



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** August 21, 2013
From: Phyllis L. Carlyle **File:**
 General Manager
Re: Touchstone Family Services Restorative Justice Contract Renewal

Staff Recommendation

1. That the City enter into a three year contract (2014-2016) with Touchstone Family Association for the provision of the Restorative Justice Program, as outlined in the report "Touchstone Family Services Restorative Justice Contract Renewal" dated August 21, 2013 from the General Manager, Law and Community Safety; and
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager of Law and Community Safety be authorized to execute the contract with Touchstone Family Association.

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

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Finance Division	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS:

Staff Report

Origin

On January 1, 2011, the City of Richmond renewed the three year contract with Touchstone Family Association for the delivery of the Restorative Justice Program. The Touchstone Family Association is required to report to Council annually on:

- a) Restorative justice annual budget for the upcoming year;
- b) Restorative justice revenues and expenditure from the previous year;
- c) Performance indicators including the number of referrals, forums and completed resolution agreements;
- d) Milestones and achievements; and
- e) Participants' satisfaction survey.

On April 9, 2013 Community Safety Committee received a report entitled "Touchstone Family Services 2012 Restorative Justice Performance Outcome and Evaluation Report" providing a detailed review of the Restorative Justice Program in Richmond and addressing the above criteria.

As the term of the current agreement expires on December 31, 2013, Touchstone Family Association is requesting the continued financial support for a three year term beginning January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 at a cost of \$95,000 per year. This will allow Touchstone to operate the Restorative Justice Program in the City.

Analysis

In British Columbia, the estimated 2012 annual cost for youth justice is approximately \$92M¹ and the number of completed youth court cases were 2,915² with a median length of 107 days. Should the youth be incarcerated, the cost would be approximately \$100,000 per year³, per youth.

The Provincial Government does not fund restorative justice to a level that would provide comprehensive services to the community. The City has long advocated for increased funding for restorative justice services but the Province maintains it will not advance additional funding. The Province's position has resulted in the City funding the Restorative Justice Program.

In 2008 the City entered into a three year agreement with Touchstone Family Association, renewing this contract in 2011 for three additional years, expiring December 31, 2013.

¹ Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer, March 2013

² <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11803/tbl/tbl02-eng.htm>

³ <http://www.domesticviolenceinfo.ca/upload/documents/2007-youthcrime.pdf>

The Richmond Restorative Justice Program uses an alternative approach to the courts that places the emphasis on accountability and problem solving as a way of addressing harm that takes place when a crime or incident occurs. All direct referrals come from the RCMP to Restorative Justice. Touchstone is presently working with the RCMP and retail stores to determine the industry's interest in direct referrals of youths.

In 2012, the number of youth files from the RCMP has decreased from 1,499 in 2011 to 1,129 in 2012. Consequently, the number of offenders involved in the program also decreased from 74 in 2011 to 42 in 2012.

In 2012, there were 36 referrals⁴ made to the Richmond Restorative Justice Program. The average cost to the City is approximately \$2,261 per youth offender. Over the past six years the average number of referrals is 39 per year at an average cost to the City of \$1,850 per youth offender.

The Richmond Restorative Justice Program goal's is to provide an alternative approach to the courts that places emphasis on accountability and problem solving as a way of addressing the harm that takes place when a crime or incident occurs. RCMP and Touchstone continue to work together to ensure the best system is in place and youth crime continues to decline in Richmond.

Financial Impact

The annual cost of the contract is \$95,000 per year. This amount has remained unchanged since the inception of the program in 2008. The term requested is for 3 years from 2014-2016.

Conclusion

The contract with Touchstone Family Association to administer Richmond's Restorative Justice Program is a service delivery model that strengthens the social health and independence of families and children in our community through effective intervention and support services. This alternative service delivery model to the court system addresses the harm that takes place when a crime or incident occurs, and ensures accountability. The present contract expires in December 2013 and an additional three year agreement is requested.



Anne Stevens
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(604-276-4273)

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⁴ A referral can have more than one offender.