



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Safety Committee
FROM: Ward Clapham
OIC RCMP, Richmond Detachment
RE: **Auxiliary Policing**

DATE: January 28, 2002

FILE: -

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the RCMP incrementally re-initiate the Auxiliary Constable Program.
2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign an agreement with the Provincial government to give effect to this program.

Ward Clapham
OIC RCMP, Richmond Detachment

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

Origin

In December 2000 staff reported a concern to the Community Safety Committee regarding the City's liability for Auxiliary volunteers. Council did not approve moving forward until they were satisfied each party's liability responsibilities were clearly defined. The following addresses the issue of insurance liability of the Auxiliary members working in Richmond.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the revised policy and the proposed Auxiliary Constable Program.

Analysis

The purpose of the Richmond Detachment Auxiliary Constable program is to strengthen community and Police partnerships by providing volunteers with the opportunity to perform authorised activities in support of strategies to address the causes or reduce the fear of crime and disorder (as mandated by the Ministry of Attorney General).

Over the last several years, the Auxiliary Policing Program has experienced significant changes. The catalyst of these changes was the Commanding Officer's of "E" Division's decision to disarm the auxiliary constables throughout the province, and to shift their role from assisting police in their regular duties to a primary role of participating in community policing and crime prevention duties. As part of this shift, the Attorney General's Office, in consultation with "E" Division, redesigned the policy governing the auxiliary program in late 1999. The intent of the revised policy is to set out a clearer definition of the auxiliary constable's roles and responsibilities given the shift in their mandate.

The revised policy contains a **Tier 1** program (without arms) and a Tier 2 program (with arms). The decision by "E" Division clearly states that the cities with contracted RCMP services will operate under the **Tier 1** program.

Insurance

1. An Auxiliary Constable who is appointed by the province pursuant to section 8 of the BC *Police Act* is covered by the following policies:

- Vehicle Insurance – allows an A/Cst. to operate police vehicles that support non-enforcement community policing activities;
- Worker's Compensation Board – the province pays claim amounts for an A/Cst. injured while participating in authorized activities; and
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Weekly Accident Indemnity Insurance.

2. With respect to section 6.3 of the A/R Constable Provincial Policy an amendment of this section that will release municipalities (with RCMP contracts) from indemnifying the province as outlined in the letter from the Police Services division (Attachment 1).

Current Status

Richmond Detachment currently has six Auxiliary Constables on strength. These volunteers will perform various duties within the detachment and will be assigned to the community police offices. The Auxiliary Constables will participate in community policing programs and will regularly ride along with Police in a support role. Auxiliary Constables gain knowledge and

expertise in delivering crime prevention and community policing programs to the public through the ride-along program. Auxiliary Constables will provide significant support to this detachment in the coming years. Details regarding the proposed Auxiliary Constable Program can be found in Attachment 2.

Complement of Auxiliary Constables

R.C.M.P. policy allows for a maximum complement of 37 Auxiliary Constable positions for this detachment. This is based on a regular member/auxiliary ratio of one auxiliary per every two regular members for the first 10 regular members and one additional auxiliary per every six regular members on detachment strength.

Utilization of auxiliaries in the Lower Mainland

To date, Burnaby, Surrey, North Vancouver, Chilliwack, Comox, Courtney, Kelowna and Kamloops are actively participating in the revised *Auxiliary Constable Program*. West Vancouver has decided not to participate in the program.

Financial Impact

The following figures represent an estimate of costs (based on figures provided by the "E" Division Auxiliary Constable Co-ordinator in Victoria) to recruit, train and equip 10 new Auxiliary Constables in addition to the current 6 on strength.

Cost per New Auxiliary

Recruiting and selection	Cost absorbed by detachment
Initial issue of kit and clothing	\$ 2000.00
Initial training. Approx. 140 hrs.	Cost absorbed by detachment.
Total cost per Auxiliary	\$ 2000.00
Recruitment for Year 2002	10
Total Cost	\$ 20,000.00

It is anticipated that much of the training will be completed 'in house' and shared with UBC and other surrounding detachments.

Funding for this program was approved by Council from the gaming reserve, January 22, 2001.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council approve moving forward with training of 10 new auxiliaries and re-vitalization of our Auxiliary Police volunteer program.

