



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
Re: RCMP Secondment

Date: July 11, 2011
File: 09-5350-01/2011-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That:

1. the Solicitor General be requested to pay to the City of Richmond the full costs of the Richmond constable's secondment to the City of Vancouver;
2. Assistant Commissioner Norm Lipinski, officer in charge of the Lower Mainland District, be advised that the City of Richmond does not support the secondment of the RCMP constable from the local detachment to the City of Vancouver unless the full costs of the constable's secondment are paid to the City of Richmond and that in the future, the City of Richmond should be consulted prior to making such secondments; and
3. the other municipalities who have officers to be seconded to the City of Vancouver be advised of Council's position.

Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager
(604-276-4104)

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

The Officer in Charge of the RCMP detachment has been advised that one of the RCMP members assigned to police the City of Richmond will be seconded to the City of Vancouver to investigate the recent activity surrounding the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The selected constable's position will not be backfilled and the member is required to be provided with a Richmond detachment car during the secondment.

Findings Of Fact

The following lower mainland district municipalities have been requested to provide members to assist Vancouver in the investigation surrounding the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Surrey (2-3)
Burnaby (2)
Richmond (1)
Maple Ridge (1)
Langley (1)
North Vancouver (1)
Coquitlam (1)

The members requested are those that have some familiarity with social media.

The genesis of the request for assistance is not known. Whether Vancouver made the request to the RCMP or the RCMP volunteered their services to Vancouver. What is known is that Vancouver made no direct request to the City of Richmond for resources.

Analysis

Typically during an emergency event, a neighbouring, non-impacted municipality will provide resources to the impacted municipality. For example, on the evening of the riots in Vancouver the local tactical members from the Richmond detachment assisted in Vancouver. As well, Richmond Fire Rescue was put on standby to respond into Vancouver should an event happen near Richmond's borders. This is the norm and the activity is done without payment. Over time, it is felt that the reciprocity at emergency events benefits all municipalities.

The Fire Chiefs act under the authority of Council authorized agreement that stipulates the rates to be paid should one chief request the assistance of another fire service. However, rarely is the contractually stipulated payment invoked unless the demand for assistance runs over several shifts or compromises the assisting municipality.

Vancouver has elected not to participate on the Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams, unlike some other municipalities policed by independent police agencies.

When there is an investigation into a criminal activity, the investigation can take place across municipal boundaries and regular cooperation between policing agencies does take place.

The request at issue here is unique.

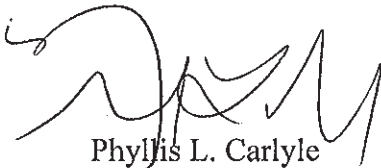
The Province has been requested by the RCMP to consider paying the costs of the secondment but there has been no formal position on payment communicated to the municipal sector. What is not clear is if the Province has invoked the contractual terms to permit the secondment, or whether the RCMP has "volunteered" assistance. In the contract where the Minister or Commissioner removes members from the Richmond detachment then the Province pays the salary and incremental costs of the members redeployed.

Financial Impact

The cost of the 6 month secondment will equate to \$60,000 to \$75,000. The seconded member will incur additional overtime costs but which entity will pay the overtime costs is still being discussed. The costs for the use of a police cruiser are not included in the above figures. In addition at the Richmond detachment, overtime will be required for other Richmond members to perform the duties that the seconded member would have normally undertaken.

Conclusion

In the aftermath of a unique situation in Vancouver, assistance has been requested from the City of Richmond. As the assistance required is not to address an emergency situation or a special, pre-planned public event and the City of Vancouver has not directly requested this assistance, the costs associated with the assistance should be borne by the Province.



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