



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: April 8, 2016

From: Mark Corrado
Senior Manager, Community Safety, Policy and
Programs

File: 09-5350-01/2016-Vol
01

Re: Police Services Review Public Consultation Results

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "*Police Services Review Public Consultation Results*," dated April 8, 2016, from the Senior Manager, Corporate Communications and the Senior Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs be received for information.

For Ted Townsend
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
(604-276-4399)

Mark Corrado
Senior Manager, Community Safety Policy
and Programs
(604-276-4273)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE 	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

In May 2015, as part of the ongoing review of police services, Council directed that the preliminary outcomes of the community consultation be presented to Council. This report responds to Council's direction. On November 26, 2015, the City released a report, on its LetsTalkRichmond.ca website, on police services and announced that a formal public consultation process would begin in early 2016. The firm of FleishmanHillard, with assistance from the Mustel Research Group, was hired to assist in the consultation process and conduct public surveying and polling.

This report provides Council with FleishmanHillard's key findings as outlined in their final report [Attachment 1].

This report supports Council's Term Goal 2014-2018 #1 - A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

1.1. Policy and service models that reflect Richmond-specific needs.

Analysis

Results

Based on a quantitative analysis of the combined LetsTalkRichmond.ca survey and the Mustel polling results as well as the qualitative feedback derived from online, in-person (meetings/open houses) or written commentary, FleishmanHillard stated the following:

"Ultimately, many residents and stakeholders agree that the creation of a local, independent police force seems like a good idea and would reflect Richmond's community values, needs and priorities. However, when taking into account the costs of establishing a new police force (both proposed transition cost and the additional funds required annually to support a new local police), residents were not convinced that there was enough cause for change, given that the RCMP is seen, by a majority of those expressing an opinion, to be providing a reasonably and acceptably high standard of service to the community."

Despite differences in methodology the LetsTalkRichmond.ca survey and the Mustel poll demonstrated consistent findings among those who identified a preference for a specific police service model. Based on the findings of the consultant, amongst decided respondents, both the survey and poll showed a majority preference for the RCMP over the independent police model. However, FleishmanHillard noted that there were significant differences in the number of undecided respondents between the LetsTalkRichmond.ca survey (6% undecided) and the Mustel Poll (34% undecided).

FleishmanHillard's comprehensive report, including graphical and detailed results of survey/poll questions as well as emerging themes from the qualitative commentary, can be found in Attachment 1.

Options for outcomes on the public consultation process

Should Council decide to receive this staff report for information, the following options could be considered:

- a) that the public consultation process with regard to the ongoing policing review be considered completed;
- b) that additional public consultation occur and a further report would be required.

Next steps subsequent to the public consultation

Should Council decide to maintain the RCMP police model, it is recommended that staff work with the local Detachment, as well as various government partners at the local, provincial, and federal levels, to further enhance the existing police services both in the City and the Lower Mainland.

The City would continue to play a role in the development of a governance model for the RCMP's Lower Mainland Integrated Teams through various mayoral forums and groups such as the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Through the Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) and UBCM, the City continues to strive to improve the existing governance structure of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA). The City has proposed a series of enhancements to the MPUA under the ongoing Five Year Contract review led by LGCMC and the national Contract Management Committee.

Should Council decide to implement an independent police service model, it is recommended that staff report back on the scope of required resources to prepare an implementation plan. The BC Director of Police Services has advised that a detailed written proposal, including a transition plan, will be submitted to the Minister for approval prior to the official notification of termination of the MPUA.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion



The consultation process and results outlined in FleishmanHillard's report supplements Council's review of police services. FleishmanHillard's report provides Council with a

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representative sample of the public's views on both the existing RCMP police model and an independent Richmond policing model.

Staff will require direction from Council as to any future steps to be taken with regard to the police review process.

Ted Townsend
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications
(604-276-4399)

TT:mc



Mark Corrado
Senior Manager, Community Safety Policy
and Programs
(604-276-4273)

Att. 1: City of Richmond Policing Services Review Public Consultation Report



City of Richmond | Policing Services Review | Public Consultation Report

March 18, 2016

**GP - 5
(Special)**



FLEISHMANHILLARD

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* See separate document



FLEISHMANHILLARD

Executive Summary

As Richmond grows and plans for the future, Richmond City Council is looking to determine the best approach to ensuring police services meet local needs and priorities, and that Richmond continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit. Council identified two options for the delivery of police services in Richmond:

- Continuation with the current service provided by the RCMP, or
- Establishing an independent Richmond police force.

FleishmanHillard was engaged by the City in July 2015 through a Request for Expressions of Interest, to develop and assist in the implementation of a public consultation program to support the police services review. FleishmanHillard worked in collaboration with City of Richmond staff to:

- Develop a Community Engagement and Consultation Plan;
- Develop public consultation materials and tools to support the Consultation Plan;
- Support City staff in organizing public open houses and stakeholder meetings; and
- Prepare a Consultation summary report following the completion of community engagement activities.

The focus of the public consultation program was to provide information about the City's reasons for considering a new policing model and provide opportunity for public feedback to Council on the possible transition to an independent police service before a final decision is made.

Consultation activities were undertaken with the goal of obtaining as much participation as possible from the general public (reflecting the diverse community) as well as key stakeholders such as the business community and partner organizations or agencies with an interest in policing. The consultation was promoted as follows:

- Online, from January 19th – February 29th, 2016, using the LetsTalkRichmond.ca website as a platform for the general public and stakeholders to submit their opinions (1,000+ responses);
- Five public open houses (200+ attendees);
- Telephone/online polling by Mustel Group Research (600+ sample size);
- Drop-in open house (Minoru Place Seniors Centre);
- Stakeholder meetings inviting participation in the consultation;
- Stakeholder letters inviting participation in the consultation (approximately 40 sent); and
- Promotion of the consultation process through media relations, social media, the City of Richmond website, print advertising, and other means.

A discussion guide summarizing key aspects of the police services review and a questionnaire formed the basis for both the Mustel poll and the LetsTalkRichmond.ca consultation module.

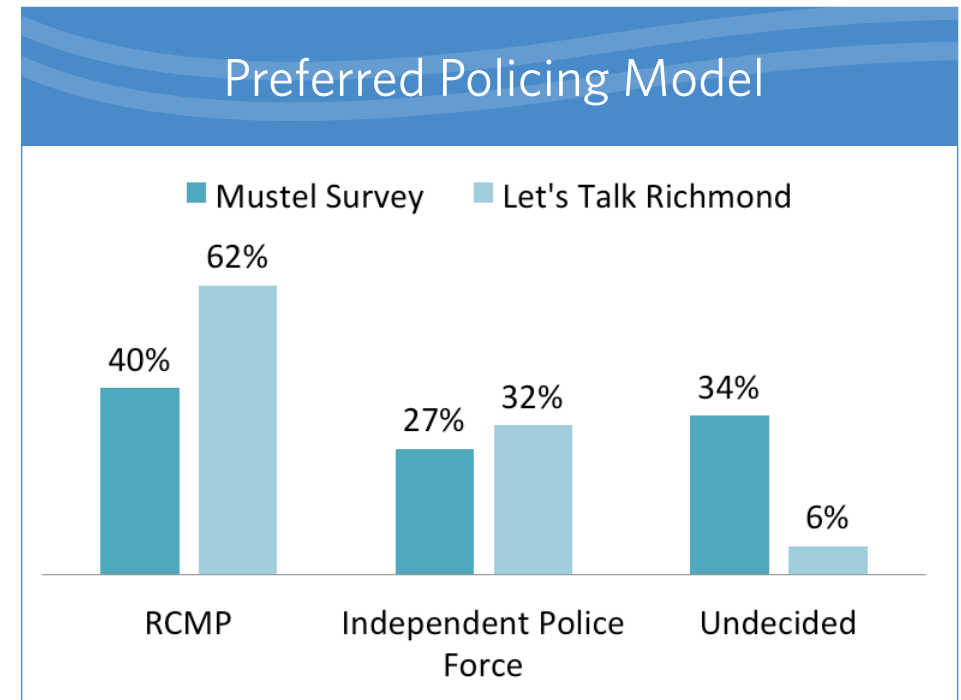
KEY FINDINGS

Public interest in the police services review was fairly significant, with a total of 2,800 visitors to the LetsTalkRichmond.ca webpage resulting in 587 completed surveys. In addition, 417 surveys were submitted in writing and are included in the findings as part of the LetsTalkRichmond.ca results.

The majority of residents and stakeholders surveyed as part of the consultation are supportive of maintaining the current model for policing services (RCMP). Both in the opinion poll as well as surveys completed at LetsTalkRichmond.ca, respondents indicated a preference for maintaining services of the RCMP, however just under one-third of people who provided feedback said they would prefer an independent police service.

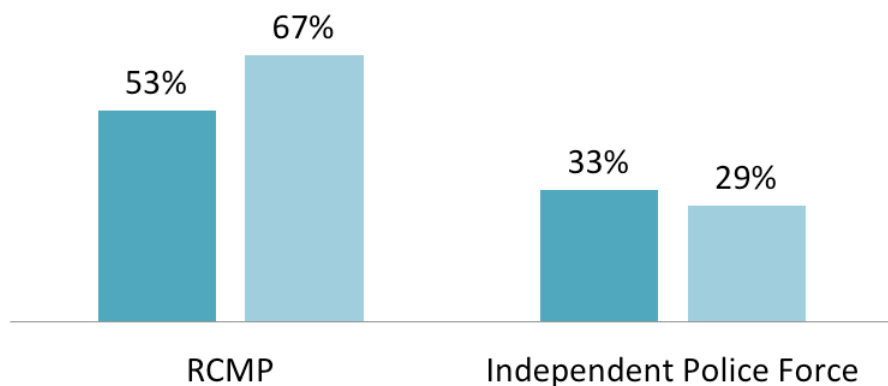
The table to the right illustrates the specific results from both survey methods. It should be noted that a much larger percentage of respondents to the Mustel poll indicated they were 'undecided', compared with LetsTalkRichmond.ca respondents. This may be a result of timing, as the poll was conducted earlier in the consultation period, whereas the majority of responses received via LetsTalkRichmond.ca came later in the process when respondents would have had additional opportunities to learn about the review through media stories or participation in open houses.

