



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Rendall Nasset
 Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment
Re: City Centre Community Police Station Update




Date: August 15, 2012
File: 09-5350-00/Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "City Centre Community Police Station Update" (dated August 15, 2012 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond Detachment) be received for information.

Rendall Nasset
 (Rendall Nasset) Superintendent
 Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment
 (604-278-1212)

Att: 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Parks Services	✓		
Recreation Services	✓		
REVIEWED BY SMT SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: 

Staff Report

Origin

At the November 7, 2011 General Purposes Committee meeting staff committed to report back regarding the success of the City Centre Community Police Station.

Council's Term Goals for 2011-2014 identify Community Safety as a high priority and that public safety services, service delivery models and resources are effectively targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities, this includes a strategic review of the City's community policing needs, including community policing needs of the City Centre.

Background

The RCMP Detachment staff previously located at the Courthouse (7577 Elmbridge Way) relocated in October, 2011 to the new Community Safety building located at 11411 No. 5 Road, thus leaving the City Centre core with a seemingly reduced policing presence.

Current Operational Deployment Strategy

The City Centre community is located in Zone 3 (Attachment 1 and 2) of the Richmond RCMP's deployment strategy. Zone 3's boundaries are No. 2 Road to the west, No. 4 Road to the east, Granville Avenue to the south, and River Road to the north. The Zone is 3.6 square miles in size and is home to 38,610 citizens.

Currently, Zone 3 has 5 full-time General Duty uniformed members assigned to patrol the downtown core 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Two of these uniformed members are physically located at the station, and, while these members work with the watch that is on shift, their primary responsibility is the downtown core.

In December, 2012, Council was advised of a "Beat (Foot) Patrol Initiative" that operated during the months of December 2010 and January 2011. In March 2011, Council received the results of the initiative and the conclusion was made that the objectives of the initiative were not only met but were exceeded. As a result, Beat (Foot) Patrol has been implemented as a regular strategy to be utilized in the City Centre on a permanent basis.

Additionally, each of the support sections such as Plain Clothes, Traffic and Crime Prevention play an active role in keeping the citizens of Richmond safe and are relied upon for covert police presence.

City Centre Community Police Station

The City Centre Community Police Station, located at 5671 No. 3 Road, officially opens on September 20, 2012 and enhances the level of Community Policing service above what was historically available in the downtown core. The new station equates to an additional 33% increase in the Community Policing Programs delivered across the City.

At the July 12, 2011 Community Safety Committee meeting, Committee received a report from Superintendent Nessel recommending that the existing Community Police Stations at South Arm and Steveston remain open and accessible to the public in their current form. Residents in the South Arm and Steveston areas have endorsed the concept of community policing and the importance of community partnerships to the sustainability of key preventative programs. South Arm and Steveston’s Community Police Stations now serve as a significant base for volunteers engaged in community outreach programs. It is the proximity of the volunteers’ residences to the Community Police Stations that support their engagement in the programs. Most are able to walk, or conveniently take public transit, to the respective offices.

The report stated that the existence of these two Stations in their respective central community locations contributes to the sustainability of volunteer based crime prevention programs. In their day-to-day focused tasks, RCMP members consistently use the South Arm and Steveston locations to complete paperwork and make inquiries related to ongoing investigations and follow-ups. This leads to an increased police visibility and therefore, an increased perception of police presence; a greater awareness of crime prevention programs; a reduction in the fear of crime; and is an effective crime reduction strategy. This information holds true for an additional station located in the City Centre.

The City Centre Community Police Station provides an additional secure location for members to further investigate ongoing files and complete police reports. The proximity to the Richmond Provincial Courthouse will allow all members access to federal computers, secure fax lines, and a private location to make telephone calls and prepare court testimony.

Management of the community programs is the responsibility of the full-time municipal employee (Community Police Station Co-ordinator). The co-ordinator’s role is to recruit, train, motivate and organize a large number of volunteers who assist in the administration, and operation of the various programs as well as office support. Currently there are 35 active volunteers at City Centre Community Police Station.

The City Centre Community Police Station will offer the following programs:

Lock Out Auto Crime	Speed Watch	Block Watch
Stolen Auto Recovery	Distracted Drivers	Pedestrian Safety Initiative
Volunteer Bike Patrol	Rent Safe	Adopt a Street
Volunteer Foot Patrol	Business Watch	

The Centre has received a warm welcome from local businesses on No. 3 and Lansdowne Roads. The Business Watch program initiative began on July 12th, 2012 and the City Centre volunteers have visited 168 businesses as of July 24th. Staff and volunteers provided the local businesses with a newsletter, height strip for their front door and a business watch package. Business’ email addresses were also collected to be added to the Business Watch database so they will receive crime alerts if any businesses in their neighbourhood have been broken into.

