



City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** January 6, 2006

**From:** George Duncan  
Chief Administrative Officer

**File:** 09-5000-00/Vol 01

**Re:** Implementation of the RCMP Emergency Response Team

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### Staff Recommendation

That the additional levels funding for the RCMP Integrated Emergency Response Team be approved.

George Duncan  
Chief Administrative Officer

REVIEWED BY TAG

YES

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the December 19, 2005 Council meeting the following resolution was approved:

- (1) *That the Mayor and Council send a letter to Deputy Commissioner Bev Busson to:
  - (a) express the City's concerns about the lack of a consultative process used with regard to the implementation of the full time Emergency Response Team;
  - (b) request that any other integration initiatives being contemplated by the LMD be shared with the City as soon as possible;
  - (c) request that a standing consultative process be used with the City in the future;*
- (2) *That staff request further information prior to implementation of the Emergency Response Team, on:
  - (a) the operational details, such as:
    - (i) utilization of the members between emergencies; and
    - (ii) a comparison to the existing ERT including those of private forces; and
  - (b) the cost allocations and equity thereof;*
- (3) *That staff explore cost recovery for the ERT from YVR;*
- (4) *That staff investigate and report on the status of the Mayor's Consultative Forum;*
- (5) *That staff request that the LMMA and the UBCM on behalf of the City and other municipal jurisdictions, approach the Provincial Government to include those cities and municipalities with RCMP detachments in the discussions and negotiation of a new policing contract to be negotiated for 2012; and*
- (6) *That staff request an extension in implementation until consultation has occurred on the Emergency Response Team initiative; and*
- (7) *That a copy of the resolutions adopted be circulated to the RCMP jurisdictions and to the GVRD.*

At the January 24, 2006 Council meeting the 2006 Operating Budget was approved with the following proviso:

*That the funding set aside for the Emergency Response Team not be expended until the Community Safety Committee referrals relating to the Emergency Response Team, were reviewed by the Committee and approved.*

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the actions that have been taken with respect to these resolutions.

### Analysis

In early January a meeting was held between City and RCMP Lower Mainland District staff. At this meeting the CAO expressed Council's concerns about the consultative process used with respect to the implementation of a full time ERT. During this meeting two things became apparent. Firstly, that there will be times when the Deputy Commissioner must exercise her

authority under the Police Act or policing contract to make decisions based on operational necessity that may not be conducive to consultation; for example, actions required to ensure the safety of RCMP members during the course of conducting their duty. Having said this, an effort was made to consult with municipalities regarding the ERT implementation; however, a number of factors conspired to frustrate the process. Assistant Commissioner Macintyre explained the process used which, for the most part, entailed meeting with the Municipal Staff Working Group on several occasions to discuss and gain input on the process for implementing ERT. The Staff Working Group is a small group of municipal staff. In the past, this group was used to help refine and finalize RCMP initiatives in preparation for a more thorough review at a meeting of the LMTAC (Lower Mainland Police Advisory Committee). It was Assistant Commissioner Macintyre's belief that by meeting with the Staff Working Group, he was consulting with municipalities in a thorough and inclusive manner. However, the Staff Working Group is not representative of all the municipalities in the Lower Mainland District. LMTAC, which is composed of the Principal Policing Contacts from each municipality is responsible for ensuring their respective Councils are informed and given the opportunity to comment and provide input on LMD initiatives.

Part of the breakdown in consultation can be attributed to the decision to use the Staff Working Group in place of the LMTAC. This is not to suggest that the decision was intentional, Assistant Commissioner Macintyre was of the belief that he was consulting with municipalities by meeting with the Staff Working Group. However, this gave the appearance that a small group of municipal staff and the RCMP were pushing the ERT initiative through without appropriate consultation. In addition to this issue, a factor beyond the RCMP's control was the decision by a municipality to prematurely release the business case to the media, thus hindering the RCMP's ability to meet Richmond CAO's request to time the release to occur after Council had been advised of the RCMP's plans, and had been provided an opportunity to express any concerns.

Staff have been assured by Assistant Commissioner Macintyre, that it was not the RCMP's intention to bypass consultation with municipalities with respect to integration initiatives impacting municipal detachments. He shared information regarding possible future opportunities being contemplated by the LMD to integrate services. These initiatives are still in the planning stages, however once the feasibility of each initiative is determined, Municipal Councils will be consulted through an inclusive process:

1. Dog Services
2. Forensic Identification
3. Training
4. Media
5. White Collar Crime
6. Serious Crime Unit
7. Identity Theft
8. Traffic Reconstruction
9. Internal Affairs
10. Helicopter Services (provincially funded)

With respect to additional information regarding the ERT model, many major cities across Canada including Vancouver, Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, have full time Emergency Response Teams. Each of these teams has differing mandates dependent upon local priorities, an assessment of needs, and the experience level of the team members. The Lower Mainland District (LMD) Emergency Response Team will function as a full time district team, and as such utilization of the members between emergencies will be dependent upon priorities across the LMD. It will be housed in Surrey for the next four years but will operate across the Lower Mainland District, when not responding to emergencies. The team's mandate will include actively searching out and apprehending high risk offenders, support to IHIT and the Integrated Gang Task Force, drug enforcement with respect to executing high risk warrants related to meth labs and grow operations, major events support and witness protection.

Staff have explored cost recovery for ERT from YVR and have concluded that the cost being charged to the Federal Business line, plus the Federal share of the Provincial and Municipal costs covers Federal incidents such as terrorism that might happen at the airport and require ERT. This does not preclude the City from charging YVR a percentage of the municipal cost for work on their behalf for contract related issues requiring ERT. However, YVR may take the position that this type of service is included in the grant in lieu of taxes paid to the City.

With regard to the status of the Mayor's Consultative Forum, the CAO will be meeting with his counterparts from other Lower Mainland District municipalities to discuss the merit of re-establishing the RCMP Mayors Consultative Forum and/or the Lower Mainland Police Advisory Committee (principal policing contacts from each municipality).

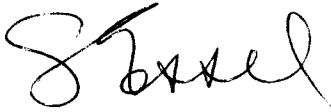
The Municipal Policing Agreement expires March 31, 2012. On or after March 31, 2010, but before the expiry of the agreement, negotiations can be commenced for renewal of the agreement. This agreement is negotiated between the Province and the RCMP. Staff will be requesting that the LMMA and the UBCM on behalf of the City and other municipal jurisdictions, approach the Solicitor General to include those cities and municipalities with RCMP detachments in the discussions and negotiation of a new policing contract.

### **Financial Impact**

The LMD has advised that all costs for the ERT for January 1 to April 1, 2006 will be funded by the Province. The City portion of the funding required for ERT for 2006 is \$160,274. This is a reduction of \$81,217 from the original estimate of \$241,491 provided by the LMD, and included in 2006 Operating Budget as part of the Additional Levels.

**Conclusion**

ERT has been deemed an operational necessity by Deputy Commissioner Busson. With respect to the ERT consultation, Assistant Commissioner Macintyre met with staff to provide further information on the process used, and to update staff on future integration initiatives being contemplated by the LMD. Further Assistant Commissioner Macintyre gave assurances that the RCMP is committed to consulting with municipalities before consideration is given to implementing integration initiatives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Issel', written in a cursive style.

Shawn Issel  
Manager, Policy Development & Corporate Programs  
(4184)

SI:si