



City of Richmond


Report to Committee

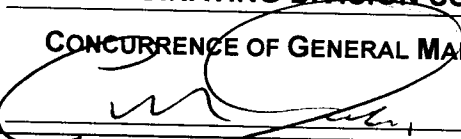
To: Community Safety Committee
From: Ward Clapham
Officer in Charge
Re: **Auxiliary Policing**

Date: April 2, 2002
File: -

Staff Recommendation

The attached staff report regarding the disarming of Auxiliary Constables be received for information.


Ward Clapham
Officer in Charge

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER


Staff Report

Origin

In February 2002, Community Safety Committee members approved the Auxiliary Policing report. The committee moved and seconded a motion regarding the history of the Auxiliary Policing Program in Richmond with respect to Auxiliary Constables being permitted to carry weapons; and the decision of the Provincial Government to disarm them and the position of the RCMP on whether auxiliary constables should be allowed to carry weapons. This report is based on the subsequent referral.

Analysis

The decision whether Auxiliary volunteers should be armed is an operational decision to be made by the Commanding Officer of the RCMP "E" Division.

In 1997 and years prior auxiliary constables were armed and primarily performing patrol car duties. The Province provided all of the funding for auxiliary firearms and the Province was the registered owner of all the firearms and related equipment, including 752 9-mm pistols province wide. The initial purchase of 9-mm pistols was in 1995. The total cost of the 1995 gun purchase, inspection costs, holsters and mag carriers was \$ 262,917.73.

In 1997 the Ministry of Attorney General, Public Safety and Regulatory Branch paid for a further purchase of 9-mm pistols. The total cost of the 1997 gun purchase, inspection costs, holsters and mag carriers was \$249,978.00.

Disarming of Auxiliary Constables

Prior to the review in 1998, all auxiliaries in BC were armed. The decision to disarm auxiliary constables was based on problems and concerns with auxiliary training, public safety issues, and other circumstances that did not exist for reserve programs.

RCMP "E" Division participated in the development of the provincial Auxiliary Constable Program policy, along with representatives from municipal police departments, the Justice Institute of BC, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and the BC Federation of Police Officers. The Commanding Officer RCMP "E" Division instituted the provincial policy changes and direction after considerable deliberation along with the benefit of institutional expertise and experience in this field.

The Ministry of Attorney General administers the Auxiliary Constable program in concert with the RCMP and the individual Municipal Police Departments. Information regarding any aspect of the program can be obtained from these sources.

On Thursday January 17, 2002 the Provincial Government announced a number of service cuts, lay-offs, and closures. Included in the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General 2002/03 - 2004/05 Service Plan was the following:

Support the auxiliary constable program (volunteers) and develop a new armed reserve program (part-time officers) in co-operation with the RCMP.

Consultation with the RCMP is underway to support the auxiliary constable program and provide for an armed reserve police service.

Conclusion

The disarming of the Auxiliaries was the sole decision of the Commanding Officer, "E" Division. This decision brought BC's Auxiliary Constable program in line with all other Auxiliary Constable programs in Canada where auxiliaries have never been permitted to carry guns.

The decision by the Commanding Officer, "E" Division, to disarm the Auxiliary Constables is fully supported by the current Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP.

Ward Clapham
Officer in Charge

WC:pt