

Police Committee Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor Hepner
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Martin
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Woods

Absent:

Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Villeneuve

Staff Present:

Chief Superintendent, OIC, Surrey RCMP
City Manager
City Solicitor
Manager, By-law Enforcement and Licensing
Fire Chief
Crime Reduction Strategy Manager
City Clerk
Manager Financial Services
Deputy City Clerk

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Police Committee Minutes – October 14, 2014

It was moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the minutes of the Police Committee
meeting held on October 14, 2014, be adopted.
Carried

B. NEW BUSINESS

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. OIC SURREY RCMP DETACHMENT

Item No. P001 Community Safety Patrols Update – Commissionaires Contract

Bill Fordy, Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge, Surrey RCMP spoke to Report Item No. P001 and provided an overview of the “Community Safety Patrol” pilot project that was initiated by the City in April 2014 to inform future resourcing and deployment decisions. An analysis of the project was conducted in order to ascertain whether the objectives were being met with respect to enhanced policing and public safety.

In terms of background, the Committee was advised that the pilot project for Community Safety Officers (CSO) was initiated back in 2008, with the Surrey Detachment participating at the time. In January 2013, the CSO pilot project was discontinued by the RCMP, with the CSO’s transitioning into alternate roles.

In April 2014, the Police Committee supported a transition to the Community Constable model in Surrey to allow for expanded authority. The Committee also authorized a 36 week Community Safety Patrol (CSP) pilot project. The City signed a contract with the BC Commissionaires to provide 10 uniformed CSP personnel who would conduct regular foot, vehicle and static patrols.

It was also noted that in October 2014, the Police Committee endorsed a recommendation to increase the establishment of the Surrey RCMP from 703 to 803 police officers. In November 2014, a national RCMP directive was issued requiring that Community Safety Officers and Auxiliary Constables be provided with direct armed oversight. It was noted that the Commissionaires contract was extended until February 28, 2015 to allow for a decision to be made on the future direction of the CSP program.

The Committee was advised that an internal review of the Community Safety Patrol pilot was conducted. While the Commissionaires demonstrated professionalism and dedication, the long term value in terms of enhanced policing was not evident. The OIC stated that there was no reduction in crime in the areas the Commissionaires patrolled. The high visibility of the Commissionaires has been well-received by the public, however, the limited power/authority of the Commissionaires represents a concern for RCMP in terms of risk and liability. The OIC further noted the real concern of CSP personnel being in situations for which they are not trained or equipped to handle.

The Committee was requested to support discontinuing the use of the Commissionaires in performing the community safety patrol function and not renew the contract beyond the pilot period.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were made by Committee members:

- There is no information regarding what the transition plan is, should the Commissionaire contract stop;
- Although Commissionaires cannot fulfill the role of police officers, the visibility component of them is important and seems to ease the minds of the public;
- Residents like the program despite the Commissionaires not being able to defend the people; and,
- Concern in articulating the transition program in terms of numbers and timing to the public.

In response to the comments, the OIC clarified that the RCMP would need to enter into another contract until the full complement of approved officers transpires. There is concern in placing the Commissionaires at risk in vulnerable positions, as there is no direct oversight of them as recently required by the national RCMP directive. The OIC noted that very soon the RCMP will realize the new recruits who will soon finish their required training out of Ottawa.

RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by Councillor Martin
That the Police Committee refer the RCMP's request, to discontinue the use of the Commissionaires in performing the community safety patrol function, back to the RCMP to establish a transition plan that would provide overlap, in terms of visibility and community patrols, by the Community Safety Patrol program until the RCMP's approved capacity is realized.
Carried

2. CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY MANAGER**Item No. P002 Crime Reduction Strategy**

Colleen Kerr, Crime Reduction Strategy Manager provided an update on the Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS) and was seeking the Committee's support for the development of partner and stakeholder forums to conduct a refresh and rewrite of the Crime Reduction Strategy.

Background to the development of the Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS) was provided, noting the process was a cooperative effort between the City, the RCMP, the Provincial and Federal governments and private sector agencies to develop a comprehensive strategy to address crime through a root cause perspective. In 2007, work towards completing and implementing the 106 recommendations began. In May 2014, a review of each of the recommendations was provided at the Community Safety Committee outlining the status of each of the recommendations.