The survey sought to define the community's preference for a police services model, however results also show how respondents evaluate each model based on two key factors described in the survey discussion guide: cost and local accountability.



Rating of Policing Model: Operating costs

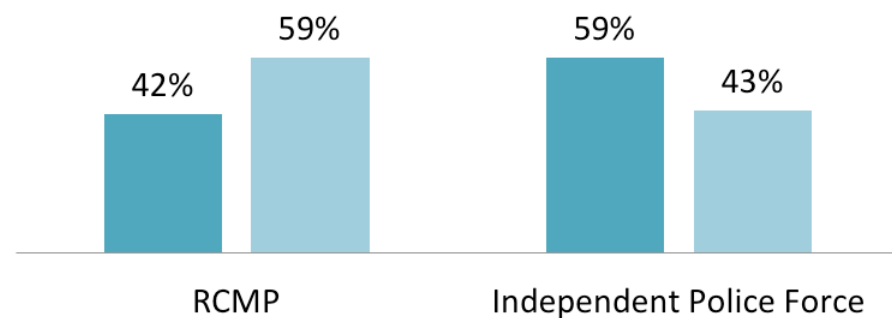
■ Mustel Survey ■ Let's Talk Richmond



On the subject of operating costs, respondents were informed about a one-time estimated transition cost of \$19.6 million to establish a municipal police force, and estimated annual operating costs that would be \$2.2 million to \$3.9 million higher than the RCMP. When asked to rate each model based on operating costs, the RCMP was rated significantly higher ('good' or 'very good') compared with an independent police force. Open-ended comments received through both the polling and the City's LetsTalkRichmond.ca survey support these results, with a notable number of respondents conveying their concerns about the cost implications associated with transitioning to an independent police service, how such costs would be funded (through taxes or other means), and potential lost opportunities to fund other city services.

Rating of Policing Model: Local decision making authority and community needs

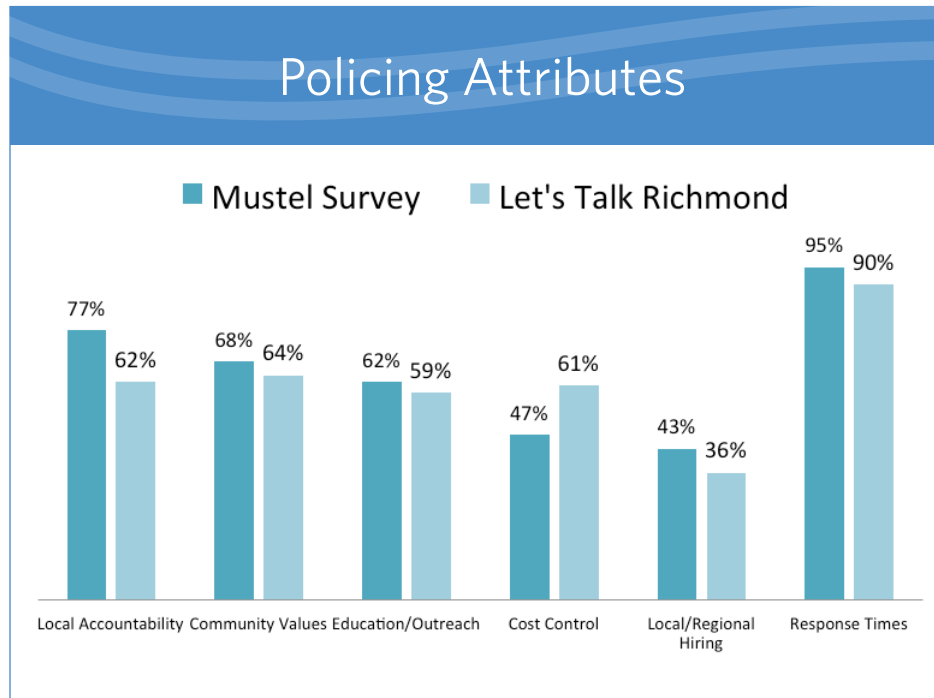
■ Mustel Survey ■ Let's Talk Richmond



When asked to rate each model based on considerations related to local decision-making authority and community needs, an independent police force was rated higher than the RCMP, but by a smaller margin compared with the question on operating costs. The survey explained key differences in each model in terms of governance, hiring decisions, and control over budget. There were fewer comments related to this topic in the survey responses overall (compared with comments on cost), however some respondents expressed strong views that an independent police force would be able to achieve much better community integration and would better reflect Richmond's diverse population.

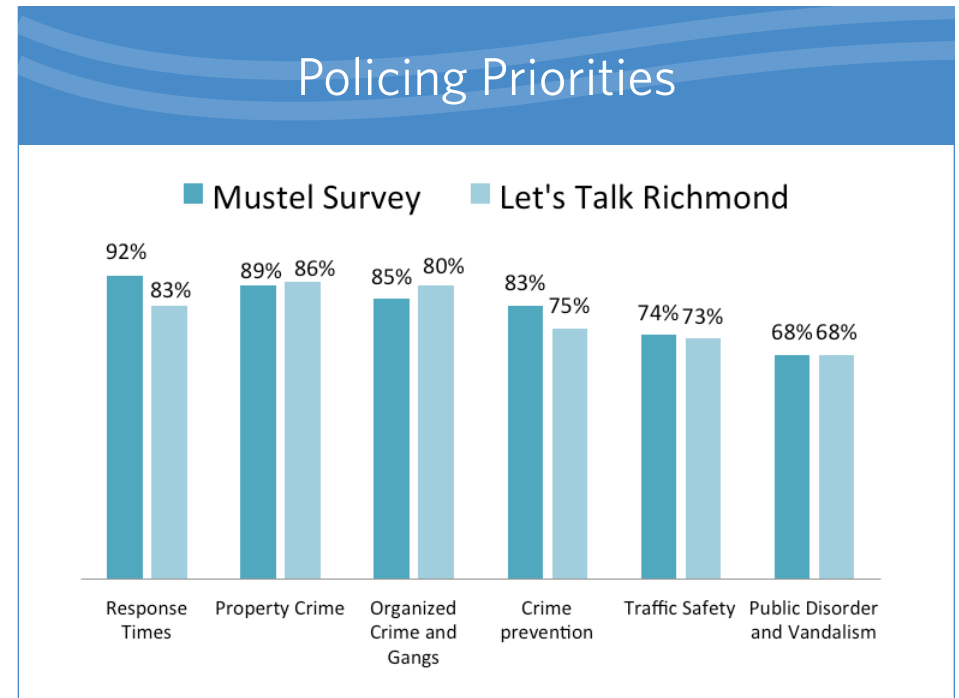
To explore resident and stakeholder views on the desired attributes of a police service for the City of Richmond, the survey asked respondents to rate a series of attributes associated with a police force. In both the poll and survey, 'response times' was rated as important by at least 90% of respondents. Local accountability, reflecting community values and providing education and outreach were highly ranked as well, with local/regional hiring at the bottom of the list.

Attributes are displayed in the graph below according to the percentage of survey respondents who indicated the attribute was important (4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5).



Similar to the question on attributes, survey respondents were asked to indicate the importance of a series of priorities for policing in Richmond. 'Response times' was again the most popular response, however many other issues were identified as priorities, including property crime as well as organized crime and gangs.

Priorities are displayed in the graph below according to the percentage of survey respondents who indicated the priority was important (4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5).



In addition to quantifiable data obtained through the Mustel poll and the LetsTalkRichmond.ca survey (as summarized above), Richmond residents and stakeholders provided input to the consultation process through a variety of means, including comments in response to open-ended questions within the survey, emails and letters sent to the City, and comments during open house meetings. Having reviewed this aspect of the consultation feedback, conclusions can be drawn to reflect the survey data in terms of residents expressing a clear preference for maintaining the RCMP as police services provider for Richmond.

Comments from those residents strongly in favour of keeping the current police services model reflect:

- A high degree of satisfaction with RCMP services being delivered and positive interaction and experiences with officers;
- A belief that the RCMP is a symbol of national pride and identity;
- Perceived efficiency with the RCMP's model, including a high degree of expertise, training, and resource utilization; and
- A belief that retaining the RCMP is a more cost-effective option – which won't require an increase to property (or other) taxes to fund its operation.

Among those residents who most strongly voiced an opinion in favour of establishing a local police force, one or two key points of view were most often expressed:

- An independent police force would be able to achieve much better community integration, including local recruits, officers possessing a greater awareness of issues pertinent to Richmond; and
- Those officers would better reflect Richmond's diverse population.

Having noted the above, many individuals commented that they did not believe the police services review was necessary, or were unsure of the

rationale for studying the issue. Many such comments were accompanied by opinions of support for having the RCMP continue to provide police services in Richmond.

Another recurring theme in the consultation concerned questions about a possible third option for policing: specifically exploration of a regional police force (with Richmond leading efforts to collaborate in the process with other municipalities). The fact that creation of a regional police force was not one of the options being considered led some residents to express concern that not all options for delivering optimal police services in Richmond were being put forward for consideration.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, many residents and stakeholders agree that the creation of a local, independent police force seems like a good idea and would better reflect Richmond's community values, needs and priorities. However, when taking into account the costs of establishing a new police force (both proposed transition cost and the additional funds required annually to support a new local police force), residents were not convinced that there was enough cause for change, given that the RCMP is seen, by a majority of those expressing an opinion, to be providing a reasonably and acceptably high standard of service to the community.

Overview of Consultation Activities and Engagement

The focus of the public consultation program was to provide information about the City's reasons for considering a new policing model and obtain public feedback on the possible transition to an independent police service.

