



CITY OF RICHMOND

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION RICHMOND'S CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICING

MINUTES

HELD TUESDAY MAY 29, 2001 AT 7:00 P.M.
Anderson Room 2.001
RICHMOND CITY HALL

In Attendance:

Mr. Jim Lavery, Chair
Mr. Gary Abrams
Mr. Mahmood Awan
Ms. Colleen Chambers
Ms. Heather Courage
Mr. Rick Henderson
Mr. Fred Ursel
Mr. Brian Webster
Mr. Randall Wong

Absent:

Mr. Leo Lai

Staff in Attendance:

Councillor Bill McNulty
Insp. Al. Speevak, RCMP
Insp. Tonia Enger
Ms. Susan McBride, City of Richmond (Recorder)

1. Call to Order - Mr. Jim Lavery

2. Approval of Agenda

C. Chambers/M. Awan

That the May 29, 2001 agenda of the Richmond's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing be approved.

CARRIED

3. Approval of May 1, 2001 Minutes

On Page 4 of the minutes, Item 4, last paragraph, the sentence "South Arm Community Police Station were short of personnel and Insp. Speevak advised that, due to promotion/leave, a replacement would not arrive until the following week" should be replaced with "South Arm Community Police Station were short of personnel and Insp.

Speevak advised that due to promotions/medical leaves/vacancies, South Arm were short, but replacements are named and only on an exception basis should the NCO have to attend." "A replacement was being sought to allow the Community Consultative Groups to continue its work." should be removed and replaced with "We are reviewing the Community Consultative Group concept with a view to getting the groups going again and this will be one of the priorities assigned to the new S/Sgt. in charge of CoPS.

F. Ursel/R. Henderson

That the minutes of the May 1, 2001 meeting of the Richmond's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

None requested.

5. Feedback from Committee members on policing/public safety concerns

- Mr. Awan stated in the No. 2 Road and Arthur Laing Bridge area traffic is very congested, especially around 3:30 to 4:30. Inspector Speevak said he will pass this comment on to Traffic Section and they will look into it.
- Mr. Henderson mentioned a couple of items reported to him while he attended the Police Week booth. One gentleman said three or four years ago a shooting occurred in his area and he asked the police officer whether his wife would be safe and the officer said she might be. He did not feel this was an adequate response.
- Mr. Henderson was also asked to bring up the topic of using air brakes on Shell road towards Bridgeport. The problem occurred before and the police put up signs saying please don't put on air brakes. The signs should be more explicit or people should be pulled over and read the riot act. Inspector Speevak will pass this suggestion on to Traffic Section.
- Mr. Webster congratulated the City and the RCMP for the teen dance held at Minoru Arena, it went very well. Wayne Yee and his crew should be congratulated as well.
- Mr. Wong reported that the directions to the police station on Westminster Highway westbound just before Minoru are obscured by new landscaping.
- Mr. Wong said he called in to complain that there is drug dealing in his commercial plaza again at 9780 Cambie Road.
- Mr. Ursel brought up the topic of photo radar and wondered whether the committee should come up with some suggestions. Councillor McNulty said Council has asked Inspector Speevak to provide some data and when they receive all the information they can then make an informed decision and would appreciate input from the committee at that point.
- Mr. Ursel also stated he was uneasy about the ethnic mix in our city. He said he likes to be proactive and wishes to make sure our harmony is worked on.

- Mr. Lavery said three weeks to a month ago he met a gentleman, Brian, who lives at 9260 No. 3 Road who has 38 garden figures. He makes them, for the back yard and 38 were taken which were worth \$10.00 each. There were also some other neighbours in the area who had things stolen from their back yards. Brian went to Rideau Park School and spoke to the caretaker and principal there. A member attended because the school had called the police and Brian approached the police officer and the police officer said there is nothing we can do and ignored him, he did not want to take down his number. Brian was upset, several days later some of his stuff was returned broken. This occurred in the morning, after school started.
- Mr. Awan said there used to be an Intercultural Advisory Committee which could assist in helping with the harmony Mr. Ursel brought up. Councillor McNulty will look into starting this committee up again and asked Mr. Awan to put his thoughts together on it.

6. Committee Ongoing/Upcoming Projects

Item 3 - Ms. Courage said we can discuss youth attending again when school starts in September but our intention is to get youth attending. Insp. Speevak suggested contacting the School Liaison Officers to get kids here by the June meeting if we would like to.

Item 4 – The chair said we need a sub-committee to develop the five year Block Watch Plan. Ms. Chambers, Mr. Ursel and Mr. Awan volunteered for this committee.

Items 8, 9 and 10- Insp. Speevak said Mr. Lavery, Mr. Lai and myself met with a journalism graduate, Jill Schmelke, on May 9th. She had done some research for us in terms of determining costs. Her estimate was approximately \$50,000 to \$85,000. We also asked the City for an estimate and they came up with \$112,000. Insp. Speevak said there could be partnership opportunities to defray costs and we could have a page saying this publication is made possible through the generosity of The quote for translation into Punjabi and Chinese was \$1200, which is not unreasonable. Mr. Lavery and Mr. Lai will undertake to put together a business plan which can be given to Mr. Gale and he can pass it to Council to see if they will buy into it.

Item 13 – Mr. Webster said he and Cst. Thiessen are going to sit down and liase on the public relations.

Mr. Webster asked the Chair when the workshop that has been proposed and promised is being planned for. This meeting was a promise of the City Administrator to the sub-committee at the "Communication Strategy for Policing" presentation of January 2001 by the Manager of Communication – City of Richmond. The Chair said he would bring it up at the next agenda setting meeting.

