



To: Community Safety Committee
From: Phyllis L. Carlyle, General Manager, Law & Community Safety
Re: Emergency Resource Inventory Network

Date: October 27, 2010
File: 09-5126-01/2010-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

- 1. That Council authorize the City to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Public Safety Canada concerning the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Research and Technology Initiative (CRTI) Project 08-0192 TD ERIN – Emergency Resource Inventory Network.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager Law and Community Safety be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding.

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Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
(604-276-4104)

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
REVIEWED BY TAG YES NO
REVIEWED BY CAO YES NO

## Staff Report

### Origin

The City has been invited by the Federal Government to participate in Emergency Resource Inventory Network (ERIN), a project to develop and field test a database that will house an inventory of emergency response resources that could be used in an emergency or disaster.

### Background

During a large-scale emergency, a comprehensive list of resources available to emergency responders is necessary. There are resources that easily come to mind such as first responder or public works vehicles and equipment and others that are commonly used in an emergency response. However, just as important are our business stakeholders within the community that could provide other resources to supplement the City's own, such as additional dump trucks, helicopters, lumber, gravel, concrete or other critical supplies. The City may have an urgent need to source these response assets during an emergency for an effective response to an emergency and our community's recovery from it.

To develop such an inventory would be a considerable undertaking for the City to do alone but the inventory would be of benefit to the City. The project would require the development and testing of a software program that could be easily updated with information stored and maintained securely. Protecting City and stakeholder partnership information is critical for a project such as this to be successful. Each asset owner would update and maintain their own information as well as to decide what other stakeholders and agencies could view their inventories. Having security controls provides for the trust and participation of all stakeholders involved.

### Analysis

Defence Research and Development Canada, an agency of the Canadian Department of National Defence, responds to the scientific and technological needs of the Canadian Forces. Their Centre for Security Science funds projects in Science and Technology and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Research and Technology Initiative, is one of their research programs. The Centre has invited the City to participate in ERIN, an already approved project of \$1.85 million with in kind contributions from participants of \$950k for a total project value of \$2.8 million. Most of this funding will be channelled into the development of the database for private industry.

Having Public Safety Canada, as the lead on this project allows the City of Richmond to participate in the design and implementation of this inventory database while meeting the City's goals of including multiple levels of suppliers, stakeholders, responders and government partners to create an all inclusive resource list which will be of great value to all those involved, without the City going to the expense of developing such a system on its own.

The City has been invited to participate in the development of the database as the representative of local government by providing input into the requirements of the system and how it will function, review the database prototype, observe the technical demonstration of the use of the

database, provide feedback based on the demonstration and, finally, participate in the project close out.

The City's expenses for participation will be reimbursed by Public Safety Canada to a maximum of \$52,500, with the City also expected to provide in-kind contributions of \$16,000 of staff time over the lifetime of the project, expected to be complete in mid 2012. This project will be cost neutral for the City and will leave a legacy of a database of emergency response resources that will significantly aid the City in its emergency response.

This project would allow the City of Richmond to assist in the design, implementation, and population of a resource inventory database to which every stakeholder, supplier, responder, and facility can update their own information. This information would be critical to decision makers as they respond to a large-scale emergency allowing a faster response and thus a faster recovery for the community and those involved.

This project will develop ERIN through to the technology demonstration point. A future project may involve accelerating the technology so that it can be implemented across Canada and provide an inventory of Canada's response resources. Richmond's participation will guide how the system will work for Canada in the future.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

#### **Conclusion**

ERIN will provide the City with an inventory of the response assets available in the community and support a response to an emergency or disaster by assisting responders in locating and accessing emergency equipment during emergencies in real time. Participation in the project will be of great benefit to the City.



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