An initial public and stakeholder information campaign, coupled with online public feedback through LetsTalkRichmond.ca and a representative random survey carried out by a research firm, was launched in January 2016. More comprehensive consultation, including public open houses and other activities, occurred in February.

Consultation activities were undertaken with the goal of obtaining as much participation as possible from the general public (reflecting the diverse community) as well as key stakeholders such as the business community and partner organizations or agencies with an interest in policing.

LETSTALKRICHMOND.CA

- Online consultation January 19 – February 29, 2016
- 1,004 responses (587 surveys entered online, 417 printed survey responses entered into the LetsTalkRichmond.ca platform)

TELEPHONE/ONLINE POLLING

- 600+ responses

FIVE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES (200+ ATTENDEES)

Promoted online and through advertising in community newspapers with information offered in multiple languages.

- Richmond City Hall
- Steveston Community Centre
- Thompson Community Centre
- South Arm Community Centre
- East Richmond Community Hall

DROP-IN OPEN HOUSE

- Minoru Place Seniors Centre

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Letters were sent to key stakeholders, inviting them to participate in the consultation process through LetsTalkRichmond.ca and at Open Houses. For certain priority stakeholders, one-on-one meetings were offered to provide more in-depth information and obtain qualitative feedback.

Associations and other groups were encouraged to share information with their networks or membership to encourage further participation in the consultation. Responses received through Let'sTalkRichmond.ca cannot be tracked nor attributed to individual stakeholder groups.

OTHER PUBLIC INPUT

- 34 written submissions via mail or email
- 22 Facebook comments in response to newsfeed posts

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – MEETINGS

Six stakeholder groups were invited to attend meetings on the police services review:

- Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce
- Inter Cultural Advisory Committee
- School Board/Council Liaison Committee
- Seniors Advisory Committee

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT – LETTERS

Letters were sent to the following stakeholders to invite feedback on the police services review:

- Sea Island Community Association
- South Arm Community Association
- City Centre Community Association
- Hamilton Community Association
- Steveston Community Association
- East Richmond Community Association
- West Richmond Community Association
- Richmond Multicultural Community Services
- Richmond Chinese Community Society
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- Immigrant Services Society
- Filipinos in Richmond Society
- India Cultural Centre of Canada

- Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple
- Highway to Heaven Association
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
- Richmond Centre for disability
- Richmond Addiction Services
- Chimo Community Services
- Touchstone Family Association
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Richmond
- Pathways Clubhouse
- Richmond Family Place
- Richmond Family Youth Court Committee
- Richmond Sports Council
- Richmond chamber of commerce
- Tourism Richmond
- Steveston Merchants Association
- Taiwan Chamber of Commerce
- Richmond Centre
- Lansdowne Centre
- Aberdeen Centre
- Yaohan Centre
- Parker Place
- Richmond Realtors
- Economic Advisory Committee
- Richmond Agricultural Advisory Committee

Two stakeholder groups provided feedback on the police services review by written response:

1. The **Richmond Chamber of Commerce** surveyed its members and their employees (17% participation rate). The Chamber's survey was distributed along with links to the City's consultation materials, and members were encouraged to fill out their own surveys at LetsTalkRichmond.ca. The Chamber's membership survey concluded that:
 - a) 78% of respondents rated they were satisfied or very satisfied with current RCMP service (only 5.4% rated their level of satisfaction as poor);
 - b) 82% of respondents were opposed to the approximately \$20 million transition cost to establish a local police force, and 80% oppose the additional approximate \$2-4 million annual operational cost increase for a municipal force; and
 - c) A majority of respondents (62%) favoured staying with the RCMP, 14% support investing additional City resources into improvements provided with the RCMP, and 15% would prefer to switch to an independent police force.
2. The **Richmond School District** shared that its first priority for Council when considering policing options in the community is that Richmond continue to be a safe place to live, work and learn. The School District emphasized that the RCMP services, programs and learning opportunities in Richmond schools are highly valued by students, school and district administration, educators, and families, and the District would like to continue a collaborative and ongoing relationship with whichever law enforcement model selected. Most importantly, the District stresses that of utmost importance in whichever model selected, is for Richmond students and staff to continue to have access to similar offerings of policing services, programs and partnership opportunities as currently available.

WHAT WE HEARD

The City of Richmond invited input from residents, seeking citizens' thoughts and opinions on established and possible future policing services. Below, and inserted throughout the coming pages, selected comments from residents have been highlighted. The comments – which were submitted on LetsTalkRichmond.ca surveys and dropped off at Police Services Review open houses – are a selection of the hundreds of valuable thoughts on the topic which residents provided.

Without clearly defined reasons for changing and projected increased expenses at approx. \$50 Million over the next decade, it is difficult to understand why we would consider a change in policing services. Further, the question becomes even more challenging when we consider our policing costs are lower, and our crime rates are lower than many other comparable jurisdictions. It seems by these measurements we are currently receiving good value for our policing dollars.

I fully support the research and discussion around an Independent Richmond police force. Having grown up in Richmond and pursuing a career in policing myself, I plan on being one of the first applicants to serve my home town. I'm very excited about what a city based police service would bring to a vibrant community like Richmond.

Promotion Of Public Consultation

Communications for the public consultation were designed to promote participation by residents and other stakeholders in the consultation process, through media releases, advisories, media briefings and opinion editorials as required and appropriate. City of Richmond social media channels as well as print advertisements were used to explain and promote the consultation and drive participation in the process.

MEDIA RELATIONS

- The City issued three news releases in the lead up to and during the consultation process, to encourage news media coverage of the consultation.
- A variety of news media coverage was received, including reporting on the consultation launch, coverage of open houses, interviews with the Mayor, and commentary, op-eds or letters by members of the community with an interest in policing.
- News media coverage included local community media, daily regional media, online media, Chinese-language newspapers, television and radio.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

- Richmond News (5)
- Sing Tao (2)
- Ming Pao (2)
- Philippine Canadian Inquirer (3)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook (8 posts, including 4 promoted posts)
- Twitter (29 tweets)

WEBSITE

- Feature topic on home page of City website

OTHER

- Posters at City Facilities
- Staffed display at Mayor's Annual Address/Richmond Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- Static information display at City Hall.
- Survey and consultation materials distributed to all civic facilities

*Thank you City of Richmond
for serving us and for
hearing our responses.*

*Thanks for the opportunity
to submit my comments on
this important topic.*

SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

Public Opinion Poll

As part of the public consultation, a representative, random survey was commissioned to provide additional input to Council for the police services review. Mustel Group Research, a local firm with experience conducting public opinion polling in Richmond, was engaged to complete the survey.

METHODOLOGY:

- **Recruitment:** Residents were recruited by telephone from Mustel Group's call centre, where trained telephone interviewers are continuously monitored and supervised. A link to the survey and Discussion Guide was immediately emailed to recruited respondents. Those not wishing to complete the on-line survey were provided with the option of completing a mailed paper survey.
- **Sample size:** A total of 1,145 residents were randomly recruited by telephone; 644 completed the survey (630 completed online; 14 completed paper version).
- **Ethnicity & Languages:** English, Cantonese and Mandarin were offered for both the recruiting and feedback surveys. A total of 49% of all surveys were completed by residents of Chinese origin.

RESULTS:

Police Service Attributes Most Important to Address

- The most important attribute for a Richmond police force to address is response times, with 95% of residents rating it 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale, where 5 means 'most important'.
- Next, in order of rated importance are local accountability (77% rate it important, 4 or 5), reflecting community values (68%), and providing education and outreach (62%).
- Compared with other attributes, cost control (47%) and local or regional hiring (43%) are considered least important.

Policing Priorities

- As with policing attributes, the most important priority among residents for a Richmond police force is response times, with 92% rating it 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale, where 5 means 'very important'.
- Next, in order of importance are property crime (89%), organized crime and gangs (85%), and crime prevention (83%).
- Lowest priorities are traffic safety (74%) and public disorder and vandalism (68%).

Preferred Policing Model

- In terms of local decision making authority and community needs, an independent police force is rated higher than the RCMP model.
- But when it comes to operating costs, the RCMP model is rated the better option, with more concern expressed with regards to the cost of an independent force.

With all things considered, residents lean towards retaining the RCMP. A total of 40% prefer the current model in comparison to 27% favouring an independent force. One-third (34%) is undecided.

COMMENTS REGARDING ESTABLISHING A LOCAL INDEPENDENT FORCE

- About one-quarter of respondents provided additional comments about an independent police force.
- Concerns most commonly expressed relate to the cost of such a force, and a lack of trust in local government managing an independent force.
- Comments in support of an independent force include that it would provide better community integration.

The RCMP is a good national police force but policing a city is a local responsibility and local policy, local accountability, local budgetary control and the ability to hire people for the long term who are committed to this City and its residents will increase police effectiveness. Imagine other departments (planning, finance, engineering, parks) in the City where you train people for two to five years and they move on. It would be untenable.

Q.7a) I have the following comments about the City of Richmond establishing local independent police services (if any):	Total (644) %
Positive	10
Better community integration (i.e. local recruits, awareness of issues, diverse population)	6
Like the idea of a local police force	3
Prefer the idea of a joint police service with other Lower Mainland police agencies	2
No problems in other cities (i.e. Vancouver, West Vancouver)	1
Negative	20
Concerned about the cost to taxpayers	13
Satisfied with the RCMP/ don't see the need for a local police force	6
Concerned about corruption/ do not trust local government	5
RCMP has better recruiting/ training/ equipment	3
RCMP provides impartial application of the law	2
Oversight of RCMP from Federal Government	2
National police services/ large/ flexible organization	1
No comments	72

Comments Regarding Continuing with Current RCMP Service

- About one-quarter of respondents also comment on the idea of continuing with the current RCMP model of policing.
- Comments most commonly express satisfaction with current policing, seeing it as a more cost effective and reliable approach.
- Some concern is expressed about the performance of the current police force, highlighting a lack of local and community-focused policing.

