

# Police Committee Minutes

**Present:**

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

**RCMP Representative:**

Chief Superintendent, OIC

**Staff Present:**

City Manager  
City Solicitor  
Manager, By-law Enforcement and Licensing  
Fire Chief  
Safe Communities Program Manager  
General Manager, Human Resources  
Manager, Financial Services  
City Clerk

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES****1. Police Committee – April 20, 2015**

It was Moved by Councillor Martin  
Seconded by Councillor Hayne  
That the minutes of the Police Committee  
meeting held on July 20, 2015, be adopted.  
Carried

**B. NEW BUSINESS****C. COMMITTEE REPORTS****1. Item No. Poo6 Community Safety Patrols Update – Newton**

The Manager, Bylaw Enforcement and Licensing, gave an overview of this report and commented as follows:

In 2014, a 36-week Community Safety Patrol (CSP) pilot project was begun, sourced through the BC Commissionaires, to provide ten (10) uniformed CSP personnel to conduct regular foot, vehicle and static patrols in the areas of the City that have been the source of community concerns. The program provides a presence and engagement in the community and will continue through December 31, 2015.

The Newton BIA is working with security partners to establish a security patrol in the Newton BIA similar to what exists in Whalley. These patrols would focus on the Newton area to provide a higher level of consumer confidence and an increased level of communication and intelligence with RCMP.

The RCMP will support the Bylaw Enforcement and Licensing Department in leading the Community Safety Patrol resources through the transition period and ensure appropriate community coverage. Through the remainder of 2015, they will continue to work together to define an enhanced community patrol service to all Surrey town centres, including Newton. The 2016 pilot project would initially involve four (4) officers focusing on community engagement and low level enforcement. The program would be evaluated intermittently throughout the year, and later in 2016 a plan would be developed for 2017.

#### Discussion

It was noted that most functions currently provided to the Newton BIA by the existing Commissionaires could be handled by a new contract. Services would be enhanced with a tiered public safety model which would include community engagement, an increased bylaw enforcement presence, and increased capacity within the RCMP. There will be teams of two Bylaw Enforcement Officers seven days a week, in ten (10) hour shifts. These officers would interact with the RCMP District office, building relationships on a daily basis.

The measure of success will be based on engagement and interactions with the public. In addition to enhanced bylaw engagement there will be enhanced police visibility and enforcement. This is an enhancement of service provided by the Commissionaires but with the coordinated efforts of three groups: RCMP, Bylaws, and the community. The involvement of the BIA is an important component.

It was Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by Councillor Hayne  
That the Police Committee:

- 1) Receive report Poo6 entitled "Community Safety Patrols Update – Newton" as information; and
- 2) Approve the transition plan for the Community Safety patrols as outlined in report Poo6.

Carried

## **2. Item No. Poo7 City of Surrey RCMP Facilities Planning**

The OIC gave an overview of report Poo7 entitled "City of Surrey RCMP Facilities Planning" which details a comprehensive analysis of the space needs and provides an overview of the capital planning that is underway to support the expanding policing resources in the City of Surrey.

A report will be brought to the next Council meeting reporting on the hiring of professional services to renovate Old City Hall. This report will reflect the analysis of worthiness of using that space and who it will service. Some new members will arrive prior to the completion of this work in the fall of 2016 and will be accommodated in the existing space.

The renovation of Old City Hall will not be sufficient to accommodate the forecasted growth in policing resources, and a north detachment would be an eventual requirement; the needs will continue to be monitored. New facilities for lockers will be built in the basement of Old City Hall; in the meantime they will have to be accommodated in the existing space.

#### Discussion

In terms of expansion capability at Old City Hall, the transition into that building sees us partnering with integrated units in the short term to ensure the space is being used in the most effective manner possible. Rental income from Old City Hall has supported funding the construction of New City Hall. With current rentals in place Old City Hall is at capacity. Some of those rentals are from outside the City, i.e. courts, and Deas Island Traffic Patrol for Highway 99. Over time all the space at Old City Hall will be used by RCMP.

