



Community Safety Committee

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Bill McNulty, Chair
Councillor Alexa Loo
Councillor Kelly Greene
Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Harold Steves

Also Present: Councillor Linda McPhail
Councillor Michael Wolfe

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee held on October 9, 2018, be adopted.

CARRIED

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

December 11, 2018, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room

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COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

1. COMMUNITY BYLAWS MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2018

(File Ref. No. 12-8060-01) (REDMS No. 5991273)

In reply to queries from Committee, Carli Williams, Manager, Community Bylaws and Licencing, advised that (i) violations issued were for illegal operations of short-term rentals, (ii) birthing houses have the same enforcement as short-term rentals, (iii) birthing houses are not illegal unless they are in contravention of the short-term rental bylaws or health and safety bylaws, and (iv) the Bylaws Department continuously monitors for all types of short term rentals.

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report titled "Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report - September 2018", dated October 22, 2018, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

CARRIED

2. EMERGENCY PROGRAMS QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT - THIRD QUARTER 2018

(File Ref. No. 09-5126-01) (REDMS No. 6003124 v. 3)

In reply to queries from Committee, Cecilia Achiam, General Manager, Community Safety, advised that the level of the dangerous spill determines who will respond to the incident. She noted that the current collaboration with the Richmond School District with regard to the Richmond Resilient Communities Program is a pilot project and once the Program has been successfully created it can be expanded to include other agencies such as private schools. Ms. Achiam then noted that Emergency Programs is collaborating with other initiatives as well, such as fire prevention.

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report titled "Emergency Programs Quarterly Activity Report - Third Quarter 2018", dated October 19, 2018, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

CARRIED

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3. **RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2018**

(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 5997602)

Fire Chief Tim Wilkinson, Richmond Fire-Rescue, advised that the 17.6 percent reduction in service calls is due to the changes in the Clinical Response Model by BC Health Services (BCHS). He noted that BCHS is fine tuning the program and certain calls are being diverted back to RFR.

In reply to queries from Committee, Chief Wilkinson noted that there are various levels associated with the Clinical Response Model, and based on the level if BCHS has a unit within 10 minutes of the incident they will attend. He then spoke of the robust boarding-up protocols in place for vacant buildings in Richmond and noted that staff are always exploring ways to improve upon it. Chief Wilkinson then noted that there are a number of conditions that would need to be considered in order to board-up a building; however it is based on observations made by various individuals as well as complaint based.

Ms. Achiam noted that staff are bringing forward a report for Council's consideration with regard to tightening bylaws to handle derelict homes.

In reply to further queries from Committee, Chief Wilkinson spoke of the recent bog fire in Richmond and noted that a memorandum of understanding is underway with the Department of National Defence with regard to prevention recommendations for the site to ensure a similar situation does not occur again. Also, he advised that discussions are underway with regard to the potential of securing the perimeter of the area to deter individuals from entering the site and increased maintenance of the area. Chief Wilkinson then remarked that the armory on the site does not store any particularly hazardous materials.

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – September 2018", dated October 10, 2018 from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

CARRIED

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4. **FIRE CHIEF BRIEFING**

(Verbal Report)

Items for discussion:

(i) *Post-Halloween Operations Update*

Chief Wilkinson provided an update of Halloween night, and highlighted that RFR only attended 8 emergency events through the evening and collaborated with the Richmond RCMP and Public Works to ensure all problem areas were monitored to discourage inappropriate activities. Also, he noted that RFR provided information regarding their outreach programs to members of the community.

(ii) *Lighting of the Hamilton Fire Hall and Open House*

Chief Wilkinson highlighted that the Lighting of Hamilton Fire Hall will take place on December 5, 2018 from 3:30-5:00 pm.

(iii) *Pilot Community Outreach Pharmacy Program*

Chief Wilkinson highlighted the Community Outreach Pharmacy Program noting that a nurse visits homes of vulnerable seniors and provides them with various services. He advised that RFR provides them with fire prevention information and written checklists and that the Community Outreach Pharmacy Program workers will follow up on RFR's report and ensure actions have taken place. Chief Wilkinson advised that they have completed 3 out of the 10 events they have scheduled and so far it has been a great success.

(iv) *Recruitment Update*

Chief Wilkinson highlighted that the recruitment process will begin at the beginning of the New Year.

(v) *SD 38 Fire Safety Curriculum*

Chief Wilkinson highlighted that RFR's outreach group is working with the Richmond School District to develop a curriculum on fire safety and prevention for students in grades 8-12.

