



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** February 14, 2018
From: Will Ng, Superintendent **File:** 09-5000-01/2018-Vol
 Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment 01
Re: 2018-2019 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan -
 Community Priorities

Staff Recommendation

That the priorities listed in the staff report titled "2018-2019 RCMP Annual Performance Plan – Community Priorities", dated February 14, 2018 from the Officer in Charge, RCMP, be selected for inclusion in the Richmond Detachment fiscal year 2018-2019 (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019) RCMP Annual Performance Plan.

Will Ng, Superintendent
 Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP
 (604-278-1212)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

Staff Report

Origin

The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment is committed to aligning the RCMP's strategic goals with Council's Term Goals. As such, Richmond Detachment requests Council's input into the development of the Detachment's Annual Performance Plan for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019).

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

1.1. Policy and service models that reflect Richmond-specific needs.

1.2. Program and service enhancements that improve community safety services in the City.

1.3. Improved perception of Richmond as a safe community.

Background

The Annual Performance Plan (APP) delivers planning and performance management to Richmond Detachment (the Detachment) and ensures policing initiatives are aligned with City of Richmond and RCMP strategic priorities. The APP allows the Officer in Charge to systematically plan, evaluate and manage police resources and operations. It also provides a valuable consultation and reporting mechanism vis-à-vis the City of Richmond, the Commanding Officer of RCMP "E" Division and Detachment staff.

Planning

Richmond Detachment consults with Council and City staff to identify opportunities for improved service delivery in the community. Creating a strategically developed plan allows for the coordination of policing objectives with the unique needs of the City of Richmond, as well as the RCMP's national, provincial and district initiatives. The five National RCMP strategic priorities are:¹

- Serious and Organized Crime
- National Security
- Youth
- Economic Integrity
- Aboriginal Communities

Measurements, targets and integrated risk assessments for policing initiatives are also created to monitor performance and manage opportunities and risks.

¹ <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/prior/index-eng.htm>

Quarterly Performance Review

Every 90 days, Council is updated on the status of the APP. The quarterly report highlights the progress of objectives and policing initiatives, as well as communicates whether planned targets are on-track. For those targets which are not on-track, an assessment is conducted to determine whether alternative responses are required.

Annual Performance Plan System Features

The Annual Performance Plan is designed to facilitate best management practices for Richmond Detachment Administration and provides the foundation for the following strategic planning activities:

- Community, Contract, and Aboriginal Policing Services Community Plans;
- Risk Management;
- Unit Level Quality Assurance;
- Performance Management;
- Public Safety; and
- Unit Performance Improvement Program.

Analysis

City of Richmond Community Priorities

Community consultation is an integral component of Richmond Detachment's annual planning process and occurs between January and March of each year. Consultation is completed prior to the implementation of the upcoming APP, which commences on April 1. The community priorities set out in the APP assist Detachment commanders in addressing the objectives identified through the strategic planning process and provide an opportunity to demonstrate accountability to the communities we serve.

An additional feature that the 2018-2019 APP Community Priorities will promote is a strong alignment of strategic priorities. The objectives identified in this document draw from the recently adopted Richmond Detachment 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, which was the result of on-going dialogue with Richmond City Council, Detachment employees and community safety stakeholders.² It considers current and emerging policing challenges and opportunities, and outlines initiatives that will be supported to promote public safety in the community. The 2018-2020 Strategic Plan identifies three Richmond RCMP priorities:

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime; and
3. Vulnerable Persons

The Detachment's focus on these strategic priorities advances its commitment to the City of Richmond's vision "to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada".

² Endorsed, Community Safety Committee, December 12, 2017.