7. General Manager, Community Safety Division Update (to be provided by Inspector Speevak)

Inspector Speevak said Mr. Gale asked him to update the committee on the difference between the revisioning of Community Safety and the review of Community Policing. Police, Fire, Emergency Planning and By-Law enforcement are now in one Division. The General Manager's mandate is to develop a Division of Community Safety for Richmond and it is

intended to be done with community input. Separate and distinct from that is an undertaking to have a review conducted on the Community Police Stations project and in essence before we go further and have more police stations in Richmond to do a performance assessment on how well our current stations are doing, and what recommendations for any changes that should be made and assess the implementation of CoPS to date in Richmond. The next steps would be to decide how the review would be done and get this Committee's input. The review of Cops is separate from the vision. Inspector Speevak said there are three types of performance reviews, cost benefit is at one end of the scale. Councillor McNulty is talking about a performance monitoring evaluation. We started in 1996 but it was thrown a serious wrench in 1999 when we ran short on resources. We are still trying to get the stations up to full strength.

Inspector Enger gave an update on the Community Police Stations and said everyone agrees it has gone off track and we should revisit it and define a mandate and work on quality instead of quantity. Bikes are in the Stations and are at full strength. The commitment from our level is there we want to make it work. We don't want to look at any more stations until we get the ones we already have to their optimum. We are also working on resurrecting the Community Consultative Groups. We can do better and the commitment is there to do better. We have also revisited our supervisory structure and we have rectified that as of the last ten days.

8. RCMP Update

Insp. Speevak presented a draft paper on The role and Mandate of the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing. The Committee made comments on it and Insp. Speevak will forward it to Mr. Gale.

Insp. Speevak presented a report on Community Policing Hours of Operation. The stations operate from 0900 to 2100 hours, 12 hour shifts. The requirements for opening and closing the station actually require members to work longer than the 12 hour shift. The recommendation is that the hours of the Community Police Station be changed to 10:00 to 7:00 p.m. Insp. Enger said even though the station will close at 7:00 there will still be a member available until 9:00 p.m.

Discussion ensued, Mr. Lavery stated he has a real problem with this. Why can't the shifts be staggered instead of cutting back on service to the public. Insp. Enger said we only have four Station Constables at each station, one might be on vacation or on training. You do not have the flexibility to have 8:00 to 8:00 and 9:00 to 9:00 shifts. It is almost impossible to cover it taking into consideration vacation, leave and training. Insp. Enger said the Bike Section mandate is different to the Community Police Stations, their mandate is to be out in the community, they are crime project oriented. Our policy is also that Bikes must ride in pairs, it is an officer safety issue. There was discussion originally that the volunteers were not to be left alone at the station. This still has not been resolved and it is still in the back of members' minds.

Mr. Henderson said he accepts the health issues, the administration issues, etc. but has trouble accepting the level of calls justifies the diminishment. Could this be something that is temporary if staffing levels increase this could be reviewed again. Insp. Enger said the model only calls for four Station Constables, the model in my opinion needs to be revisited. If the hours are what the community wants four members is not sufficient, we can not rely on

the Bike members to staff those hours. The stations are fully staffed on paper but we have medical issues in both stations. Mr. Henderson said if you need more than four people at CoPS to keep it open I think we need it open because, as noted in the report, one call every twelve minutes is a substantial amount of calls. Insp. Speevak said there is a different pattern of calls for each Station which may indicate different hours are needed for each station. Inspector Speevak said it will be reviewed further in light of the fact that we will have two Corporals in charge of the Stations and brought back to the Committee.

Inspector Speevak called the Committee's attention to the report on Community Consultative Groups, it is the plan as to how we are going to do it. Insp. Speevak said there is also a new Project Oriented Policing Operational Plan called Rental Watch to deal with marijuana grow ops. Landlords can register rental property with the RCMP and receive decals indicating it is registered property, subject to regular landlord inspections as a means of thwarting grow ops in rental premises.

9. Sub-Committee Project Updates

Stats Team

- Mr. Henderson reported that the computer program the City has is excellent. The City is getting all the departments together to be able to figure out a way to use the system for everyone's benefit. It will be a wonderful way to look at our stats.

Public Relations

- Compliments to Gst. Gary Law for the effort of putting the "Police Week" display on at the Richmond Centre Mall and thanks to the four members of the Committee who manned the booth over the two days. Thanks to City staff for the completion of the production of the brochures. A suggestion would be to ask that the distribution of the brochures to the various libraries, community centres and kiosks, etc. commence over the summer months. Thanks to Kim of the RCMP for the name tags.

Evaluation

- a meeting took place between Parissa Avila, Manager, Finance and Administration – RCMP, Mr. Webster and Youth Intervention. There was a long discussion on the program itself and what would be the best means of doing an evaluation. The decision has been made to use a consultant to do the evaluation of the program.

10. Update on the Selection Process for the New OIC RCMP (R. Henderson)

Mr. Henderson said he was not supposed to talk about the details but what he could say was there were four or five people in attendance, four of whom participated and the process was to result in names being brought forward for approval by Council. We were concerned about certain questions that we wanted raised and they were all covered.

Insp. Speevak said the new OIC for the Detachment is Insp. Ward Clapham, Operations Officer at Nanaimo. He probably won't move here until August. He may well take over sooner than that and commute, there are some details to work out.

11. Date of Next Meeting

7:00 p.m. June 26, 2001, city Hall, Anderson room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00pm.

**Certified a true and correct copy of the
Minutes of the meeting of Richmond's
Citizens' Advisory Committee on Policing
Held on Tuesday, May 29, 2001**

Jim Lavery, Chair

Susan McBride (Recorder)

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