



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

to Community Safety - Apr. 11, 2006
Date: March 31, 2006

From: George Duncan
Chief Administrative Officer

File: *03-1000-13-006*

Re: **Negotiations for Renewal of Municipal Police Unit Agreement in 2012**

Staff Recommendation

That a letter be sent to the Solicitor General requesting information regarding the process, including the extent of municipal involvement, for the renewal of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement in 2012, and

That staff be directed to develop a UBCM resolution for increased municipal involvement in negotiations.

George Duncan
Chief Administrative Officer

REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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Staff Report

Origin

At the March 14th Community Safety Committee, staff were asked to provide a timeline for key decisions with respect to the renewal of the RCMP contract in 2012. The following report provides a brief overview of the process as understood by staff at this time, with a recommendation that a letter be sent to the Solicitor General for a formal response to Council questions and concerns regarding the contract renewal process and negotiations. Upon receipt of the Solicitor General's response it is recommended that a resolution be prepared for forwarding to the UBCM.

Findings of Fact

The RCMP provides community (municipal) policing services under contract in all provinces and territories of Canada, except Ontario and Quebec. The Provincial Municipal Policing Agreements (the agreements between the federal government and the provinces and territories) are negotiated as a 'block', resulting in a standardized agreement. Although, individual municipal policing agreements have also been negotiated between a number of municipalities and the Government of Canada in some contract provinces and territories. In British Columbia, a general municipal policing agreement exists between the provincial government and the federal government, for the delivery of municipal police service to specific municipalities.

The Province of BC is the biggest customer of the RCMP in Canada, using fully one third of the RCMP's resources. In British Columbia, "E" Division provides provincial, federal and municipal policing to the province through 126 detachments, with more than 5,000 police officers, or regular members. This makes "E" Division the largest in Canada. The RCMP polices all but 12 municipalities in B.C., and it's been in the province since 1950 when it replaced the B.C. Provincial Police.

Policing Services for the City of Richmond are provided by the RCMP under the auspices of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement. This agreement is between the City and the province and is pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Municipal Policing Agreement for BC. Both the Municipal Police Unit Agreement and the Municipal Policing Agreement for BC were signed in 1992 for a twenty year term, which expires March 31, 2012. On or after March 31, 2010 the agreement can be renewed for an additional term.

Analysis

Preliminary work has begun regarding the renewal of the Municipal Policing Agreement for BC. In 2005, the deputy ministers from each province and territory met to discuss the process for contract renewal. As an outcome of this meeting a two phase approach was adopted. In Phase 1, which started in 2006 and will conclude sometime in 2007, information sharing and research will take place between the provinces. In Phase 2, which is anticipated to begin mid 2007, formal negotiations between the provinces and Canada will begin.

At present, staff have been able to determine that municipal involvement in the contract renewal process will be coordinated through the UBCM. Although, the Province has determined that the UBCM will be the collection point for information, at this time no formal agreement on process has been determined.

In order to be able to officially notify the Solicitor General of Council's desire to have a greater voice in decisions with respect to the renewal of the contract, staff recommend that a letter be sent to the Solicitor General requesting further information on the contract renewal process, the role of the UBCM and the extent to which municipalities may become involved and will be consulted throughout both phases of the process.

Upon receipt of this information from the Solicitor General, staff recommend that a resolution be drawn up and forwarded to the UBCM regarding greater municipal involvement in the contract renewal process.

Financial Impact

None at this time.

Conclusion

The renewal process for the municipal policing agreement between the Provinces and Canada has just commenced. It would be prudent to begin to establish Council's position regarding municipal involvement in the contract renewal negotiations as soon as possible.



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