In addition, it supports the RCMP’s mission to provide quality service in partnership with our communities and vision to promote safe communities.³

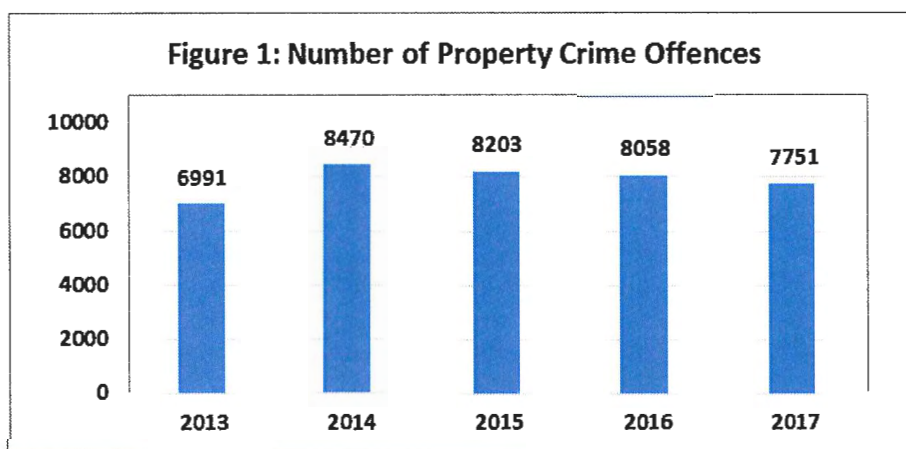
For the previous year’s Annual Performance Plan (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018), Council selected the following three priorities:

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime – Drug Offences; and
3. Vulnerable Persons Unit (Mental Health, High Risk Missing Persons, Domestic Violence)

Richmond Detachment is seeking Council’s input in the development of the Annual Performance Plan for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Richmond Detachment is recommending Council maintain the previous year’s objectives in order to maintain the Detachment’s commitment to these strategic priorities, as well as to continue to develop the responses and initiatives to promote these objectives.

1. Property Crime

The Detachment has successfully reduced property crimes since 2014. In 2017 there were notable reductions in the areas of robbery (down 29%), theft from auto (down 10%), theft (down 12%), shoplifting (down 24%) and arson (down 34%).⁴ Based on data up to and including the third quarter of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Detachment foresees it will meet the target of reducing property crime by two per cent.



In order to sustain this reduction in property crime and to continue to be effective in targeting this objective, several elements will be employed to reduce property crime rates. These measures include a crime reduction strategy built on intelligence-led crime analysis, the management of prolific offenders and proactive policing. The Detachment will continue to promote collaborations with stakeholders such as Crown Counsel and partner policing agencies as well as promoting crime prevention initiatives in the community. The Detachment will apply an

³ [RCMP Mission, Vision and Values](#)

⁴ Compared with 2016 data

inclusive focus on reducing overall property crime offences to target theft from automobile, theft of vehicle, mail theft and break and enters. These crime types often occur together and are perpetrated by the same prolific offenders. Theft from automobile and mail theft often lead to more menacing incidents such as identity theft and residential break and enters. Crossover crimes such as fraud and identity theft will also be targeted and affected as a result of the initiatives implemented to target this strategic priority.

The Detachment remains committed to continuing to reduce the levels of property crime in the community. Setting a target based on the previous year's property crime rate will provide a strong base for comparison as Richmond is continuing to experience population growth.⁵

For the fiscal year 2018-2019 (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019), the Richmond Detachment will focus on:

- i. A two per cent reduction in the property crime rate, using 2017-2018 as the baseline year.

2. Organized Crime – Drug Offences

A strong correlation exists between property crime and drug abuse as persons who suffer from drug addiction will often commit property crimes in order to fund their addictions. In fact, last year the RCMP Gazette magazine highlighted that:

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has reported that fentanyl addicts can consume up to 15 pills a day, which is a \$300-per-day habit. In order to fund their addiction, many turn to property, sex, and drug crimes, which provide only 10 to 20 per cent financial return — requiring thefts of \$3,000 or more per day to fund their habit.⁶