5. **RCMP MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2018**

(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 5973697 v. 2)

Superintendent Will Ng, OIC, Richmond RCMP, spoke on (i) the increase in property crime statistics, (ii) increase in mental health related calls which may attributed to travellers passing through YVR, (iii) increasing wrap-around services with other agencies with regard to mental health related situations, (iv) the Car 67 initiative and noted that it is well underway and will be launched soon.

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In reply to queries from Committee, Superintendent Ng provided background information on the Car 67 initiative and noted that (i) the initiative was introduced to reduce the number of mental health related calls for service, (ii) the Richmond RCMP has created partnerships with various organizations to create wrap-around services to aide vulnerable persons, (iii) a vulnerable persons unit was created to focus on providing services and information to vulnerable persons.

In reply to further queries from Committee, Superintendent Ng noted that the incident on Odlin Road is under investigation by the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team. He then noted that the police dogs services are an integrated team that is shared with other municipalities, and that the RCMP is diligently accounting for their time spent in Richmond and ensuring that the dogs start and end their shifts in Richmond. Also, Superintendent Ng advised that the RCMP will be closely monitoring response times of the police dogs as it is an important factor.

It was moved and seconded

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2018", dated October 16, 2018, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

CARRIED

6. RCMP/OIC BRIEFING

(Verbal Report)

Items for discussion:

(i) Introduction of Inspector Power

Superintendent Ng introduced Kori Power who will be in charge of the plain clothes officers and community policing.

(ii) Toy Drive – Invite to Councillors

Superintendent Ng highlighted that the 4th annual Toy Drive will be held on November 17th from 8 am – 12 pm.

(iii) Halloween

Superintendent Ng advised that Halloween night went smoothly and successfully with the lowest number of calls for service than any other Halloween. He highlighted that the City was well prepared and organized for this event that officers were able to patrol with the auxiliary officers throughout the night.

5.

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7. RIVER ROAD – REPORT BACK ON RICHMOND RCMP ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(File Ref. No. 10-6450-09-01) (REDMS No. 5915308 v. 10)

Superintendent Ng reviewed the enforcement conducted on River Road noting that (i) 34 operations and patrols took place along River Road during this initiative, (ii) 446 violation tickets were issued, (iii) 34 Speed Watch deployments occurred, (iv) digital sign boards had limited effect on speeders but speed reader boards were extremely effective, and (v) continuous enforcement at this level is not sustainable. Superintendent Ng further noted that approximately 15% of Traffic Enforcement Unit's time was spent on this project during the enforcement period over the summer.

Lynda Parsons, Richmond resident, queried the status of the closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras that she previously suggested be installed along River Road.

Ms. Achiam advised that the privacy assessment with regard to the CCTV cameras is ongoing and that due to the stringent requirements regarding privacy issues it is taking some time. She noted that feedback has been provided with regard to the City's submission and staff will be providing a response back to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner shortly.

Lynda Parsons, Richmond resident, referenced her submission (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1) and requested a response to the questions noted in her submission.

The Chair directed staff to liaise with the residents of River Road and provide them with a response to their questions.

In reply to queries from Committee, Victor Wei, Director, Transportation, advised that all traffic calming measures are still an option for consideration, including the permanent removal of speed humps. He noted that the results presented in the report are typical results of effectiveness of speed reader boards; however the boards will need to be moved regularly to ensure continued effectiveness.

Arline Trividic, 22600 River Road, read from her submission (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 2) and expressed concern with regard to the enforcement conducted along River Road, particularly regarding the lack of tickets issued to cyclists. She queried whether the RCMP had conducted enforcement along River Road on a Sunday morning between 9 am and 11 am.

It was moved and seconded

That the report titled "River Road – Report Back on Richmond RCMP Enforcement Activities" dated October 24, 2018, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

CARRIED

6.

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8. **COMMITTEE STANDING ITEM**

E-Comm

None.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

(i) Update on Cannabis

In reply to queries from Committee, Sergeant Nigel Pronger, Richmond RCMP, advised that the Province will only be deploying 10 Dräger DrugTest 5000 machines as there are only limited number of trained master instructors and operators of the machine. He noted that Richmond RCMP will not be utilizing the Dräger DrugTest 5000 as there are two other devices currently being tested that are smaller and more versatile. Sergeant Pronger then advised that there are restrictions to the Dräger DrugTest 5000 machine therefore a limited number will be deployed to gather data and develop best practices.

In response to further queries from Committee, Ms. Achiam advised that during the testing phase the machines will be funded by the Province; however the detachment will be responsible for costs once they have decided which machine they will be deploying.

