



To: Community Safety Committee

Date: February 26, 2008

From: Ward Clapham
Officer in Charge

File: 09-5350-01/2008-Vol 01

Re: Richmond RCMP Crime Reduction Strategy - 2007

Staff Recommendation

That the report dated February 26, 2008 regarding the Richmond RCMP Crime Reduction Strategy – 2007 be received for information.

Ward Clapham
Officer in Charge
(604-207-4741)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
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

Information on Richmond RCMP's crime reduction strategy results for 2007 has been prepared for Council's information.

Analysis

Richmond RCMP Delivers Results on Crime Reduction Strategy

Richmond RCMP's holistic approach to reducing crime is working!

"In 2003, the City of Richmond and the RCMP put together a five year community policing plan focused on reducing crime and enhancing public safety. Year after year our efforts continue to pay off with significant good news. 2007 is no exception. Richmond is a very safe community to live, work and visit."

- Superintendent Ward Clapham, Officer in Charge of Richmond RCMP

In 2005 the Richmond RCMP Detachment adopted a crime reduction strategy. This strategy seeks to make a significant impact on crime rates in the community by working with external partners across the City of Richmond and the Province of British Columbia. The initiative is based on well-documented successes resulting from similar approaches internationally. This initiative involves evidence-led approaches to targeting, offender management and crime prevention. Integrated public safety partnerships across the justice system, reliable and effective application of crime analysis, and accountability to the public for performance are also included.

The Richmond Detachment Crime Reduction philosophy has evolved to meet the needs of our growing community. We have re-aligned resources and partnered with other agencies to create and implement many proactive and preventive measures to meet these community needs.

2007 saw further Richmond RCMP Crime Reduction initiatives:

- Amalgamation of all Street Crime Units into a single Crime Reduction Unit consisting of 29 dedicated officers focusing on property crime and drugs;
- Formation of a Bike Team Unit that now falls under the direction of the Crime Reduction Unit providing a mobile responsive target team able to react quickly to changing crime trends;
- Focusing of the Crime Reduction Unit's efforts on proactive projects regarding individuals and groups responsible for the majority of property and drug crimes, creating a movement away from reactive enforcement and towards proactive targeted policing;
- Addition of a second Crime Analyst to support the Crime Reduction Unit and intelligence-led policing;
- Leading edge development of intelligence reports to assist and guide all Richmond Detachment members in the reduction of crime (including Prolific Offender profiles,

weekly crime bulletins, current crime maps highlighting patterns, stolen auto trends, tracking of recently released repeat offenders, etc);

- Partnership with the City of Richmond in the development and enforcement of Scrap Metal bylaws providing an effective tool to combat metal thefts;
- Partnership with the Richmond Fire Department on the Electrical Safety initiative; and
- Coordination of efforts with the Provincial Crown's office to deal effectively with persons responsible for the majority of property and drug crimes, as well as continued success with the Restorative Justice and Youth Intervention Programs.

Overall there was a 14.9% reduction in all Criminal Code offences from 2003 to 2007.

The Detachment is continuously developing a responsive Crime Reduction model to deal with Drugs and Property Crime in Richmond. The crime statistics in these areas are broken down in the following paragraphs.

PROPERTY CRIMES

All combined property crime offences decreased by 6.4% from 2006 to 2007. Monthly property crime totals have been steadily decreasing since June 2007, and December 2007 had the lowest monthly total of the past six years. The following table outlines property crimes that occurred during the period 2003 to 2007:

<i>Property Crimes</i>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change 2003/2007	% Change 2006/2007
Theft	1882	2087	1879	1848	1718	-8.7%	-7.0%
Business B&E	669	935	803	730	668	-0.1%	-8.5%
Residential B&E	829	833	581	532	577	-30.4%	8.5%
Theft of MV	1265	1362	1020	815	672	-46.9%	-17.5%
Arson - Property	130	123	127	94	131	0.8%	39.4%

- The largest drop was in Auto Theft where there was a 17.5% reduction from 2006 to 2007 (46.9% reduction since 2003). This trend is continuing into 2008. In January of this year there were only 22 stolen autos; this was the lowest monthly total of the past six years.
- Business Break and Enter down 8.5% from 2006 to 2007 (stable since 2003). The last three years have shown a decrease, on average, of 10% per year.
- Residential Break and Enter up 8.5% from 2006 to 2007 (30.4% decrease since 2003).
- Theft down 7.0% from 2006 to 2007 (8.7% decrease since 2003).

- Arsons increased by 39.4% from 2006 to 2007 (0.8% increase since 2003). Over one-third of these offences were carried out by one group of youths. The Police targeted these offenders and several persons are presently before the courts.

DRUGS

Drug offences have increased by 14.8% from 2006 to 2007. This increase is reflective, in part, of the Richmond Drug Section being progressive and proactive in this area. The Richmond Drug Section and Richmond Green Team have become more project-oriented, which has led to more drug arrests and seizures. An increase in this statistic should be viewed as a success of intelligence-led proactive policing projects. There has also been a substantial amount of CBSA (Customs Border Services Agency) seizures at YVR that contributed to this increase.

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Detachment will continue to work with clients and City partners as it strives to meet the needs of the community. Richmond Detachment will also continue to forecast emerging crime trends and focus on suppressing, intervening and preventing crime.



S/Sgt Eric Hall
Plainclothes Commander