Staff is recommending that in 2015 a series of focus groups and planning tables commence to review and develop an update to the original document and ideally develop a five (5) year plan. The proposed timeline for this process would be as follows:

1. March-April 2015: Initial discussion and process development
2. May – September 2015: Partner forums, subcommittee work and focus groups
3. September –November 2015: Draft development
4. January – March 2016: Finalization and Report Writing
5. April 2016: Presentation to Mayor and Council
6. May 2016: Implementation

During discussion, Committee members noted that Strategy should be a live document, with the ability of changing/adjusting different components on an as required basis (ie. Linking to a Dashboard). In response, staff emphasized the importance of incorporating real action-oriented items and breaking the

document down into attainable/doable items. Staff has had some initial discussions relative to the usage of a Dashboard and how staff can report back better on the Crime Reduction Strategy.

In terms of reporting back, Committee members suggested that this ought to be done on a quarterly basis with expected outcomes, assessing efficiency of Policing in context to resources and include key performance indicators. Staff noted that during the re-write period, the reporting back component can be examined in terms of the statistics that are utilized. In response to the Committee’s comment regarding involving community groups, staff confirmed that the planned partner forums, subcommittee work and focus groups will involve the community.

Staff was requested to present the Crime Reduction Strategy Update presentation to the Community Health Programs Committee and the Healthy Community Partnerships. In addition, Committee members suggested that the updated Crime Reduction Strategy document should reference/incorporate the Smart Surrey Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the Police Committee:

- 1. Receive this report as information; and,
- 2. Authorize staff to initiate partner and stakeholder forums to conduct a refresh and rewrite of the Crime Reduction Strategy.

Carried

D. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Community Engagement Initiative Meetings – Verbal Update
Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC, Surrey RCMP

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC, Surrey RCMP advised the Committee members that at the end of 2014, the Surrey RCMP conducted a review of the number of block watch programs and an overlay analysis of the crime statistics. As part of the community engagement, 272 Block Watch Captains underwent training with the RCMP. The RCMP will be engaging businesses in areas where the analysis has revealed a shortage of Block Watch Programs. To date three meetings have been held to involve/engage the business community.

The Committee was advised that auto-theft continues to be significant problem and accordingly the RCMP has provided information to various areas and have conducted surveys. Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy introduced Insp. Ghalib Bhayani who recently joined the Surrey Detachment and will be working on planning to build additional block watch programs, further enhancing the Community Engagement Initiative. The Committee was advised that relevant staff

from various City Departments have been involved in the Community Engagement meetings and thus far the initiative has been well-received by the community at large.

It was Moved by Councillor Martin
 Seconded by Councillor Steele
 That the verbal update by the Chief Superintendent, OIC, Surrey RCMP regarding Community Engagement Initiative Meetings be received as information.

Carried

2. Strategic Planning – Verbal Update

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC, Surrey RCMP

Chief Superintendent Bill Fordy, OIC, Surrey RCMP spoke to the work being undertaken to repurpose and refresh the Detachment's Strategic Plan, noting that the RCMP has had the benefit of participating in many strategic planning sessions. The strategic planning sessions have focused on a number of areas, including community engagement, mobilization and organizational development.

Discussions are now moving towards identifying targets and measures, with one of the challenges being night shift staffing and how the work of night shift staff feeds into the overall objective. The RCMP has come to understand the City's pressures and priorities. The RCMP undertook an extensive environmental scan a few years ago and as a result they adopted a "line of sight" perspective.

In terms of the strategic plan, we have good people who will be champions of the Strategic Plan. Chief Superintendent Fordy noted that at the next meeting of the Police Committee, the RCMP will provide further updates regarding the targets and measures and speak to a more tactical plan for crime reduction in the City of Surrey.

During discussion, Committee members spoke to the importance of ensuring the value is there in terms of requested resources and having a better understanding of what resources need to be added/modified/removed each year. The OIC noted that the RCMP has moved to a more evidence-based perspective (ie. time spent responding/resolving calls)vs. the cop/population formula. Committee members stated that consideration should be given to having the City develop goals for the Police to achieve with reasonable time-frames. Staff was requested to hold a workshop discussion.

It was Moved by Councillor Hayne
 Seconded by Councillor Woods
 That the verbal update by the Chief Superintendent, OIC, Surrey RCMP regarding Strategic Planning Update be received as information.

Carried

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Police Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin


Seconded by Councillor Hayne

That the Police Committee meeting do now

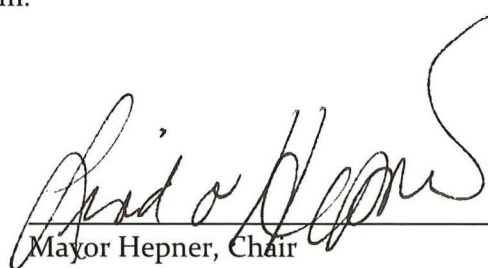
adjourn.

Carried

The Police Committee adjourned at 2:49 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Mayor Hepner, Chair