Superintendent Ng advised that officers have issued 14 violation tickets for cannabis use, and encountered only two drug-impaired driving situations. He advised that there has been a decrease in drug charges in the last month; however there has been an increase in violation tickets issued.

In reply to queries from Committee, Ms. Achiam advised that strata's have the authority to put in place their own bylaws with regard to growing cannabis plants; however staff have not received any complaints thus far. The City's policies regarding cannabis use fall under the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy.

In response to further queries from Committee, Sergeant Pronger advised that the RCMP currently use on call drug recognition experts to identify drug impaired driving and are hoping to train up to five members to become drug recognition experts. He then noted that there is another position called Standard Field Sobriety Tester that requires a lower level of training and would be available 24/7. Sergeant Pronger advised that the same process is followed whether the Dräger DrugTest 5000 machine is used or a drug recognition expert forms an opinion that an individual is drug impaired.

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(ii) Update on Delta Casino

Superintendent Ng advised that the Delta Casino is in a non-dense area and that the RCMP is anticipating an increase in calls for service with regards to impaired driving.

(iii) Bylaw Officer's Authority

Ms. Achiam advised that a meeting has been scheduled with Jamie Lipp, Acting Executive Director, Policing and Security Branch, to discuss Bylaw Officer's authority as it relates to cannabis infractions and that more information is forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (5:17 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

Councillor Bill McNulty
Chair

Sarah Goddard
Legislative Services Coordinator

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: Nov. 14, 2018
Meeting: Community Safety
Item: #7

We have waited 8 months for a detailed report, as this is what we were told to expect – not just the summary presented today. We want to see details of when officers were present, how long on each occasion as well as the actual speed on the 335 issued tickets.

This entire project was prompted after Council received an inaccurate, convoluted report from staff and based on said report approved the installation of 20 additional speed bumps on River Road.

The residents of this River Road neighbourhood expressed concern that the City of Richmond approved the implementation of an additional 20 speed humps based on that report when 60% of the surveyed residents opposed this. Concerns were raised as to our personal safety and that of our property if the speed humps were implemented. Residents expressed concerns with regards to speeding vehicles, overweight trucks and illegal cyclist activity on River Road. After our concerns were heard, Council agreed that RCMP enforcement should take place, and a report would be given.

Residents are appreciative of any patrols that take place to keep our neighbourhood safe – we just hope that we are not forgotten now that this report has been presented.

We would like to know when the 34 operations and patrols took place. Were all of the operations in the 22,000 block of River Road? Why was there no enforcement at other locations? As it is indicated that resources were redirected from other RCMP initiatives to this project, I believe that it would be prudent to provide Council and taxpayers with details.

The report states that 3 officers each spent 6 - 10 hour overtime shifts for a total of 180 hours of overtime. When did these 10 hour speed enforcement shifts take place? How many speeding tickets were issued by these 3 officers in 180 hours of overtime?

Speed watch utilized 102 hours of RCMP resources with zero return on this investment, as speeding tickets are not issued during speed watch

The public complaints from the resident noted were not adequately addressed. As mentioned in my full document, there were no RCMP deployments during the times that this resident notified the RCMP that the large, disruptive cycling groups would be travelling on River Road.

We were told that bylaws would enforce illegal truck activity on River Road – is one visit in an 8 month period really considered an acceptable level of service?

As this was an enhanced enforcement, we would expect to see an increase in speed related tickets. I would like to see an 8 month enhanced enforcement on Westminster Hwy for example to compare equally to River Road. It is not fair to compare an enhanced enforcement project with regular enforcement other than to exaggerate the results.

As the digital sign boards do not appear to be effective at reducing speed, we believe that they should be discontinued, with the resources put towards the speed reader signs that are effective.

The conclusion on this report is slightly confusing – there is a recommendation for the consideration of traffic calming and speed limiting features, and then the indication that speed reader signs have resulted in positive reductions in excessive travel speeds. Is this the RCMP's recommendation for traffic calming and speed limiting?

I have provided each of you with a number of questions that we want answered. Rather than read each one out can we have Staff or an RCMP member provide these answers to us today?