Immediate renovations to the current main detachment include making changes to the women's locker room. Short term expansion includes the cell block and exhibit area, and in coming years a single cell block in one location with quality oversight.

It was Moved by Councillor Steele  
 Seconded by Councillor Hayne  
 That the Police Committee receive report  
 Poo7 entitled "City of Surrey RCMP Facilities Planning" as information.  
Carried

### 3. **Item No. Poo8      2015-2017 Strategic Framework**

The OIC commented that since the 2013-2017 Strategic Framework was initially adopted, there has been significant growth and development that has resulted in the need to revisit strategic priorities. In December 2014, the OIC participated in a strategic planning exercise with E Division, engaging in discussions with the Mayor and other senior management in the City of Surrey, collectively identifying a set of very specific strategic priorities that would become the 2015-2017 Strategic Framework.

#### Discussion

The Committee commented that the measures and targets don't seem as meaningful in a year over year percentage as they might if they were taken as a five or ten year rolling average. The OIC responded that the targets are captured quarterly, annually and every five and ten years. The detachment continues to measure and report on all crime types; the goal is to drive down the crime rate. Reports are done comparing to previous quarter and same quarter in the year prior; attempts are made to accommodate both of those in the same report. Committee members were uncomfortable with quantum measures; better showing upward/downward curve with the goal being a declining curve. The City Manager

advised staff will meet with statisticians and find a solution to looking at longer term trends and anomalies.

Discussion was held regarding the benchmark used and where we should be in terms of resources. With the number of officers increased to 803, the Committee felt that the initiative to reduce crime by 2% seems inadequate. The OIC advised that it will take time to become more efficient and see the benefits. To forecast a 10% reduction per year would create a false expectation.

The Crime Severity Index authored by Statistics Canada is forthcoming and will indicate how the City of Surrey compares to other cities in Canada. To have the best service model in the country and a below average standing would be ideal; however, Surrey faces challenging demographics and socio-economic issues. A significant youth population, our education rates and lower level of university degrees, and low income housing are all factors that other municipalities may or may not face at the same level. It is a challenge to establish a method to report the work done and our success factoring in our challenges and compare our successes apples to apples.

Currently, the methodology used to report back to the Police Committee, the OIC stated that statistics are tracked in terms of how many youth are arrested, how many are charged, and their disposition when involved in the justice system; recidivism is also tracked. However, when broken down, the youth population is not the only challenge; there are issues of mental health and domestic violence as well, and groups within the population that would be at risk.

The OIC noted that the effectiveness of a policing agency is how quickly it can respond. Thirty-eight percent of calls go forward with arrests or charges. A 2014 "calls for service" breakdown is now being analyzed; the results should assist when requesting resources. The increase of 100 officers will be beneficial in improving response time. The daily shift report tracks response time as well as the number of files still not dispatched at the end of a shift - this number is decreasing. The goal is to get to a place where calls for service are in alignment with resources.

Statistics show that the equivalent of less than one police officer per year attends false alarms and false 9-1-1 calls; it still makes sense to attend even if the call has not been verified.

The Committee reiterated that a 2% reduction in crime rate does not sound like an overly aggressive strategic goal. A five year rolling average would seem more meaningful, with an aim to having a declining curve over time. Previous methods of reporting showed downward and upward trends, to be more compatible with the City's Management Plan. The rolling average and the way other strategic important arms of the City are measured make sense; look at the benchmark and what the baseline is, but show the anomalies in Surrey as well. It is important to understand what is good and what is average.

It was Moved by Councillor Gill  
Seconded by Councillor Woods  
That the Police Committee:

- 1) Receive report Poo8 entitled "2015-2017 Strategic Framework" as information; and
- 2) Request that staff review and create a different methodology to capture and measure how strategic objectives, targets and performance measures are being met in Surrey and relative to other municipalities.