I feel RCMP is well established, great connections within the community, knows members of the community. I feel very safe with the RCMP. I feel it is best for it to continue. Their response time is excellent and commitment to community safety is above and beyond. I have great respect for the members of our RCMP. They do an excellent job. Well done.

Q.7b) I have the following comments about continuing to have police services provided by the RCMP (if any):	Total (644) %
Positive	16
Satisfied with services/ performance of RCMP	12
RCMP has a cheaper operating cost/ don't want to pay more taxes	4
National police force/ access to better resources, training and equipment	4
Good reputation/ Canadian icon	2
RCMP officers are well integrated with the community (Language skills, ethnicity etc.)	1
Positive past experience with the RCMP	1
RCMP are better able to police the airport	<1
Negative	10
Not doing enough law enforcement	4
Transient work force/ should recruit from local community	3
Not accountable to Municipal Government	2
Not doing enough community outreach/ low visibility	2
Support the idea of a local police force	2
Past problems with the RCMP (i.e. Robert Dziekanski death, high turnover)	2
No comments	77

LetsTalkRichmond.ca

An online questionnaire and discussion guide for the police services review were available on the City's public engagement platform, LetsTalkRichmond.ca, from January 19 – February 29, 2016.

VISITORS SUMMARY:

- 2,800 total visitors
- 894 document downloads
- 587 surveys completed online
- 417 surveys submitted in writing and entered into the LetsTalkRichmond.ca system

Survey participants were asked to identify reasons for their interest in the police services review, and to select all that apply. Results were as follows:

- Richmond resident (879)
- Richmond business owner or business tenant (63)
- Employed in Richmond (241)
- Post-secondary student in Richmond (17)
- Other (49)

RESULTS:

Police Service Attributes Most Important to Address

- The most important attribute for a Richmond police force to address is response times, with 90% of residents rating it 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale, where 5 means 'most important'.

- Next, in order of rated importance are reflecting community values (64% rate it important, 4 or 5), local accountability (62%), cost control (61%) and providing education and outreach (59%)
- Compared with other attributes, local or regional hiring (37%) is considered the least important

Policing Priorities

- The most important priority among residents for a Richmond police force is property crime with 86% rating it 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale, where 5 means 'very important'.
- Next, in order of importance are response times (83% rate it important, 4 or 5), organized crime and gangs (80%) and crime prevention (73%)
- Lowest priorities are traffic safety (73%) and public disorder or vandalism (68%)

Preferred Policing Model

- In terms of local decision making authority and community needs, an independent police force is rated higher than the RCMP model.
- When it comes to operating costs, the RCMP model is rated the better option, with more concern expressed with regards to the cost of an independent force.

With all things considered, residents lean towards retaining the current model. A total of 62% prefer the RCMP in comparison to 32% favouring an independent force. 6% are undecided.

RESPONDENT COMMENTS

A review of resident input – represented by the many hundreds of comments registered on LetsTalkRichmond.ca – indicated a significant degree of interest in this topic. In addition to answering survey questions, a majority of respondents also took the opportunity to provide additional input, when and where comments were provided as an option.

A minority of comments reflected the fact that some residents had strong biases either for – or against – each of the two policing options. Those minority comments could be considered the ‘extreme’ views, which are summarized immediately below. Beyond this, the majority of comments could be categorized as falling within six key areas of resident consideration. In the analysis on the following pages, these areas of consideration are represented as ‘themes’ – and each is identified with the specific concern being expressed.

Among the minority of comments where participants held strong views, there were two distinct clusters of responses: those which strongly supported the RCMP and expressed imperatives for retaining the current police services model in Richmond. At the other end of the spectrum, some residents voiced vehement support for the creation of a local police force for the community.

Of those who advocated for continuing with the RCMP, sentiments most commonly expressed include:

- Satisfaction with current policing services provided by the RCMP, and the performance of the RCMP’s officers on duty in Richmond;
- A belief that the RCMP is ‘more independent’ from political influence (at all levels) and is therefore able to provide an impartial application of the law; and
- The significance of the RCMP as a national/Canadian institution, including a high degree of pride in the Force as a symbol of Canada’s national identity.

I am a proud Canadian, I believe in tradition, and RCMP are a big part of Canadian history. We as Canadians welcome all who call Canada home and encourage all to embrace their heritage. Let's embrace our heritage and a Canadian tradition and keep RCMP in Richmond.

Residents who expressed views within this strong bias also often noted their belief that the RCMP, as a national Force, benefits Richmond thanks to their greater access to investigative resources, training, equipment and expertise. These residents often also cited the fact that Richmond needs these services, in part due to the presence – and impact – of the Vancouver International Airport.

Residents who expressed a strong bias in favour of establishing a local police force, on the other hand, noted one key point of view, with several integral tenets: that an independent police force would have better community integration, including local recruits, leading to officers having a better awareness of issues relevant to Richmond, and better reflecting Richmond’s multicultural population. Many of these respondents simply ‘liked the idea’ of a local, independent police force for Richmond, and noted that the city was now large and diverse enough to warrant creation of a force which could be dedicated to the service of the city and its specific issues and needs.

With an Independent Police Service there would be more Officers on the street, also with more of them around they will be able to assist the Residents of Richmond. This change is a must.

COMMENTS – KEY THEMES

In addition to those strong opinions either supporting or rejecting each of the two policing options, a majority of comments focused on the pros and cons of change within several key areas of focus, or themes. These included Operational Cost; Community Needs; Skepticism Regarding Political Motivation; Consideration of a Regional Police Force; and the Police Services Review Process. Each of the six is outlined below, with synopses which help illustrate resident concerns.

1. Operational Cost:

- Significant concern was raised around the proposed cost to Richmond taxpayers to establish and maintain an independent police force.
 - More specifically, it must be acknowledged that many comments reflected what could be interpreted as varying degrees of hostility towards city administrators, at the suggestion that property tax increases may be required to fund the change in service.
- Transition costs were frequently noted as being high, with many residents questioning whether spending \$20 million was ‘worth it’.
 - A number of residents suggested that if \$20 million was available, the money should not be spent for police transition but instead directed into other municipal priorities (such as street repairs, ditch remediation, city beautification, transit, and “Richmond General”).

I'm happy in general with the RCMP service provided. After considering all the options I really do not see that there will be a major change in policing services in Richmond if the City has its own police department other than a large increase in cost. I feel this is a large gamble with very little to gain in police services. The only sure gain is a larger cost to the tax payers.

- Other operational cost concerns included:
 - Questions regarding the future of existing RCMP headquarters in Richmond, and associated costs, if Richmond should have its own police force.
 - The cost of training and retaining officers in a local force.
 - Adoption of a municipal police service model was often believed to have ‘hidden costs’, which were not accounted for in the consultation materials.
- Comments also expressed the opinion that if taxpayers are paying more money for a local police force and getting essentially the same police service (as they are currently receiving with the RCMP), there is no real benefit to citizens.

2. Community Needs:

- For those in favour of a change, a common sentiment was that Richmond is ‘overdue’ for its own police force, given the community’s growth and diversity; and that more autonomy over police service delivery and economic resources would be positive for the community.
- Some residents commented on what they perceived as a lack of local and community focused policing in Richmond, which was commonly expressed as an issue of low RCMP visibility in the city – both historically and currently.
 - Other issues in this regard included a perceived lack of diversity (which specifically included comments regarding deficiencies in language skills relevant to the population of Richmond).
 - A belief – with decisions for policing being made by decision-makers outside the City (i.e. in Ottawa) – that services provided in a community like Richmond would never be a priority for the RCMP (which operates larger detachments in bigger cities across the country).

Richmond will never be a priority for the RCMP. The RCMP is a huge national institution with such a broad scope of responsibilities that it is understandable that individual detachments really can't be a priority.

- Conversely, there were also concerns around the ability to retain officers in an independent force; some residents expressed an opinion that a change from RCMP to a local force may be akin to 'switching one set of problems or issues for another'
- On the whole, there were many respondents who felt that – from an intuitive perspective – members of a local police force (should a local force be created) would have a greater knowledge of Richmond issues, and therefore be more responsive in terms of local law enforcement – with the added benefit of greater continuity, in terms of specific assignments (for instance, longer tenured school liaisons, etc.)

3. Skepticism regarding objectives for initiating the police services review

- Foremost among comments in this category were sentiments which reflected a degree of confusion as to how and why city administrators felt motivated to consider changing the existing police service model. Residents were unclear on Mayor and Council's impetus for initiating the review, illustrated by comments such as:
 - "Is there a problem with the RCMP?" and "if there's not a problem with the RCMP then why is Council doing this?"

- There was also a significant degree of concern around the ability of Council to 'appoint' local police board members, which was often perceived to be not-as-impartial as administration of the current policing model.
 - Carrying along that same continuum of concern, some residents went as far as voicing their opinion that administering a local force may increase opportunities for corruption; and there was some speculation regarding the ability of local government (not specifically Richmond, but under a municipal police service model) that it may be more difficult to impartially oversee a local police force.
- Again, within a similar vein of concern, some residents expressed opposition to the Mayor acting as Chair of the police board; which often led to comments voicing opinions that a local police board structure may not function as independently as it should.

While I understand the need to have local oversight over police services, the RCMP model is fine from a cost perspective. I do not care what is on the side of the police cruiser or what uniform the police wears. As long as my family and community is safe, which it is, I am happy.

- Finally, within this category, there were some residents who expressed their belief that Council had already 'made up its mind' (regarding the composition of a future police service model) and therefore the consultation process was not a meaningful exercise in gathering residents' opinions.