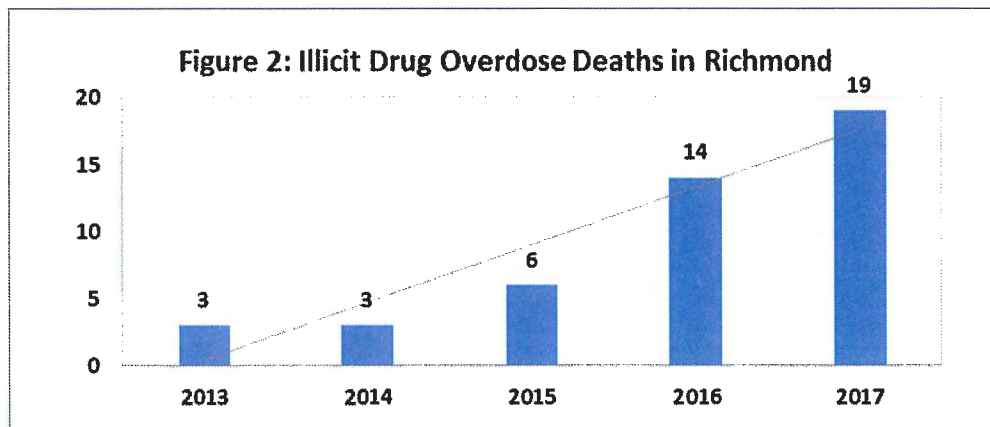
By addressing each of these community priorities, the Detachment aims to have a multifaceted approach to crime reduction.

Drugs pose a serious threat to community safety. The current drug crisis puts drug users, first responders and the public at risk. In 2017, the BC Coroner's Service issued a report titled "Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths in BC January 1, 2007 – September 30, 2017" which indicated that in 2017 Richmond experienced a 36 per cent increase in illicit drug overdose deaths when compared to the previous year, as indicated in the following chart:⁷

⁵ Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2017 population)

⁶ <http://www.rcmp.gc.ca/en/gazette/fentanyl?fent>

⁷ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/death-investigation/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>



While the absolute number of cases of illicit drug overdose deaths in Richmond remains low (19), the data from the BC Coroner Service Review also indicates that the deaths in Richmond have increased by almost 650 per cent since 2013. This trend has been observed in other municipalities across the Lower Mainland, as well as the rest of British Columbia. Reducing illegal drug overdose deaths is a public safety priority and the Detachment is committed to disrupting organized crime groups and drug trafficking.

While there have been numerous successes in disrupting organized criminal activities in Richmond, year to date data indicates that the Detachment is not on pace to meet the target established in the 2017-2018 APP of a five per cent increase in drug offences.⁸ In many instances, the complexity and scope of these investigations mean that they can last for lengthy periods of time. Some projects can last up to two years before charges are laid.

According to Statistics Canada, the rates of cannabis-related drug offences declined for the fifth consecutive year in 2016.⁹ This national trend is mirrored in the rate of overall drug offences in Richmond, which have been steadily declining over the last five years. Although the APP target may not be met by the end of the fourth quarter, the Detachment remains committed to the policing initiatives which are in place to target organized crime and drug offences.

The variable that the 2018-2019 fiscal year will present for the reporting of drug offences is the proposed Federal government plan for the legalization of cannabis in July 2018. Providing comparisons with prior years' data and maintaining continuity of reporting within the same fiscal year mean that total drug offences will not be a reasonable indicator of the Detachment's initiatives towards combating organized crime and drug trafficking in the community.

In order to target the trafficking of illegal drugs in Richmond, the Detachment will focus on drug production, drug trafficking, drug seizures, proactive gang patrols and education programs such as the widely supported DARE program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). It is expected that continuing the current focus on drug enforcement activities will increase the number of drug trafficking investigations and result in more charges laid in connection to CDSA offences. The Detachment would like to focus on maintaining the high quality of drug-trafficking

⁸ Increase based on the last five years' average totals

⁹ <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54842-eng.htm>

investigations, which target the more sinister drug files and highlight efforts disrupting organized crime in the city.

For the fiscal year 2018-2019 (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019), the Richmond Detachment will focus on:

- ii. A two per cent increase in charges laid for all CDSA offences, using 2017-2018 as the baseline year.

