constables are considered Special Constables.

The City Solicitor noted that other municipalities canvassed are not doing anything different from what the City of Surrey is doing.

A member of the Committee suggested the use of Commissionaires to enhance by-law enforcement support within the community and that a broader look at two-tiered by-law enforcement would be useful. The City Solicitor, in response, noted that the *Police Act* is very clear that by-law officers are limited to by-law enforcement activities and they are not permitted to assume the role of police officers. The role of a By-law Enforcement Officer is to issue municipal tickets and attend nuisance by-law calls.

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC noted that during the Conference on Economic and International Policing held in Ottawa, there is an increasing burden on taxpayers, with a trend toward governments endeavouring to place policing resources where they are needed and engagement of by-law officers is an example of trying to achieve that goal in a tiered way. A year from now the ability will exist

to look for further efficiencies. A tiered response is an effective use of taxpayers' money.

The Committee requested the City Solicitor to provide a report with further analysis of what other municipalities are doing in order to supplement their by-law enforcement activities, i.e. Community Safety Officers, Commissionaires, or enhancing the role of By-law Enforcement Officers.

The Committee asked that the City Solicitor provide detail relative to how other municipalities, similar in size to the City of Surrey, have successfully resolved potential Union concerns and changes to their Collective Agreements associated with introducing enhanced By-law Enforcement Officer positions.

3. Verbal Update – Liquor License Amendments Update

The City Solicitor was in attendance to provide an update with regard to Liquor License Amendments.

There will be three major changes which impact the following:

1. **Grocery Stores** - Council at their discretion could amend the zoning by-law to include the definition of what a grocery store is, i.e., at least 50,000 sq. ft. Liquor sales could be permitted only within defined grocery stores, i.e., not in corner stores or convenience stores. Must be a minimum size full grocery store and would have to be a pre-determined distance away from an already existing liquor store or licensed establishment. At present, the understanding is that there will be three stores under the new liquor license amendment policy; all would be located within downtown Vancouver. It would be difficult to find suitable locations in Surrey that fit within the new Provincial guidelines as there are already 32 liquor stores located in the City. Council has input into the issuance of new liquor license requests and at present, the understanding is that no new liquor licenses will be issued as a result of the new policy at this time.
2. **Beer Gardens** - Fenced-off areas are no longer required; people can now wander around the event grounds with a drink in their hands. Council noted that within our own special events licensing we are seeing a significant decrease in applications for licenses based on the level of alcohol consumption. There is less interest in beer gardens; they don't make the kind of money they used to and people are more conscious of alcohol related issues.

The City Solicitor noted that special occasion licenses are subject to police approval, and zoning could be used to restrict if necessary.

3. **Stadiums** - Liquor can be sold in general areas, and not just beer but spirits as well.

4. Annual Authorization Process for RCMP Budget Approval

File: 7400-01

A letter of expectation is written in July of each year to the RCMP identifying the number of officers being requested for the City of Surrey. There is an opportunity this year to indicate we would like more officers in the fall based on operational savings. We will continue to have discussions throughout the budget process. The City has identified the opportunity to add 95 additional officers over the next five years.

In response to the question of how many officers are on the road at any given time, Chief Superintendent Fordy, OIC noted that there are 673 positions at the Surrey detachment, 54 of which are on the Integrated Teams. When a member has been off work for 30 days, they switch to a provincial collator - the Province assumes the cost. Our practice is to try to backfill those positions in real time and accurately capture those salaries for budget purposes. Attempts are made to bring new members, but not restricted to that. For example, a nine-year member and a 13-year member are coming from Manitoba. The benefit to bringing in new members is giving them developmental opportunities. There are cost savings associated with payment of a cadet as opposed to senior constable. We look at the body of experience senior officers bring and the benefit to the detachment. It is important for the organization to bring in new people; as a member of the RCMP you get experience at every level.

Councillors commended the RCMP on the increase of members based on efficiencies. As a result of data analysis and intelligence gathered over the last two programs, it was noted we are finding efficiencies in how we handle medical benefits, shirt services, phones, fleet management - there are efficiencies across the organization.

Further discussion was held regarding numbers of additional officers expected through the next budget process. Once evidence/intelligence based analysis has been done, the process requires the City Manager forward a letter of request to the Province for more officers; the request then goes to the Federal government.

The question was raised about officer to population ratio and how that number was arrived at. The Mayor noted 2006 efficiencies and technology is not what it is today. Analysis was done based on information available and best practices at that time. Enhancing management and looking at technology now, it is important to note the root causes of crime - mental health, addictions. It is important to do what we can with technology. Council noted that since 2006 we have shifted considerably the work RCMP is doing; some has shifted into civilian work. There is more work being done at civilian and admin levels originally done by police officers.

Councillor Rasode requested that future Police Committee meetings be held in the evenings and in Council Chambers so they can be live-streamed.

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Hayne
That the Annual Authorization Process for
RCMP Budget Approval be received for information.
Carried


E. NEXT MEETING

The next Police Committee meeting is set for 10:30 a.m. on June 16, 2014.

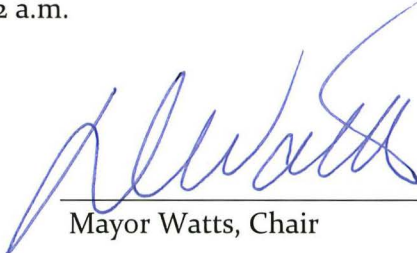
F. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Police Committee adjourned at 11:52 a.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Mayor Watts, Chair