Carried

#### D. OTHER BUSINESS

##### 1. Business Emergency Preparedness Program – Surrey Emergency Initiatives

Fire Chief Len Garis and Deputy Fire Chief Dan Barnscher in attendance to provide information regarding the Surrey Business Emergency Preparedness Program

A Business Emergency Preparedness Program (BEPP) has been designed and developed to assist businesses to prepare for the event of an emergency. It is the first of its kind in the region with the ability to interact with businesses and assist with identifying risks and assessing impacts and planning for response during and recovery after an emergency. The program will be distributed by firefighters during the course of inspections.

Statistics show that an estimated 25% of businesses that are forced to close for 24 hours or more following a disaster will never reopen. Surrey Fire Services has developed a tool kit which provides checklists and a guide book to help identify possible risks to business. The basic preparedness check list looks at data documentation backup, emergency contact for suppliers and wholesalers. The check list also discusses hard components of site safety, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, smoke alarms, and emergency kits.

Advanced planning is critical to ensure a contingency plan for disruption, such as relocation of the business if necessary. Steps to developing a plan include establishing a planning team, identifying risks and assessing impacts, planning a response during and after the event, and recovery.

Emergency preparedness begins with people: training to keep employees safe, site safety on evacuation, how to coach and encourage personal preparation that will extend into the business world, advanced planning in consideration of working from home, developing a means of working over the internet.

A building's safety plays a big role. It is up to the business owner to make sure there is a mechanism in place to ensure contents are secured in case of earthquake; review insurance coverage; obtain information on outage reporting lines; plan a secondary way to access internet if it is vital to the business; and food storage is a critical component.

Communication is an important role in any disaster. Ensure employees develop a plan with their families; cellular voice lines get jammed but text or SMS messages can still be utilized. Plan for where and how up-to-date information can be obtained during an emergency.

Business owners must understand that they are not eligible for government disaster assistance if insurance was available for that particular loss. Proper insurance is essential to ensure recovery; how to get the business back up and running after a disaster. Insurers recommend businesses have a risk management plan; the speed of the recovery will depend on the plan.

Surrey Fire Services reach out to at least 8,000 businesses annually to provide routine fire inspections and will communicate further with the BEPP brochure. The brochure will also be made available with business license applications. Fire Services have also reached out to the BIA and Surrey Board of Trade to assist with getting this information disseminated.

#### Discussion

When asked about the feasibility of purchasing emergency kits, the Fire Chief advised that the Guide Book contains information on where the small kits can be purchased. Further information can be obtained at [www.surrey.ca/bepp](http://www.surrey.ca/bepp)

Concern was expressed about the absence of information on an economic recovery team to help business recover in case of a disaster, i.e. business helping business. The Fire Chief noted it can take many years for businesses to recover. A recovery mechanism is contained within the City Plan but is hard to detail in terms of the type of business. The objective is to conduct safety inspections and distribute educational information and check list on how to be safe.

It was  
Moved by Councillor Hayne  
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve  
That the Police Committee receive the report  
entitled "Business Emergency Preparedness Program – Surrey Emergency  
Initiatives" as information.

Carried

## **2. Renaming of Police Committee to Public Safety Committee**

It was  
Moved by Councillor Martin  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Police Committee approve the  
renaming of the Police Committee to Public Safety Committee.

Carried

3. **Public Safety Committee Terms of Reference**

It was Moved by Councillor Hayne  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Police Committee adopt the  
amended Terms of Reference to reflect the new name of Public Safety Committee.  
Carried

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

It is in order for Police Committee members to pass a resolution to close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) of the *Community Charter*.

It was Moved by Councillor Hayne  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Police Committee meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) of the *Community Charter* as 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.

Carried

A Closed Police Committee Meeting will be held at City Hall, 13450-104 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. in 1E Committee Room B on **Monday, July 20, 2015.**

E. **NEXT MEETING**

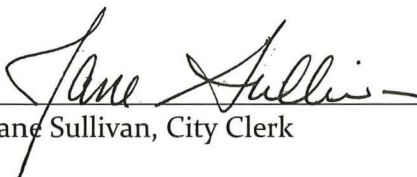
The next meeting of the Police Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2015 at 1:00 pm in 1E Committee Room B.

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Carried

The Police Committee adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

  
Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

  
Mayor Hepner, Chair