4. Consideration of a regional police force

- For many Richmond residents, the invitation to provide comments on a future police service delivery model motivated them to seize the opportunity to speak to an option which was not under consideration. Many citizens expressed their belief that – if service delivery were to change – the best option for that change lay in the creation of a regional or ‘lower mainland wide’ police force.
 - Many noted that the idea of a regional force was long overdue, and that its creation would support better crime investigation outcomes.
 - Others expressed the opinion that Richmond should concentrate efforts on conducting outreach to neighbouring communities, so that several municipalities could work together to achieve the goal of regional police force creation.
- In a related number of comments, some residents compared the prospect of Richmond adopting a local police force with other municipalities (such as Surrey and Burnaby), and posed questions as to whether or not there were other jurisdictions considering moving to local – or combined/regional – police service models.
- In instances where residents remained focused on the issue at hand, some questions regarding the ability of a new Richmond-focused police force would work collaboratively with other municipal forces, such as Delta and Vancouver.

It is also time to consider the “Lower Mainland Police Force” option.

We should work towards a regional force rather than another municipal force.

If a new police force is to be created it should be a Greater Vancouver Police force and not another separate department.

5. Police services review process

There were a number of comments from residents who expressed doubts about a range of aspects within the City’s police services review process. These included questions and concerns such as:

- The materials given to residents for review did not provide enough detail – with regard to each of the considerations – to support the development of an informed decision;
- Of those who expressed an opinion, residents noted that the materials were perceived as ‘biased’ towards establishing an independent police force, and that the public opinion survey (for Richmond residents) favoured the choice of a municipal force;
- Some comments expressed a degree of skepticism around how the financial analysis contained in the materials was conducted with some residents questioning the accuracy of the numbers – especially budget figures – provided; and
- There were also questions and some concern noted regarding the perception that the RCMP had not been involved in the consultation process and/or invited to contribute their point of view to the police service review process.

A small number of residents noted that once the results of the consultation were tabulated that even then, a proposed change would benefit from wider public participation. Some comments noted a preference for putting the question to a referendum.

Why not have this question put forth as a Referendum or Plebiscite to all of Richmond and have ALL details outlined for everyone to peruse and digest. So that everyone will know ALL the COSTS involved and future costs and how they will be covered....not just this Survey.

APPENDIX A

Survey Questionnaire & Discussion Guide



As Richmond grows and plans for the future, Richmond City Council wishes to determine the best approach to ensuring police services meet local needs and priorities, and that Richmond continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit.

Policing services are the largest single cost incurred by the City of Richmond. Currently, 20 cents of every municipal tax dollar in Richmond goes to fund police services. City Council wants to ensure it has the best model available to ensure police services are cost effective.

In addition to cost, it is important that Richmond's police service reflects local needs and concerns. This includes the ability to:

- exercise influence over the police services budget;
- influence key decisions such as setting service levels and priorities, and hiring a Chief Constable;
- respond to local community needs such as values, vision and mission; and
- have a stable, experienced core of officers and staff with strong local knowledge of the community and its concerns.

Name: _____ Address: _____
(optional) (optional)

1. I am interested in the police service in Richmond as I am:

Select all that apply:

- ☐ A Richmond resident ☐ A Richmond business owner or business tenant
☐ Employed in Richmond ☐ Post-secondary student in Richmond
☐ Other, please describe: _____

2. When deciding about my police service, the attributes I feel most important to be addressed are:

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *least important* and 5 is *most important*:

	Least important	1	2	3	4	Most important
i) Cost control		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Local accountability		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Reflect community values		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Local/regional hiring		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Providing education/outreach		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi) Response times		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other important attributes? Please describe: _____

3. My major priorities for policing are:

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *not at all important* and 5 is *very important*:

	Not at all important	1	2	3	4	Very important	No opinion
i) Crime prevention (includes programs like Block Watch, community education and outreach)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Organized crime and gangs		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Property crime (includes break-and-enters, thefts from autos, auto thefts, etc.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Traffic safety		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Public disorder and vandalism		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi) Response times		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other major priorities? Please describe: _____

4. An independent Richmond police force would provide more local decision making on costs with the police budget developed by a Police Board and approved by City Council. The Chief of Police would be hired by and accountable to the Police Board, which would be chaired by the Mayor. An independent Richmond police force would recruit and hire locally, and its officers would have strong knowledge of the community. An independent police force would be governed by provincial standards and regulations and be accountable to a local police board.

The RCMP is a Canadian national police force. The local RCMP detachment is led by a Superintendent (Detachment Commander), who reports to the RCMP's Lower Mainland District, as well as the City. Hiring and recruiting is done nationally and the City has input into hiring the Detachment Commander. Officers typically do not remain in the community for their entire career. Decisions that impact upon local costs and service needs and priorities may be made at national, provincial or regional levels, with limited input from the City.

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *not very good* and 5 is *very good*:

	Not very good	1	2	3	4	Very good	No opinion
a) When considering local decision making authority and community needs , I believe an independent Richmond police force would be:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) When considering local decision making authority and community needs , I believe the current RCMP policing model is:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. If the decision is made to transition to an independent Richmond police force, additional funding will be required due to the transition costs. The one-time transition cost to establish a municipal police force is estimated to be \$19.6 million, which would be spread over three years. The transition costs could be paid through a variety of existing sources.

It is estimated that the annual costs of operating an independent Richmond police force would be \$2.2 to \$3.9 million higher than the RCMP.

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *not very good* and 5 is *very good*:

	Not very good	1	2	3	4	Very good	No opinion
a) When considering operating costs , I believe the current RCMP policing model is:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) When considering operating costs , I believe an independent Richmond police force would be:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Based on what I have learned about the options for a Richmond police force, I believe the following model would be best for the City of Richmond:

Select only one choice:

- ☐ Current model (RCMP) ☐ Independent Richmond police force ☐ Not sure/Undecided

7. a) I have the following comments about the City of Richmond establishing local independent police services (if any):

b) I have the following comments about continuing to have police services provided by the RCMP (if any):

8. Please provide any additional comments or feedback:

Completed forms can mailed or delivered to Law and Community Safety Division, Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond BC V6Y 2C1.

All forms must be received by **February 29, 2016**.

Thank you for your feedback. The results of the public consultation will be collated and reported as part of an upcoming Report to Council which will determine the City's next steps.



2016 年列治文警察服務審核： 意見調查表格

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

由於列治文不斷進步、為未來準備，列治文市議會希望選取最佳的方案，確保警力服務能滿足社區成長所需並優先處理社區任務，繼續保障列治文的生活、工作和旅遊安全。

警察服務是列治文市最大的單項開支。目前警察服務所需經費約佔市政稅收的 20%。市議會希望確保警察服務擁有最佳模式，而且最具成本效益。

除了成本外，更重要的是列治文警察服務能迎合本地的需要和關注。警察服務需具備以下能力：

- 能影響警察部門的預算；
- 能影響重要決定，如設定服務水平和優先處理的事項，以及聘請警察局長；
- 能回應本地社區的需求，如價值觀、願景和使命；以及
- 擁有一群穩定、富經驗的骨幹警官和工作人員，對社區和居民所關注的問題一清二楚。

姓名 _____ 地址 _____

(可選擇是否填寫)

(可選擇是否填寫)

1. 我對列治文警察服務感興趣。我是：

選擇所有符合條件的：

- ☐ 列治文的居民 ☐ 列治文企業擁有人或企業租戶
☐ 於列治文受聘 ☐ 列治文的專上學生
☐ 其他，請說明： _____

2. 選擇警察服務時，我認為性質最重要的是：

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是最不重要，5 是最重要：

	最不重要	1	2	3	4	5	最重要
i) 成本控制		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii) 本地問責制		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii) 反映社區的價值取向		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv) 本地/地區招聘		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v) 提供教育/推廣		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi) 回應時間		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

其他重要事項？請描述： _____

3. 我認為維持治安應優先處理的主要項目是：

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是完全不重要，5 是非常重要：

	完全不重要	1	2	3	4	5	非常重要	無意見
i) 預防罪案（包括鄰舍守望，社區教育和宣傳）		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) 有組織罪案及犯罪集團		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) 財產犯罪（包括入屋行劫，入車盜竊，汽車盜竊等）		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) 交通安全		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) 公共秩序混亂和破壞		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi) 回應時間		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

其他應優先處理的主要項目是？請描述： _____

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4. 獨立的列治文警察部隊將擁有更多有關成本控制的本地決策權，由警察委員會制定並由市議會通過警察預算費用。警長會由警察委員會招募並向其負責，而該會則由市長出任主席。獨立的列治文警察部隊會招募和聘請本地市民，因此警員會對社區非常熟識。獨立的警察部隊會受省級標準和法規監管，並向本地警察委員會負責。

加拿大皇家騎警是加拿大的國家警察部隊。本地皇家騎警支隊由一名總監(支隊專員)統領，向皇家騎警低陸平原區辦事處以及市府報告工作。在全國進行招募和聘用，而市府則參與招募支隊專員。警官在整個職業生涯中一般不會留在該社區。由國家、省、地區要員決定有關本地成本、服務需求和優先處理事項之事宜，而市府卻只有有限度的決策權。

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是不太好，5 是非常好：

	不太好	1	2	3	4	5	非常好	無意見
a) 當考慮本地決策權和社區需要，我相信獨立的列治文警察部隊將會：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 當考慮本地決策權和社區需要，我相信目前加拿大皇家騎警警務模式是：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. 如決定過渡至獨立的列治文警察部隊，將需要額外資金以支付過渡費。建立一個市警部隊的一次性過渡成本估計分三年約為 \$1,960 萬元。可通過多種現有渠道支付過渡費用。

據估計，獨立的列治文警察部隊年度營運費用將比皇家騎警高 \$220 萬至 \$390 萬元。

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是不太好，5 是非常好：

	不太好	1	2	3	4	5	非常好	無意見
a) 當考慮營運成本，我相信當前的加拿大皇家騎警警務模式是：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 當考慮營運成本，我相信獨立的列治文警察部隊將是：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. 根據我對列治文警察部隊兩項選擇的理解，我相信以下模式將會最適合列治文市：

僅選擇其中一項：

- ☐ 目前模式（RCMP）
☐ 獨立的列治文警察部隊
☐ 不知道/不能決定

7. a) 我對列治文市成立本地獨立的警察服務（如有）有以下意見：

b) 我對繼續使用加拿大皇家騎警警察服務（如有）有以下意見：

8. 請提供任何其他意見或反饋：

填妥的表格可寄回或交回至 Law and Community Safety Division, Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond BC V6Y 2C1。