Cst. Peter Thiessen
Media Liaison Officer
RCMP Richmond Detachment

Mandate

Auxiliary Constables are volunteers under the command of the R.C.M.P. Their primary mandate is to focus on and participate in **Community Policing Service** activities relating to public safety and crime prevention, in an **unarmed** capacity, as authorized by the Commanding Officer of "E" Division, under the direct supervision of a police officer or under the general supervision of the detachment.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. *Permitted duties of the Auxiliary Constables*

In accordance with the policy, the auxiliary constables **can participate** in the following activities with limitations:

A. Education & Public Relations:

- ◆ community policing and crime prevention activities;
 - ◆ non-enforcement education activities, and traffic management at road blocks so that police can focus on testing and enforcement duties;
 - ◆ personal safety lectures & demonstrations;
 - ◆ cadet/youth awareness programs;
 - ◆ community special event involvement, and
 - ◆ Assist police in training activities.
- ◆ deployment & operation of the Emergency Command Vehicle for community safety functions or as a command post during serious incidents.

Most of the above public relations and education activities can be undertaken by the auxiliaries under "general supervision" authorised by the Commanding Officer of the RCMP without being under the "direct supervision" of a police officer.

Definition of "SUPERVISION"

(a) *"General supervision" means:*

An Auxiliary member may perform specific activities, authorized by the Commanding Officer RCMP "E" Division, and not inconsistent with this Regulation, without being under the direct supervision of a police officer. Under no circumstance, except in emergency situations, may an Auxiliary member take primary responsibility for any enforcement action while performing activities under general supervision.

(b) *"Direct supervision" means*

One Auxiliary accompanies one police officer and is supervised and directed by that police officer. The supervision shall be considered "arms length" since there may occasionally be circumstances when the Auxiliary member is in radio contact, but not within sight, of the police officer for a short time.

B. Preventive Activities including Patrols:

- ◆ assist in crime prevention through environmental design;
- ◆ home and business safety checks;
- ◆ Business Watch;
- ◆ Block Watch Parent Programs;
- ◆ post incident crime prevention information;
- ◆ fingerprint children as part of "child identification" programs;
- ◆ community presence on bikes, foot patrols or "ride along", and
- ◆ observe, record and report programs in non-operational activities.

With the exception of the patrol activities, all of the above activities can be conducted under "general supervision". The ride along must be conducted under "direct supervision" of a police officer. Although auxiliaries do not necessarily have to be accompanied by a police officer on foot and bike patrols, they still are under the direct supervision of a police officer. However, this supervision can be at arms length, if there is radio contact.

B. Traffic Management:

- ◆ traffic control – unpaid, non-enforcement oriented (e.g. fun runs, Remembrance Day, etc). Funding for traffic control from these special events can be used to help offset the costs of the auxiliary program.
- ◆ non-enforcement traffic related activities such as speed boards.

The auxiliary constables do not require "direct supervision" to conduct the above activities.

C. Administrative, Research & Problem Solving

- ◆ collecting, collating and analysing community information & statistics
- ◆ administrative document file activities and assistance
- ◆ Auxiliary program administration

The above administrative activities can also be conducted under general supervision.

D. Disaster Planning

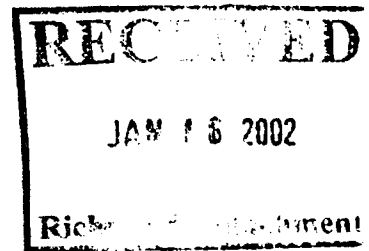
- ◆ disaster planning and emergency preparedness assistance

E. Ground Searches

- ◆ all searches must be police-directed.



Attachment 1



#65110-01

Via Fax

January 11, 2002

Superintendent Ward Clapham
OIC, Richmond Detachment
6900 Minoru Boulevard
Richmond, BC V6Y 1Y3

Dear Superintendent Clapham:

Re: Auxiliary Constable Program

I am writing to clarify the policy of Police Services Division with respect to local government who contract with the RCMP to provide municipal policing and establish a local auxiliary constable program.

The purpose of the program is to strengthen both the community and police partnership by providing opportunities for citizens to perform non-enforcement community and crime prevention activities.

RCMP auxiliaries perform activities under the general supervision of a police agency, or under the direct supervision of a police officer. Police Services Division will indemnify RCMP auxiliary volunteers who are engaged in Tier 1 community policing activities.

If you should require any additional information please contact Mr. Bob Cole at (250) 356-6676 or via e-mail at robert.cole@gems9.gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

Kevin Begg
Director
Police Services Division

cc: Chief Superintendent Gary Forbes
Corporal Tom Clark

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