



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

From: Rendall Nessel
Officer In Charge,
Richmond RCMP Detachment

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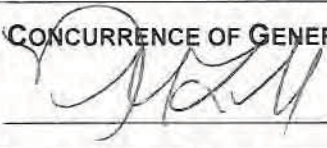


Re: Southarm/Steveston Community Policing Offices (CPO's)

Staff Recommendation

That the existing Community Policing Offices/Stations located at Southarm and Steveston remain open and accessible to the public in their current form.



Rendall Nessel
Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment
(604-278-1212)

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Parks and Recreation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			

Staff Report

Origin

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the effectiveness and value of the Community Police Offices (CPO) located at Southarm and Steveston.

Background

A large majority of people who reside in the Southarm and Steveston area have endorsed the concept of community policing and the importance of community partnerships to the survival of key preventative programs. Southarm and Steveston CPO's now serve as a significant base for volunteers engaged in community outreach programs. It is the proximity of the volunteers' residences to the CPO that supports their engagement in the programs. Most are able to walk, or conveniently take transit, to the respective offices.

Although there has been significant interest on the part of the community as a whole, there is no CPO in the community of East Richmond (Hamilton) at present. At the Community Safety Committee meeting held on March 15, 2011 a referral requesting an analysis relating to a recent petition submitted by the community of Hamilton has been addressed under a separate report.

Findings Of Fact

In the Steveston Community Policing Office there are currently 45 volunteers who collectively volunteer for a total of 2,310 hours. Seventeen are dedicated to the station office; a further 15 are involved in the Lock-Out Auto Crime initiative, 7 with the Speed Watch program, and 6 with the Volunteer Bike Patrol. Steveston has a full time Municipal Employee coordinator and the office also serves as the home for the Steveston/Southarm volunteer bike patrol, the Crime Free Multi Housing Program and the new Mature Driver's Program. Additionally, it serves as a command center during July 1 Salmonfest celebrations.

In the Southarm Community Policing Office there are currently 54 volunteers who collectively volunteer for a total of 3,156 hours. Four volunteers are dedicated to front counter and administrative duties in the office. Forty-two volunteers are involved in Lock-Out Auto Crime, with 19 of these volunteers being bike trained, and 3 volunteers are dedicated to planning and organizing special community events. The Southarm Office has a full time municipal employee coordinator and this location also serves as an office for the Crime Prevention Blockwatch Coordinator and Assistant Crime Prevention Blockwatch Coordinator, who are both full-time municipal employees.

Southarm and Steveston serve as the base of operations in general for Speedwatch, Lock-Out Auto Crime, Volunteer Bike Patrol, Blockwatch, Business Watch and Rent Safe Richmond. They also serve as storage facilities for a variety of equipment associated to these programs. Additionally, they serve as access centres for the public to receive information on Crime Prevention Programs.

Analysis

The existence of these two offices in their respective central community locations, contributes to the sustainability of volunteer based crime prevention programs. They also serve as tangible links between the community and crime prevention programs. Human resource priorities and accurate and timely intelligence dictate the placement and assignment of duties for operational police officers. This ensures the most efficient and effective use of active police officers and is the most significant impact on the Detachment's Crime Reduction Strategy. In their day-to-day focused tasks, the members consistently use the Southarm and Steveston CPO's to complete paperwork and make inquiries related to ongoing investigations and follow-ups. This in itself leads to an increased police visibility and therefore an increased perception of police presence, a greater awareness of crime prevention and a reduction in the fear of crime. This is also an effective crime reduction strategy.

Financial Information

Current costs to operate each Richmond Detachment Community Police Station is as follows:

Salary, Benefits and Payroll Overhead for Community Station Co-ordinator	\$79,100
Operating Costs	2,600
Facility Management	<u>3,000</u>
Total Costs	\$84,700

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Conclusion

Ongoing support for the Community Policing Offices in Steveston and Southarm is vital to sustaining valuable and key crime prevention programs in the City of Richmond.



Lainie Goddard
Manager, RCMP Administration
(604) 207-4767