所有表格必須於 2016 年 2 月 29 日前提交。

感謝您的意見。公眾諮詢的結果將會經整合和報告，作為即將出版的議會報告的一部份，決定城市的下一步。

4841496 / 2016 年 1 月 5 日
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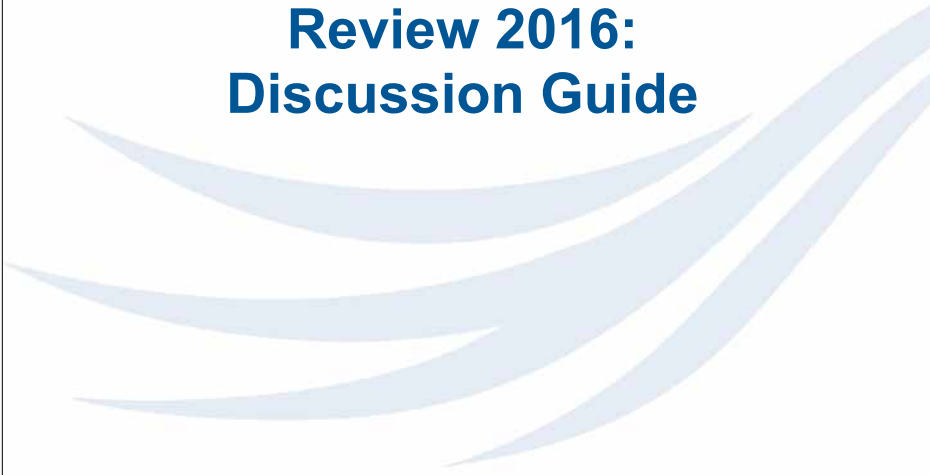
Richmond Police Services Review 2016: Summary Overview

Richmond City Council is seeking input from residents, businesses and other local stakeholders on whether to continue receiving police services from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), or to create a new independent municipal police force. A full discussion guide with details of both options is available at www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca along with a public feedback survey that closes on February 29, 2016. The following table summarizes key differences between the two options under consideration.

	RCMP	Municipal Police Force
DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY		
Setting the priorities, goals and budget of the police service.	Police services are managed by the local RCMP Superintendent in consultation with RCMP provincial and national headquarters. Under the RCMP contract and by RCMP policy, the City annually provides the objectives, priorities and goals for the detachment subject to national and provincial priorities.	A Police Board will be established to oversee the creation and management of a new municipal police force. The board will be chaired by the Mayor with one person, other than a Council member, appointed by Council. Remaining board members are appointed by the Province.
Selection of leadership personnel.	Under the RCMP contract, the RCMP must consult with the City prior to appointing a new Detachment Commander. The City can request community consultations that would be undertaken in accordance with the RCMP's policies on community participation.	A Chief of Police is hired by the Police Board. The Police Board determines the process for recruiting and hiring.
Decisions about the day-to-day management of the police service.	Decisions regarding budget, staffing and deployment of resources are made by the Detachment Commander. Under the RCMP contract, the Detachment Commander must report to the City on the resources and organization of the detachment.	Decisions regarding budget, staffing and deployment of resources are made by the Chief of Police, who reports to the Police Board.
FINANCES & COST CONTROLS		
Annual operating costs of police services, including police officers and integrated teams.	\$41.5 million in 2015	The annual operating costs for an independent Richmond police force are estimated to be \$2.2 million to \$3.9 million higher than the RCMP.
Transition costs to establish an independent police force.	None	\$19.6 million to be funded over three years. A variety of sources could be used, which may include reserve accounts, such as accumulated budget surpluses or gaming funds.
Access to specialized RCMP Integrated Teams (e.g. Emergency Response Team, Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, Real Time Intelligence Centre).	No change. Integrated Teams are included in the City's annual operating budget for police services.	Access to specialized RCMP Integrated Teams, or other resources, would be contracted. These services would be included in the annual operating budget for police services.
LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS & VALUES		
Control over recruitment and retention of officers.	Officers are recruited from across Canada. The RCMP has a practice of retaining staff at detachments for a minimum of three to five years before transferring them.	Recruitment strategies may be tailored to encourage local candidates to apply. Independent municipal forces tend to see less local turnover than the RCMP.
Control over scheduling to meet service demands.	The RCMP is responsible for internal management decisions such as those related to scheduling. The City may request a review of scheduling options.	The Police Board would oversee the police force's planning and performance and could direct that a review of scheduling options be undertaken. Scheduling might also form part of the collective agreement.

City of Richmond

Richmond Police Services Review 2016: Discussion Guide



4841318

Introduction

As our community grows and plans for the future, Richmond City Council is looking to determine the best approach to ensuring police services meet local needs and priorities, and that Richmond continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit.

The City of Richmond wants to ensure that our residents feel safe in their community and that we continue to have safe neighbourhoods and a safe environment for economic development.

Policing services are the largest single cost incurred by the City of Richmond. Currently, 20 cents of every municipal tax dollar in Richmond goes to fund police services. City Council wants to ensure it has the best model available to ensure police services provide the best value for this investment.

In addition to cost, it is important that Richmond's police service reflects local needs and concerns. Considerations in this area would include the ability to:

- exercise influence over the police services budget;
- influence key decisions such as setting service levels and priorities, and hiring a Chief Constable;
- respond to local community needs, such as vision, values and mission; and
- have a stable, experienced core of officers and staff with strong local knowledge of the community and its concerns.

Richmond's policing is currently provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The Province of BC has a Municipal Police Service Agreement with the federal government that governs the provision of police services to those municipalities served by the RCMP.

Over the past several years, Richmond City Council has repeatedly raised concerns about the limited ability municipalities have to control costs and make important decisions about police services management in the community under the current RCMP contract model.

For those reasons, Richmond reluctantly agreed to the latest Province of BC contract with the RCMP. Upon signing this contract in 2012, Richmond City Council committed to exploring its options for the future provision of policing services.

Since then the City has extensively reviewed options for the delivery of police services in our community. Based on that review, public input is being sought on two options:

1. continuing the RCMP contract for police services; or
2. creating a new, independent Richmond police service, which would contract with other police forces for specialized services, such as homicide investigation, forensic service and emergency response teams.

A Report to Council examining the two options under consideration can be found on the City website at www.richmond.ca (under Featured Topics on the home page) and at www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca.

Getting Ready for the Future

The public now has an opportunity to comment on which police service model they feel is best for Richmond, particularly in areas such as:

- *Decision-making authority* – the ability to set the budget, the priorities, goals and objectives of the police service.
- *Local needs and values* – the ability to ensure that the police service is in harmony with community priorities and local culture.
- *Finances and cost controls* – the ability to predict costs accurately and to set and control police service budgets.
- *Service delivery and staff* – control over recruitment, retention of officers in the community, and scheduling to meet service demands.

Some key issues to consider are listed below.

Decision-Making Authority

RCMP: The RCMP is a Canadian national police force. The local RCMP detachment is led by a Superintendent (Detachment Commander), who reports to the RCMP's Lower Mainland District Office in Surrey, which reports to the BC 'E' Division Commander. The RCMP's Commissioner in Ottawa has ultimate control and management of the national police force.

Under the terms of the Provincial contract with the federal government, decisions and standards that impact upon local costs and service needs and priorities may be made at national, provincial or regional levels, with limited input from the City.

The RCMP is subject to investigations and oversight regarding complaints by the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission, and is also under the purview of the Independent Investigations Office of BC as these pertain to police-related incidents resulting in serious injury or death.

The City is consulted about its priorities in the development of an Annual Performance Plan. The City may participate in the process for the selection of the Detachment Commander.

Richmond is one of the largest RCMP detachments in Canada. Burnaby, Surrey and Coquitlam also have RCMP detachments.

Independent Richmond Police Force: A new independent Richmond police force would be supplemented by specialized contracted services, which would be provided by other police forces, such as homicide investigation, forensic services and emergency response teams.

An independent police force would be governed by provincial standards and regulations and be accountable to a local police board.

An independent Richmond police force would be accountable to a local police board. The board would be chaired by the Mayor of Richmond and would include up to eight other members from the local community – one appointee by City Council who is not a member of Council and up to seven appointed by the provincial government.

The police board would present an annual operating budget for the Richmond police force to City Council for approval.

The local police board would approve the new Richmond police force's strategies, objectives and long-term plans. It would oversee the force's performance, and appoint a Chief Constable who would lead the force and all police operations, and who would be accountable to the board.

The local force would be subject to oversight and investigations both by the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner of BC and the Independent Investigations Office of BC.

Many communities in the Lower Mainland have an independent municipal police force, including Vancouver, Delta, West Vancouver and Abbotsford.

Local Community Needs and Values

A key consideration in the delivery of any policing model is to ensure the local needs and culture of the community are understood, respected and considered in both policing provisions and staffing.

RCMP: The current local administration of the RCMP and its officers have strived to meet local community needs and values as identified by the City. However, many decisions about local priorities and costs are made outside of Richmond.

The RCMP currently recruits officers from every region of Canada, and basic training for cadets is centralized in Regina, Saskatchewan. After completion of training, successful officers are posted to jobs in communities where the RCMP provides service. Officers posted to Richmond who come from other parts of Canada may have limited local knowledge of the community or may not reflect its values.

Over periods of time, officers are able to move from one position to another. The RCMP has a practice of attempting to retain staff at detachments for three to five years before transferring them, depending on the circumstances. The Richmond detachment experiences a high turnover rate of officers, due to promotions and relocations.

Independent Richmond Police Force: If a new independent Richmond police force is established, recruitment strategies may be tailored to encourage local candidates to apply. This may include both new recruits and experienced police officers from other police forces.

