



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
Re: Funding for Front Line Policing

Date: March 31, 2008

File:

Staff Recommendation

That the Solicitor General John Van Dongen be requested to direct the recently announced federal funding commitment to front line policing in municipalities.

Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
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Staff Report

Origin

The Federal Government made a substantial funding commitment to policing in the recent budget announcement. The funding will be provided to the Provinces, and the Provinces will then determine where the funding should be allocated. In order to ensure that municipal policing needs are addressed, it would be appropriate to advise the Province of the City's policing priorities.

Analysis

The Federal 2008-2009 Budget commits \$400-million in funding for the recruitment of more police officers across Canada. The Province has forwarded a letter to the Federal Government expressing interest in, and commitment to, participating in the initiative. B.C.'s share is approximately \$53M. The Province has the discretion to determine how best to allocate the funding. Former Solicitor General John Les indicated that the bulk of the funding will be spent on enhancing the provincial integrated teams that focus on organized crime and gang violence.

Several large municipalities with independent police agencies, New Westminster, Abbotsford and Victoria, met with the former Solicitor General to indicate their desire for some of the funding to be directed to their municipal police forces.

Cities with RCMP detachments not only fund municipal policing needs at the local level, they also provide a major portion of the funding for integrated teams in the LMD. It is recommended that the Solicitor General John Van Dongen be advised of the desire to have the Federal funding go directly to municipalities. In Richmond this funding could be used to enhance front line police work such as:

- the quick response team to provide immediate service to time sensitive calls
- the response team for the Canada Line, and
- enhanced bike patrols

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Conclusion

Municipalities bear a substantial amount of the burden for the cost of policing. It is recommended that the City advise the Solicitor General that the funding committed to policing in the recent federal budget announcement be directed to front line policing in municipalities.



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