The Volunteer Bike Patrol assisted and participated in the City of Richmond's 2012 Island Bike Tour. The role of the Volunteer Bike Patrol was to provide guidance on safety to the cyclists and mentoring from their knowledge of how traffic and cyclists should interact while they are on the roadways during the event. The Patrol's professional attitude and guidance in applying and modelling the rules of the road during the event supported the City of Richmond's goals of cycling as a viable transportation choice in a variety of ways.

The Volunteer Foot Patrol assisted at Salmon Festival on July 1st where they were successful in reuniting a lost 6 year old with her parents.

Staff have been focussed on the recruitment of several new volunteers from the City Centre area to enhance the volunteer programs at City Centre Community Police Station. All of the volunteers at City Centre are involved in Speed Watch, Business Watch, Lock Out Auto Crime, Stolen Auto Recovery and Foot Patrols.

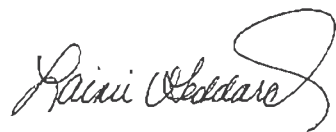
Beginning September 2012 and working in conjunction with the Community Services Department, the Adopt a Street program of local streets - No. 3 Road, Lansdowne, Minoru and Alderbridge Way will start. The purpose of the Adopt a Street program is to remove garbage and graffiti from the area.

Financial Impact

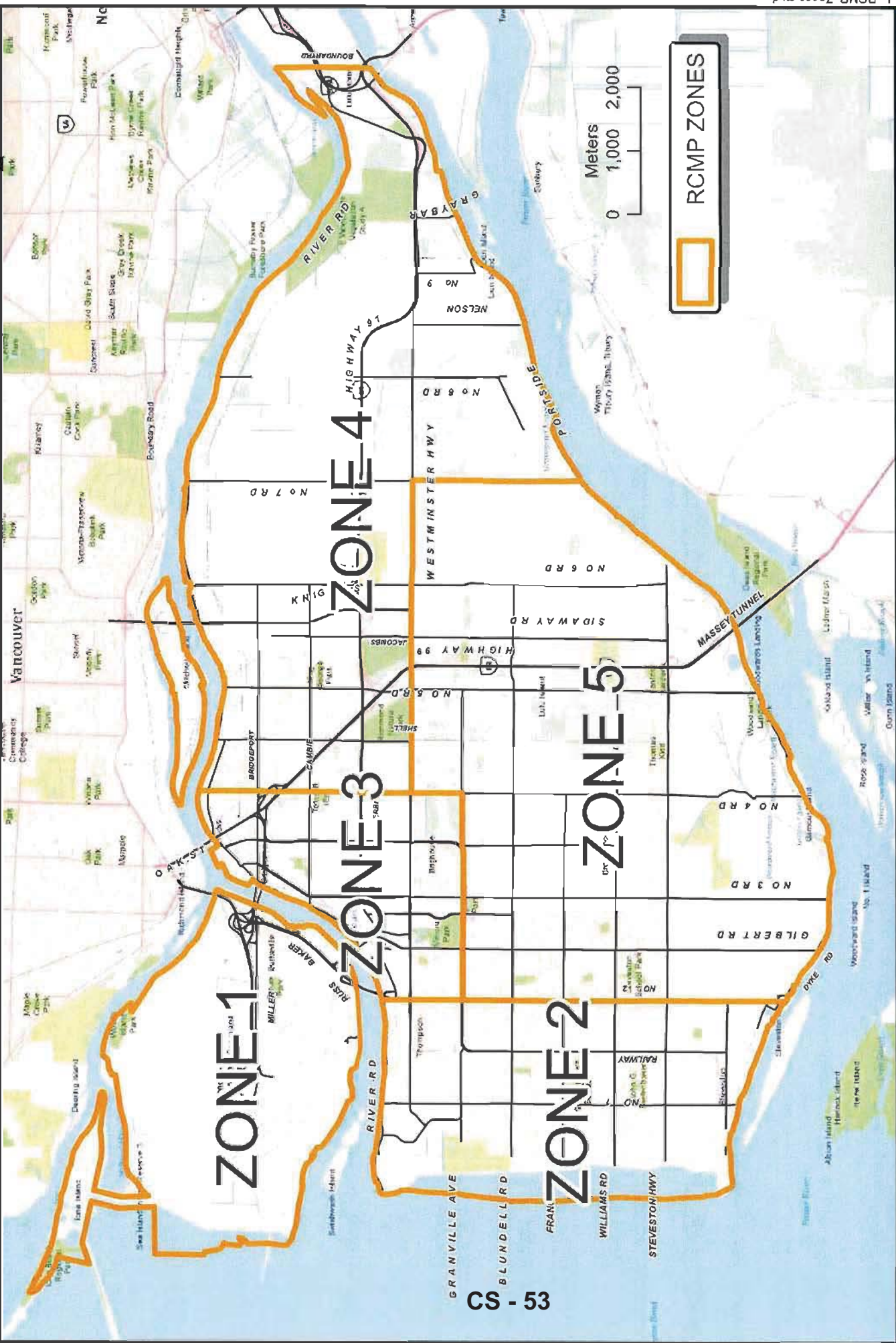
There is no financial impact associated to this report.