These recruits would be trained closer to home at the Justice Institute of BC. In terms of retaining police officers and other personnel in the community, independent municipal forces tend to see less turnover than the RCMP. Ability to recruit locally will ensure more police officers have a good knowledge of the community and reflect its values. Many municipal police officers spend their entire careers with the same police force.

Transition

The City of Richmond can give notice of the termination of the existing RCMP policing contract no later than the end of February each year, with a transition period of 25 months from the notice date. The City must also satisfy the Province of BC that the transition plan for an independent police service will maintain appropriate levels of public safety. Any change in the policing model for Richmond will ultimately need to be approved by the provincial Minister of Public Safety.

RCMP: Continuing with the RCMP would see Richmond maintain its existing model for delivering police services. Richmond would keep its local Richmond RCMP detachment, led by the RCMP's national, regional and local chain of command. The police officers in Richmond would be RCMP police officers. Richmond would continue to draw on specialized RCMP services and police units, such as the RCMP's Emergency Response Team and Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT). Police officers would continue to be recruited nationally by the RCMP, and posted and moved based on RCMP policies and requirements.

Independent Richmond Police Force: A new independent Richmond police force would change how Richmond delivers police services. Richmond would have a new local police service, led by a Chief Constable who would be accountable to an independent local police board.

The new force would need to recruit new officers, and hire and train them with the community's specific needs and priorities in mind. Both new recruits and experienced officers from other police forces would be hired.

The City would need to make arrangements with the RCMP or other police services to secure continued access to specialized services, such as homicide investigations, forensic services and emergency response teams.

New administrative staff would need to be hired, a new organizational and command structure would be required and new police equipment would need to be sourced. Civilian staff employed by the City and currently working at the Richmond RCMP detachment could fill many of the administrative and support positions in an independent Richmond police force.

Richmond's community safety building is a City-owned facility and a new Richmond police force would be able to use it as its headquarters.

Finances and Cost Controls

The City of Richmond has carefully reviewed the two options' costs and potential budget implications. This is important because the City spends more on policing than anything else, 20 cents of every tax dollar, and we want to be sure police services are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively. The largest proportion of police costs are wages and benefits tied to benchmarks set either by the RCMP or other municipal police forces. It is important to note that policing costs will continue to rise as Richmond's population increases, regardless of whether services are provided by the RCMP or an independent force.

RCMP: Current police services cost the City of Richmond an estimated \$41.5 million annually, which includes all police services funded by the City.

Detachment budgets are developed by the RCMP with limited input from the City and are based on the Municipal Police Unit Agreement provisions where the overall budget limit is set by Council.

The City determines how many police officers will be funded within the Richmond RCMP detachment. The Federal Treasury Board determines RCMP wages and benefits of police officers.

At times, some new policing costs have been imposed on municipalities with little or no consultation or notice. For example, the City of Richmond and other municipalities have disputed costs passed on by the federal government related to the establishment of the RCMP's new BC provincial headquarters in Surrey.

Historically, RCMP officers, unlike their municipal and provincial police officer counterparts, have not been unionized. However, a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision has given RCMP officers the right to collectively bargain. It can be anticipated that there will be increased costs associated with any collective agreement that is reached between the federal government and RCMP officers and that many of these costs would impact municipalities that are policed under contract by the RCMP.

Independent Richmond Police Force: For an independent Richmond police force, the annual operating cost is projected to be higher than the cost of RCMP service. This reflects the need to hire new administrative staff, higher salaries and the loss of federal and provincial contributions for RCMP specialized services in communities with local RCMP detachments.

An independent Richmond police force would be unionized. Existing municipal policing contracts would be used as a template for the union contract of a new Richmond police department. Municipal police

departments in British Columbia have traditionally followed the lead of the Vancouver Police Department in terms of negotiating wages and benefits.

The police board would work with the Chief of Police to develop a provisional annual operating budget, which would be approved by Council. In addition, the City of Richmond would incur one-time transition costs. The transition cost is estimated to be \$19.6 million spread over three years. The City could fund the transition to a municipal police force through a variety of sources, which may include reserve accounts, such as accumulated budget surpluses or gaming funds. However, Council has made no decision on which funds might be used.

The annual operating costs for an independent Richmond police force are estimated to be \$2.2 million to \$3.9 million higher than the RCMP.

We Require Your Input

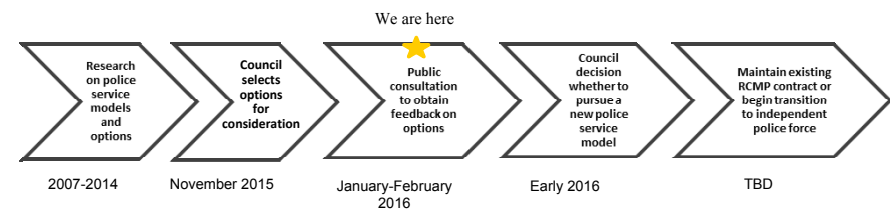
The City of Richmond wants to hear from you on this important issue.

All feedback received will be compiled, summarized and presented to City Council prior to Council making a decision on a future model for police services.

There are many ways you can share your comments:

- Complete the feedback form.
- Visit www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca to fill out the feedback form online.
- Written submissions may be sent to the City of Richmond via email to policingconsult@richmond.ca, or by mail to Law and Community Safety Division, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond BC V6Y 2C1.
- Submissions must be received by Monday, February 29, 2016, to be included in a report to City Council on public feedback.
- The City will also be undertaking public polling of Richmond residents on this issue to ensure a broad sample of community feedback is received.

The following graphic provides an overview of the consultation and decision-making process.



Who Should Participate

- Richmond residents and taxpayers.
- Business owners and business tenants.
- People who are employed in Richmond or enrolled in post-secondary studies in Richmond.
- Representatives of community groups, agencies or organizations with a direct interest in policing in Richmond.

APPENDIX B

Mustel Group Market Research Public Opinion Survey – Polling Results

February 2016

Public Opinions Regarding Police Service Options – Random Survey



MUSTEL GROUP
MARKET RESEARCH

In association with



FLEISHMANHILLARD

GP - 32

(Special)

➤ Introduction

Research Objectives

- As Richmond grows and plans for the future, Richmond City Council is looking to determine the best approach to ensuring police services meet local needs and priorities, and that Richmond continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit.
- Council identified two options for the delivery of police services in Richmond:
 - continuation with the current service provided by the RCMP, or
 - establishing an independent Richmond police force.
- As part of the public consultation, a representative, random survey was commissioned the City. The primary purpose of this random survey was to quantify the public's priorities and preferences with regards to the provision of policing services for the city.

Methodology

- As this is a complex issue requiring respondents to review background information before providing responses, respondents were randomly recruited by telephone to complete a feedback survey online.

Methodology, cont'd.

- **Recruitment:** Residents were recruited by telephone from Mustel Group's call centre, where trained telephone interviewers are continuously monitored and supervised. A link to the survey and Discussion Guide was immediately emailed to recruited respondents. Those not wishing to complete the on-line survey were provided with the option of completing a mailed paper survey.
- **Sample frame:** Up-to-date, published listed telephone numbers (including both landlines and cell numbers).
- **Sample size:** A total of 1,145 residents were randomly recruited by telephone; 644 completed the survey (630 completed online; 14 completed paper version).
- **Ethnicity & Languages:** English, Cantonese and Mandarin were offered for both the recruiting and feedback surveys. A total of 49% of all surveys were completed by residents of Chinese origin.
- **Sample weighting:** The final sample was weighted to match the population of Richmond by age within gender, and by geographic region.
- The margin of error on the total sample of completed surveys is ± 3.9 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

► Executive Overview

Police Service Attributes Most Important to Address

- The most important attribute for a Richmond police force to address is response times, with 95% of residents rating it 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale, where 5 means 'most important'.
- Next, in order of rated importance are local accountability (77% rate it important, 4 or 5), reflecting community values (68%), and providing education and outreach (62%).
- Compared with other attributes, cost control (47%) and local or regional hiring (43%) are considered least important.

Policing Priorities

- As with policing attributes, the most important priority among residents for a Richmond police force is response times, with 92% rating it 4 or 5 on a 5 point scale, where 5 means 'very important'.
- Next, in order of importance are property crime (89%), organized crime and gangs (85%), and crime prevention (83%).
- Lowest priorities are traffic safety (74%) and public disorder and vandalism (68%).