1. Dates, times & length of each RCMP deployment on River Road for speed enforcement
2. Actual speed of vehicle on the 365 speeding tickets issued during the above enforcement
3. Why an officer needs to be present during Speed Watch campaigns – I have been advised that the officer is there for the safety of the volunteers, but if there are no traffic stops why can't an auxiliary officer fulfill this roll, freeing up the actual RCMP officer for real police work
4. Why there was no enforcement for the times when it was known that illegal cycling activity would likely occur
5. Why was there only enforcement in the 22000 block of River Road when it is reported that speeding occurs near Valmont Way as confirmed by the speed reader signs
6. Why is our neighbourhood being neglected when it comes to bylaw enforcement on illegal trucks travelling on River Road
7. Can we expect to see a similar 8 month enhanced enforcement on Westminster Hwy to have a fair comparison for speed related tickets issued in Richmond
8. Will our neighbourhood be forgotten by the RCMP and Richmond Bylaws now that this campaign has concluded
9. Are the speed reader signs that are to be installed further east on River Road the RCMP's recommendation for traffic calming and speed limiting
10. Will there be a forthcoming update following the installation of the additional speed reader signs

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: Nov. 14, 2018

Meeting: Community Safety

Item: # 7

We have anxiously been awaiting this report, and I have to say that I am really disappointed in the lack of details. Even though at the General Purpose Committee Meeting of April 16, 2018 Sargent Nigel Pronger advised Council that the report would be detailed (GP committee minutes), the report presented is only a summary. We would like to see details of when officers were present, how long on each occasion as well as the actual speed noted on the tickets issued. Following my review of the report, please find my comments on each section:

Origin

Background

Fatal Motor Vehicle Incidents on River Road

River Road is unique to other areas of Richmond in that if you leave the road on either side there is a very good chance that you will not survive, as drowning in either the Fraser River or in the deep water filled ditch is a grave possibility as was the case in 3 of the reported fatal incidents. Any loss of life is tragic, but it is difficult to believe that any type of traffic calming could have prevented those noted on River Road. This paragraph is for effect, and has no bearing on the objective of the report – to advise the outcome of the enforcement campaign.

2018 River Road Project

I would like to clarify the residents' position on why this project was initiated. The residents of this River Road neighbourhood expressed concern that the City of Richmond approved the implementation of an additional 20 speed humps when 60% of the surveyed residents opposed this. Concerns were raised as to our personal safety and that of our property if the speed humps were implemented. Residents expressed concerns with regards to speeding vehicles, overweight trucks and illegal cyclist activity on River Road. After our concerns were heard, Council agreed that RCMP enforcement should take place, and a status update would be given.

Analysis

Education and Safety Awareness Campaigns

I did not see or hear any safety concerns regarding River Road during the 8 month period. Perhaps the RCMP public relations department should consider that not everyone is on twitter or Facebook and use "old school" methods – like actually talking to the media.

Speed Watch Deployments

Speed watch as an educational tool is a waste of RCMP resources. Drivers who receive these letters know that there are no repercussions. To have effect, the letters sent should be entered into a database so that if a vehicle is stopped for speeding the officer can easily access information pertaining to the number of warnings a driver has received – perhaps if there have been no warning in the past the officer may be inclined to let the driver off with a warning – but if there are multiple warning letters, this should reflect in the issuance of a ticket. Could an auxiliary constable not be used for speed watch and save the officer for actual policing?

Cyclist Engagement

It is offensive to the residents of River Road to read that “No violation tickets were issued to cyclists as no offences were observed during the deployment.” The officer in charge of this project was advised when the large groups of cyclists who do not obey the law travel on River Road, however, there were never any deployments at these times. The small groups noted in the report have never been an issue.

Community Engagement

Residents are appreciative of any patrols that take place in our neighbourhood – we just hope that we are not forgotten now that this report has been presented.

Increased Enforcement

We would like to know when the 34 operations and patrols took place (CS-53). Were all of the operations in the 22,000 block of River Road? Why was there no enforcement at other locations? As it is indicated that resources were redirected from other RCMP initiatives to this project, I believe that it would be prudent to provide Council and taxpayers with details.

The report indicates that 6 of the operations were conducted by 3 officers on overtime for 180 hours of overtime (CS-53) – when did this occur and how many hours did the officers attend on each occasion? The numbers given would indicate that each of the officers attended for a 10 hour period on each of the 6 days. How many speeding tickets did the 3 officers issue? How many other violation tickets did these 3 officers issue?

Enforcement of Truck Weight Limit

April 3, 2018 – General Purpose Committee (GP-33)

Residents identified continued concerns with truck operations on River Road, particularly turning trucks (drivers may cross the centreline) or drivers apparently failing to respect the posted load limit signage. They emphasized the importance of increased enforcement to address what, in their opinion, is the primary road safety concern.