Conclusion

The City Centre Community Police Station provides the citizen's of Richmond a higher level of service than before its implementation. Two regular members, municipal staff and the community volunteer base, physically located in the downtown core, are able to support and sustain the crime prevention programs offered at City Centre. In keeping with Council's Community Safety Term Goals, the City Centre Community Police Station will assist in maintaining a visible police presence.



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



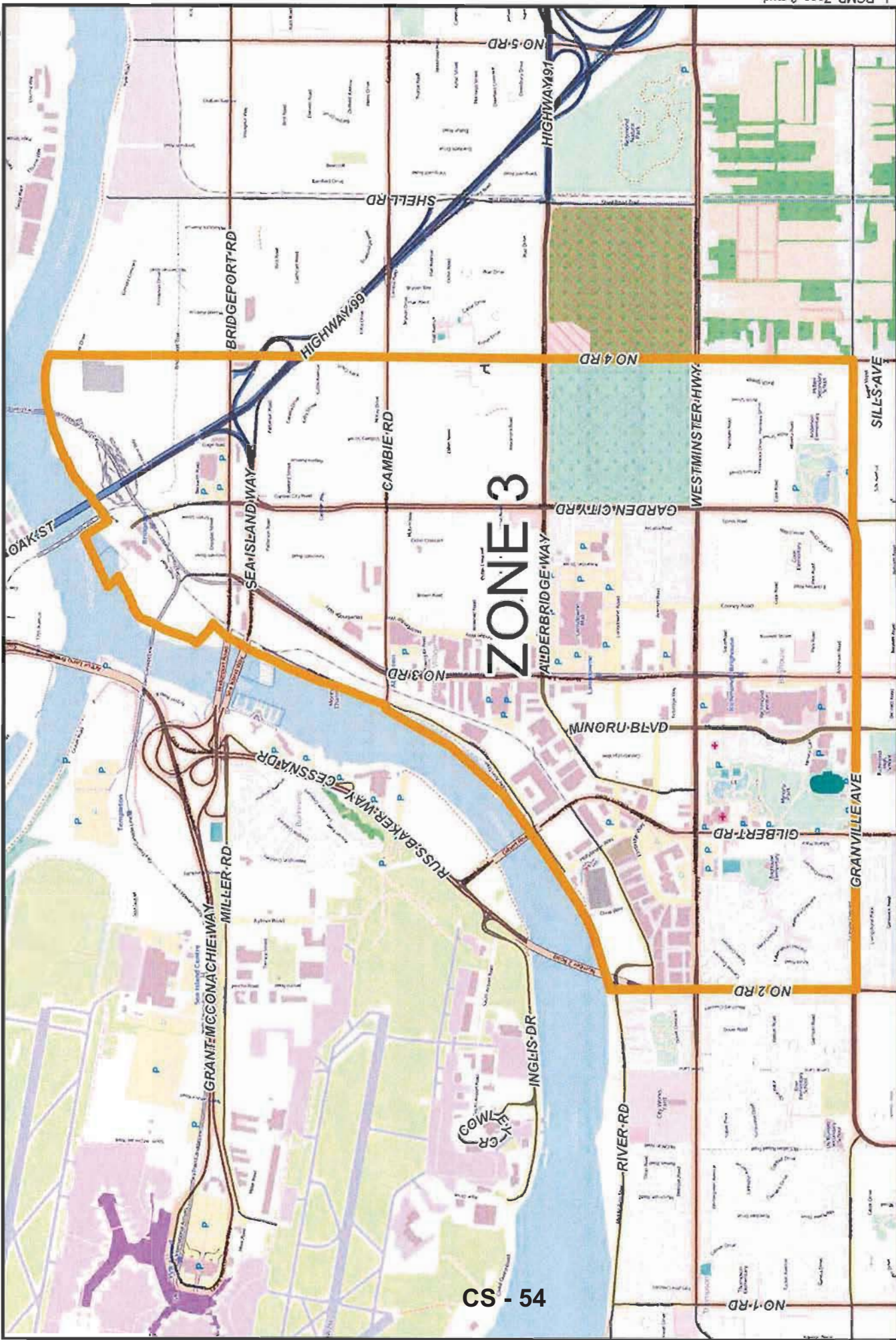
CS - 53

Oct 6 2011

For convenient visualization only.
Map from the source is copyright
© City of Richmond. All rights reserved.
Scale is approximate. Directions, locations, approximate.
Top of page is oriented toward grid north.

By: David McGee, GIS Analyst, L&CS Department

RCMP Zones



CS - 54

ZONE 3

Note:
 The information shown is compiled from various sources. Not warranted for accuracy or completeness. Use for visualization and convenience only.
 © City of Richmond. All rights reserved.
 Not to be reproduced or distributed without permission. Scale approximate. Not for construction.
 Not for event setup. Not for navigation.
 By: D. McGee, GIS Analyst, L&S Dept



August 28 2012

RCMP Zone 3