



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

to Community Safety - Apr. 11, 2006.
Date: April 8, 2006

From: Derek Dang
Councillor

File: 09-5350-01

Re: Review of Alternative Models for the Delivery of Police Service in Richmond

Recommendation

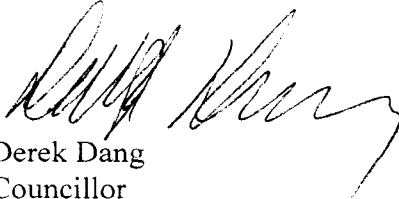
That staff be directed to undertake a review of the various options available for the delivery of policing in Richmond including:

- establishing a local Richmond Police Force,
- contracting policing services from a neighbouring municipal Police Force, or
- maintaining the Richmond RCMP Detachment

to ensure the best service, safety and cost to the City of Richmond and its citizens, and

That staff report back to Council on any specialized resources that will be required to complete the review, and

That since this review is not intended to be a negative reflection on the performance of the Richmond Detachment, Council take this opportunity to declare their satisfaction with the Detachment's performance.


Derek Dang
Councillor
(4134)

Staff Report

Origin

There are a number of issues with respect to the renewal of the contract for policing and the replacement of the Public Safety Building that have the potential for significant impact on the cost and delivery of policing services in Richmond. Given the significance of these issues, and in order to make better informed decisions, it would be prudent for Council to have a solid understanding of the options available to the City for policing.

Analysis

The rationale for a review of other options for policing is predicated on several significant issues related to policing.

The Public Safety Building is due to be replaced. The Public Safety Building, which houses the RCMP was planned to be replaced with a Community Safety Headquarters, co-locating police, fire and the City's EOC in one facility. This is a significant investment for the City to undertake, given the space necessary and the standards to be upheld with respect to post-disaster requirements.

The contract for the delivery of policing for B.C. municipalities that have RCMP detachments, is up for the renewal in 2012. Preliminary discussions between the Province and the federal government for the renewal of the contract began this year. The province negotiates on behalf of municipalities with RCMP detachments. Currently municipalities have very little input into the proceedings and do not have a place at the negotiating table.

The relationship between the City and the local detachment remains strong. However concerns have been raised by Council about the consultation between the City and the Lower Mainland District RCMP, regarding the imposition of costs for regional integration initiatives. In addition, continuing increases in costs including overhead, salaries, equipment, and training with the City having little input or control over the amount, or timing (with respect to the City's budget cycle), signals an apparent return to the era of unilateral decision making by the RCMP on RCMP and community related programs.

Financial Impact

None at this time.

Conclusion

Given the uncertainty about the outcome of the negotiations for the policing contract, the regional initiatives impacting the City, upward spirally cost increases and the magnitude of the cost to replace the Public Safety Building, it would be worthwhile for Council to have a better understanding of other options for policing available to the City.

April 6, 2006

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Derek Dang
Councillor

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