

City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

June 30, 2010

From:

Rendall Nesset, Superintendent

File:

10-5350-00/Vol 01

Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP

Re:

Richmond RCMP Detachment's Partnership with Department of Fisheries

Staff Recommendation

That the "Richmond RCMP Detachment Partnership's with Department of Fisheries" report be received for information.

Rendall Nesset
Superintendent
Officer In Charge
Richmond Detachment

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FOR ORIGINATING	EPARTMEN	IT USE ONLY
CONCURRENCE OF GEN	ERAL MANAG	SER
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES	NO
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES	NO

Origin

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding a renewed RCMP initiative with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) providing joint patrols in and around the Richmond waterways and marinas during the summer months.

Background

In the past, the Richmond RCMP has enjoyed a partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and joint patrols were conducted on the water. These patrols ceased approximately 4 years ago due to escalating issues with the salmon fishery. At that point, it was decided that the RCMP would remain at arms length in order to both be, and appear to be, impartial during any mediation or potential enforcement action.

Analysis

Earlier this year, and after ascertaining that the concerns over the fishery had been alleviated, Cpl. James Lunny of the Richmond RCMP began liaising with Ken Green, Conservation & Protection Supervisor of the Steveston Base of the DFO. Discussions were held regarding the joint conduct of marine patrols in the waterways surrounding the City of Richmond, utilizing the DFO's rigid hull inflatable boats, to provide a uniform presence on local waterways and performing a service to the marine community.

The focus will be on conducting patrols on the north, middle and south arms of the Fraser river, answering calls for service, performing stops on vessels, conducting safety checks, increasing uniform presence on the Fraser river, being involved in community (marine) events, enforcing relevant Federal and Provincial Acts and Regulations (i.e. Criminal Code, Fisheries Act, Canada Shipping Act, etc.), and conducting criminal investigations where warranted. Richmond marinas (both water and land side) would also be a priority.

Intentions are that, alongside 2 DFO staff, 2 marine safety trained front line RCMP members will be conducting six hour enforcement patrols staggered between July 1st and September 5th, in conjunction with the DFO (utilizing their vessels), to assess the level of (marine) community activity and to provide a uniformed presence on the waterways surrounding Richmond. Weather dependant, these patrols would be conducted during the daytime or early evening in the interest of public safety in all river based activities, improving the "interoperability" of Richmond Detachment with DFO and providing a level of law enforcement on the waterways, namely, enforcement of Criminal Code, Fisheries Acts and Provincial Statutes of BC. Another benefit of the patrols would be to provide an "as available" resource for calls for service for the City of Richmond where marine aspects are present.

Financial Information

The partnership is fully funded by the Province who pay for seasonal policing initiatives, at a total cost of less than \$20,000. RCMP members would be scheduled on an overtime basis. There would be no impact to the number of police resources scheduled on duty at any point within the City of Richmond; there will be no loss of service to the Richmond residents.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the report.

Conclusion

The joint RCMP/DFO patrol program is fully funded by the Province who funds seasonal policing initiatives, and will be staffed with overtime resources. The program is a trial to determine the level of crime, if any, in and around the waterways in Richmond. There will be no financial or resourcing impact on the RCMP in the City of Richmond for the duration of this initiative.

Lainie Goddard

Manger, RCMP Administration

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