There is a 9-tonne load limit in effect on River Road between No.7 Road and Westminster Highway. Richmond RCMP advise that joint enforcement operations are regularly conducted with Community Bylaws staff, who have primary responsibility for enforcement of trucks on weight-limited roads. Most recently, Richmond RCMP conducted a joint operation with Community Bylaws on March 16, 2018 where City bylaw officers issued 18 bylaw infraction municipal tickets to 15 separate truck drivers on River Road, in addition to 24 RCMP-issued speeding tickets to other vehicle drivers. Richmond RCMP and Community Bylaws will continue to regularly conduct joint operations.

The report presented today indicates that:

“Richmond Bylaws issued 19 municipal violations to commercial vehicles when conducting joint operations. Police did not observe many overweight vehicles during this project.”

We would like to know why this “project” appears to be limited to 1 joint operation with Community Bylaws (if there was a second operation, 1 infraction ticket was issued – or the number in one of the reports is inaccurate), as on April 3, 2018 at the General Purpose Committee Meeting, Council was advised that 18 bylaw infractions were issued on March 16, 2018.

We residents have long been concerned with the illegal trucks contributing to the safety issues on River Road, and so we ask – why 1 day? We have seen reports where the Bylaw department has advised Council that they have sufficient staff to do the necessary enforcement in Richmond – so why is our neighbourhood being neglected?

Calls for Service / MVIs / Public Complaints

The public complaints from the resident noted were not adequately addressed. As previously mentioned, there were no RCMP deployments during the times that this resident notified the RCMP that the large, disruptive cycling groups would be travelling on River Road.

Summary of Richmond RCMP Findings

As this was an enhanced enforcement, we would expect to see an increase in speed related tickets. I would like to see an 8 month enhanced enforcement on Westminster Hwy for example to compare equally to River Road. It is not fair to compare an enhanced enforcement project with regular enforcement. The digital sign boards do not appear to be effective at reducing speed, and should be discontinued, with the resources put towards the speed reader signs.

HUB Cycling Assessment Report.

Doing an assessment in March is not relative to the problem cyclists on River Road – summer would have been more meaningful.

Before and After Travel Speed Data

The speed reader signs were found to work to reduce travel speeds. The effectiveness of these placed nearer the 22000 block will be determined once they are placed.

Conclusion

The conclusion on this report is slightly confusing – there is a recommendation for the consideration of traffic calming and speed limiting features, and then the indication that speed reader signs have resulted in positive reductions in excessive travel speeds. Is this the RCMP's recommendation for traffic calming and speed limiting?

Summary of questions that I would like answered:

1. Dates, times & length of each RCMP deployment on River Road for speed enforcement
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COMMENT ON THE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 14 2018

RE: "RIVER ROAD – REPORT BACK ON RICHMOND RCMP ENFORCEMENT
ACTIVITIES"

SUBMITTED BY ARLINE TRIVIDIC – 22600 RIVER ROAD

IN REGARDS TO PAGES 3 AND 4 OR CS52/53 OF THE REPORT WHERE IT IS STATED
THAT "NO VIOLATION TICKETS WERE ISSUED TO CYCLISTS AS NO OFFENCES WERE
OBSERVED DURING THE DEPLOYMENT"

A STATEMENT SUCH AS THIS HAS NO CREDIBILITY AND IT BRINGS INTO QUESTION
BOTH THE VALIDITY AND CREDIBILITY OF ANY AND ALL STATEMENTS IN THIS
REPORT

THIS STATEMENT IS OFFENSIVE TO THE RESIDENTS OF RIVER ROAD AND TO
MOTORISTS WHO USE RIVER ROAD ON A REGULAR BASIS, WE HAVE ALL
WITNESSED ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS AND AT MANY VARIED TIMES AND
LOCATIONS CYCLISTS COMMITTING MOTOR VEHICLE ACT INFRACTIONS WITH
IMPUNITY TOWARDS OTHER ROAD USERS. FOR THE RCMP TO SAY THEY
OBSERVED NO OFFENCES OVER THE EIGHT MONTH DEPLOYMENT IS NOT ONLY
INCREDULOUS BUT ALSO DECEITFUL.

NO WONDER THE RESIDENT WHO INFORMED THE RCMP OF CYCLIST VIOLATIONS
CEASED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION SINCE IT SEEMED TO BE FALLING ON DEAF
EARS AT THE TIME, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THAT THE RCMP RESPONSE TO CYCLISTS
COMPLAINTS IS ONE OF HEAR NO EVIL AND SEE NO EVIL. WE ALL NEED TO GET
OUR HEADS OUT OF THE SAND WHEN IT COMES TO CYCLING ISSUES ON RIVER
ROAD.