



To: Community Safety Committee

Date: March 31, 2006

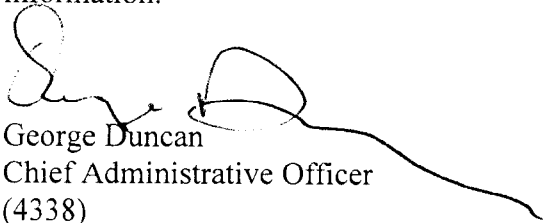
From: George Duncan  
Chief Administrative Officer

File: 09-5000-00/Vol 01

Re: Update on Emergency Response Team Implementation

**Staff Recommendation**

That the update on the implementation of the Emergency Response Team be received for information.



George Duncan  
Chief Administrative Officer  
(4338)

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	
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## Staff Report

### Origin

At the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Community Safety Committee correspondence from both Deputy Commissioner Bev Busson about the increased need for communications with the RCMP, and Assistant Commissioner Al Macintyre about amended cost estimates for the ERT was discussed. Assistant Commissioner Macintyre also confirmed in the letter that ERT implementation is planned for April 1, 2006.

Subsequent to the Community Safety Committee meeting, a subcommittee of RAAC (Regional Administrators Advisory Committee) appointed to review the ERT implementation met with RCMP members of the Lower Mainland District to discuss areas of concern. As a result a report is being prepared by a joint RCMP and municipal staff group for RAAC.

The purpose of this report is to comment on ways in which to increase communication, provide information on the impact of the changes to the cost estimates and to give an update on the discussions at the RAAC subcommittee.

### Analysis

The correspondence from the Deputy Commissioner acknowledges that the means of communication from the RCMP LMD to municipalities regarding the ERT implementation has not been effective, and asks for input regarding more inclusive and comprehensive consultation. Superintendent Wayne Sutherland from the LMD will be arranging a meeting with Mayors from the LMD municipalities to discuss solutions to this issue. The RCMP provides policing to 22 communities in the Lower Mainland, making it challenging logistically and in terms of staff resources for the RCMP to meet individually with each Council on every issue. Deputy Commissioner Busson mentions that some Mayors have recommended that the RCMP Mayors' Consultative Forum be resurrected, with the suggestion that meetings could be held bi-annually or as required to discuss policing issues.

The Mayors' Consultative Forum could be reconstituted to provide a forum for discussion between the RCMP and the municipalities collectively. However, there are drawbacks. The Mayors' Consultative Forum has no delegated authority to make decisions regarding policing in the Lower Mainland District. At most it would offer a means of gathering the Mayors from the various municipalities together and providing the RCMP with information regarding individual communities issues and concerns. In addition, the Mayors' Consultative Forum requires staff support to ensure that agendas, minutes and meeting logistics are dealt with. To date, no municipality has volunteered to take on this responsibility. One possible solution might be to have the RCMP LMD convene and host a biannual meeting with Mayors rather than reconstituting the Mayors' Consultative Forum.

In addition to consultation at the political level, there is also a need for a forum for discussion at the staff level. The Staff Working Group that has worked with the LMD in the past is not representative of all municipalities in the LMD, nor are members necessarily the Principal Policing contact for the municipality. This has caused confusion at the LMD, and does not

always allow for a thorough discussion of issues at the senior staff level in the municipality. At RAAC there has been discussion about adding policing issues as a regular item on RAAC agendas. There is also a subcommittee appointed to review the ERT implementation. Staff anticipate that one outcome of their discussion will be recommendations related to establishing a more effective process for the consultation with municipalities and the RCMP. The RAAC subcommittee has identified a number of common issues between municipalities. Detailed information on these areas supplemental to the business case will be included, along with recommendations, in the report to RAAC:

1. The housing of ERT in Surrey and the implications for service to the rest of the LMD
2. The provision of benchmarks to municipalities with a comparison of the LMD ERT model to other cities with ERT to ensure due diligence in determining the size, scope and nature of the team.
3. A thorough evaluation and reporting to municipalities of ERT after the first year of operation
4. A clear understanding of the municipal cost allocation vs. The federal and provincial shares
5. A clear understanding about the RCMP's responsibility to make decisions about the function and operation of the team
6. Cost savings associated with ERT that were not identified in the RCMP Business Case
7. The potential integration of municipal police forces into ERT to provide a fully regional team

Once the report from the subcommittee is presented to RAAC, then staff anticipate being able to provide a more conclusive response with respect to communication with the RCMP.

### **Financial Impact**

The ERT costs are to be shared between the three levels of government:

- Federal – 20%
- Provincial – 30%
- Municipal – 50 %

When the 10% federal contribution to municipal policing is taken into consideration, as well as the cost to the province (in addition to the 30% share) to provide policing to unincorporated areas within the LMD, the municipal share drops to 41.13%.

Assistant Commissioner Macintyre has sent revised cost estimates related to ERT. A comparison of the figures contained in the original business plan and the revised estimates are shown in the table below. These figures include overtime costs which were not included in the original business case cost estimate. The revised figures provide a reduction in costs for the first year of the implementation, however costs increase in subsequent years. This can be partially attributed to the inclusion of the overtime cost which range from approximately \$6,000 in 2006 to \$15,000 in 2008. The impact on taxes once the team is fully functional is estimated to be an increase of .05%.

	<b>Richmond Percentage of total Municipal Share</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Cumulative Tax Impact</b>
Original Business Case cost estimates	9.72%	263,363	336,493	424,625	0.36%
Current Business Case cost estimates	9.56%	160,774	350,422	488,867	0.41%
Change	(0.16%)	(\$102,589)	\$13,929	\$64,242	0.05%

Based on the information provided in the original business case, \$241,491 was built into the operating budget 2006 as an ongoing additional level. Although, funding has been established for ERT, those funds will not be expended until resolution (2) (b) of the 2006 Operating Budget resolution, which states *“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”* is satisfied.

**Conclusion**

Staff continue to work with the RCMP and other municipal staff through the RAAC subcommittee to bring forward recommendations regarding more effective methods of communication and consultation. In the interim the LMD has revised the cost estimates related to ERT, which has the effect of reducing the costs in the first year of operation. Once the RAAC report is received staff will provide a final report on the Emergency Response Team.



Shawn Issel  
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