3. Vulnerable Persons Unit (Mental Health, High Risk Missing Persons, Domestic Violence)

Richmond Detachment continues to experience large numbers of mental health and vulnerable person related calls for service. These calls consume considerable Detachment resources due to their volume and lengthy resolution process. Police officers must devote substantial time to finding both immediate and long-term solutions for those who, as a result of a mental health and/or addiction related challenges, commit crimes and/or generate calls for service. Statistical analysis found that approximately one per cent of individuals are responsible for almost 13 per cent of Mental Health Act related incidents.¹⁰ Mental health-related calls for service have been trending upwards for the last five years. According to research published last year regarding homelessness in Metro Vancouver, the homeless population in Richmond almost doubled from 2014 to 2017. The study found that 53 per cent of overall respondents identified having a problem with addiction, while 38 per cent had a mental illness.¹¹

The Detachment has taken on a leadership role in enhancing the collaboration of support services by bringing stakeholders together to find viable solutions to assist vulnerable clients. The Detachment continues to meet monthly with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and attends monthly Joint Operations Team meetings with City of Richmond Staff, Richmond Fire-Rescue and Richmond Mental Health. These two collaborative working groups address vulnerable clients such as those with mental health and/or addiction issues, dementia and other complex challenges, including homelessness.

The statistics up to and including the third quarter of this fiscal year indicate the Detachment has been successful in meeting the 2017-2018 APP target of reducing the number of high volume individuals by ten per cent. Of the 67 individuals identified as high volume individuals, 34 (51 per cent) has not generated any calls for service during the first three quarters of 2017. Although the Detachment's goal of reducing mental health calls for service by five per cent has proved more challenging, various initiatives and collaborations have been implemented this year to promote this priority. For example, the Detachment's Vulnerable Person Unit (VPU) has continued to use wraparound approaches, where applicable, to reduce high volume calls for service and assist clients in crisis. This year, the opportunities for this approach will grow significantly as the Assertive Community Treatment team (ACT) has recently expanded to include Richmond in its service area. This mental health service delivery model, which is

¹⁰ Using data from the 2016-2017 fiscal year

¹¹ B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association and M.Thomson Consulting. (2017). *2017 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver*. Prepared for the Metro Vancouver Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Entity. Burnaby, BC: Metro Vancouver.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/homelessness/resources/Pages/default.aspx>

operated through Vancouver Coastal Health, will offer a true wraparound response to clients with complex needs and will provide specialized on-going support to assist in the recovery process. ACT provides community-based treatment, applying a multi-disciplinary approach to support people living with complex mental health and substance use disorders.¹² The ultimate goal of these initiatives is to provide individually focused community assistance and intervention programs to clients with the long term goal of stability and safety in the community.

These collaborative approaches assist vulnerable persons in the community through a multi-pronged response to a complex social issue. In addition to inter-agency collaboration with community partners, the Detachment has provided specialized training to RCMP members across the Detachment and will continue to identify training opportunities for its police officers.

For the fiscal year 2017-2018 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017), the Richmond Detachment will focus on:

- i. A ten per cent reduction in mental health-related calls for service generated by high volume clients.¹³

Financial Impact

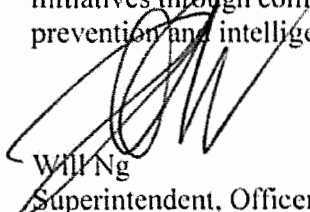
None.

Conclusion

Richmond Detachment requests Council select the following as Community Priorities for inclusion in the 2018-2019 Annual Performance Plan (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019):

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime – Drugs Offences; and
3. Vulnerable Persons Unit.

The targeted activities as described in the community priorities will include offender management, the development of community resources, officer visibility and crime reduction initiatives through community education, engagement and partnerships as well as intervention, prevention and intelligence-led policing.



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¹² <https://www.act-bc.com/>

¹³ High volume clients have been determined to be the top one per cent of individuals generating mental health-related calls for service.