Preferred Policing Model

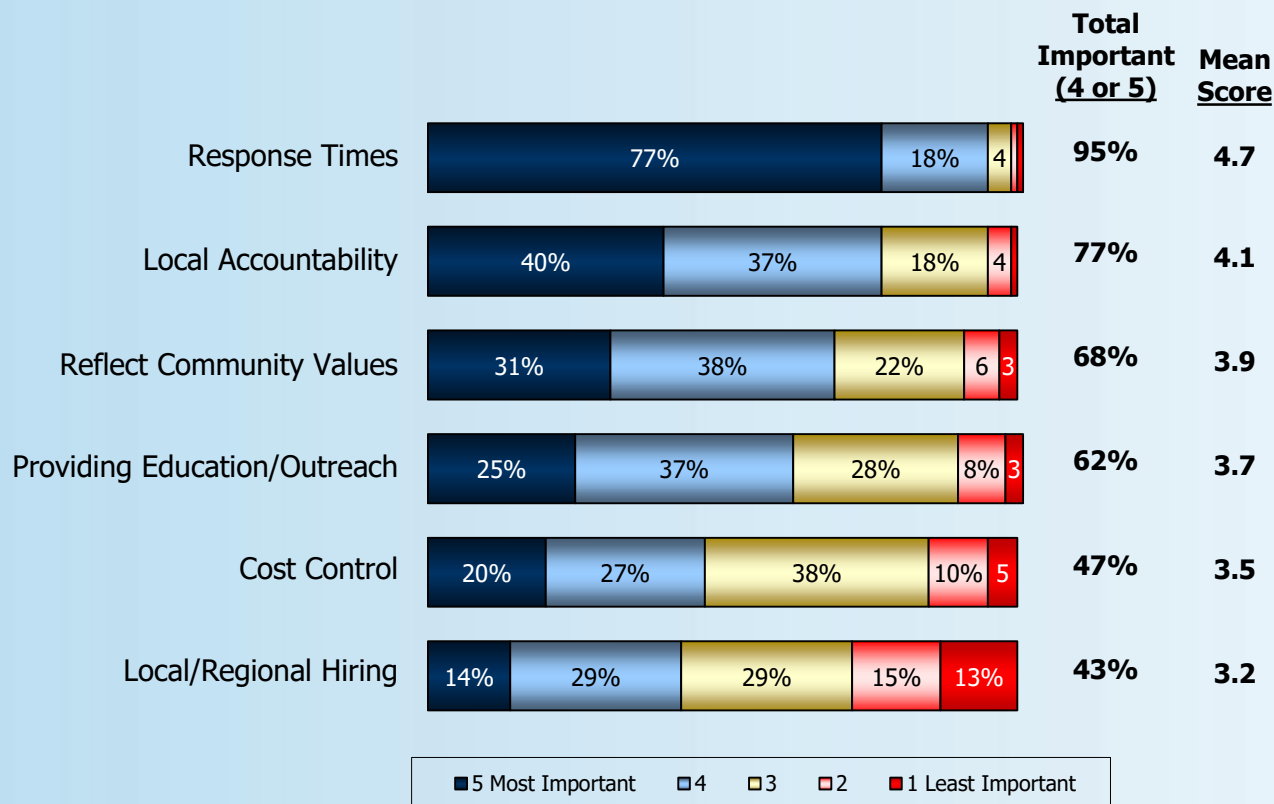
- In terms of local decision making authority and community needs, an independent police force is rated higher than the RCMP model.
- But when it comes to operating costs, the RCMP model is rated the better option, with more concern expressed with regards to the cost of an independent force.
- With all things considered, residents lean towards retaining the current model. A total of 40% prefer the current model in comparison to 27% favouring an independent force. One-third (34%) is undecided.



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Detailed Findings

➤ Police Service Attributes Most Important to Address

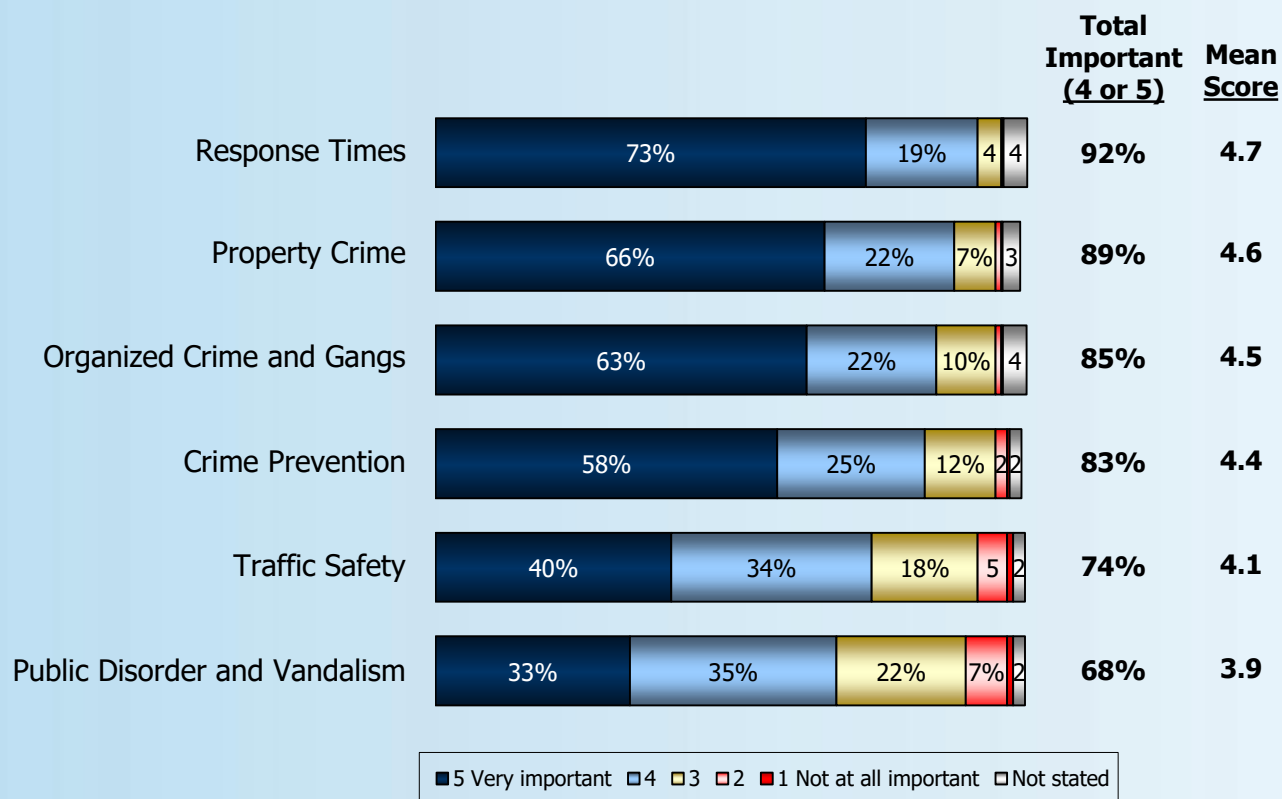


- Respondents were presented with a series of attributes and asked to rate their importance on a 5 point scale with 5 being most important and 1 least.
- By far the most important attribute for a Richmond police force is response times, rated most important (rating of 5) by more than three-quarters and important (4 or 5) by 95%.
- Next, in order of importance are local accountability, reflecting community values, and providing education and outreach.
- Compared with other rated attributes, cost control and local or regional hiring are considered least important.
- These values are largely consistent amongst all residents, though response times are rated slightly more important among females compared to males.

Base: Total Richmond (n=644)

Q.2i-vi) When deciding about my police service, the attributes I feel most important to be addressed are:

► Importance of Priorities for Policing



Base: Total Richmond (n=644)

Q.3i-vi) My major priorities for policing are:

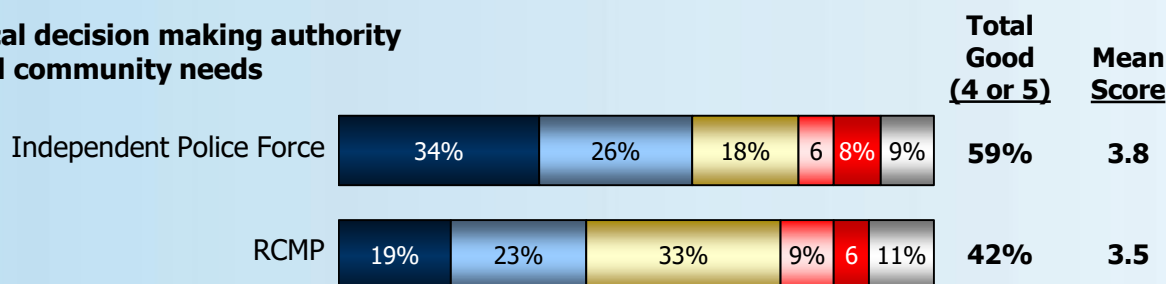
- Respondents were then presented with a series of priorities and again asked to rate each on a 5 point scale, with 5 being 'very important' and 1 'not at all important'.
- As with policing attributes, the most important priority among residents for a Richmond police force is response times, rated most important (rating of 5) by about three-quarters, and important (4 or 5) by 92%.
- Next, in order of importance are property crime, organized crime and gangs, and crime prevention.
- Lowest priorities, relative to others tested are traffic safety, and public disorder and vandalism.
- These priorities are largely consistent amongst all residents, although females and those aged 35 or older generally place more importance on most priorities compared with males and those under 35.

GP - 37

(Special)

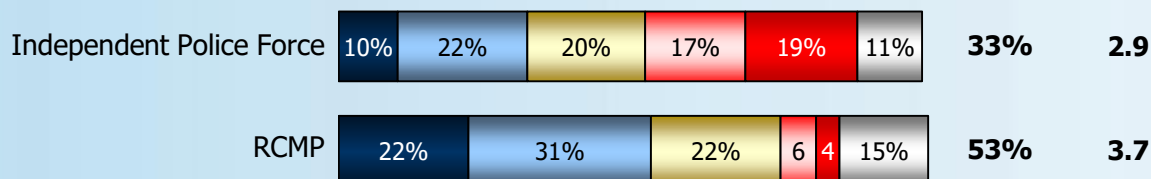
➤ Rating of Policing Model for Local Decision Making Authority/Community Needs and Operating Costs

Local decision making authority and community needs



- In terms of local decision making authority and community needs, an independent police force is rated higher than the RCMP model.

Operating costs



- When it comes to operating costs, the RCMP model is considered the better option, with stronger concern expressed with regards to the cost of an independent force (36% rate it as 1 or 2).

■ 5 Very good ■ 4 ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1 Not very good □ Not stated

Base: Total Richmond (n=644)

Q.4-5) Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is not very good and 5 is very good:

4a. When considering local decision making authority and community needs, I believe an independent Richmond police force would be:

4b. When considering local decision making authority and community needs, I believe the current RCMP model is:

5a. When considering operating costs, I believe the current RCMP model is:

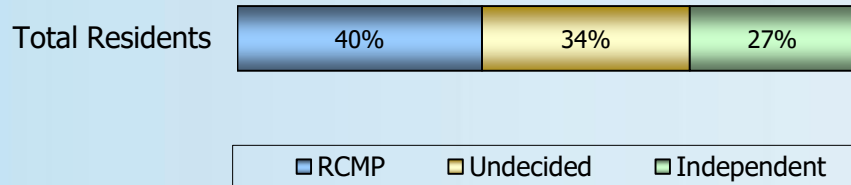
5b. When considering operating costs, I believe an independent Richmond police force would be:

7

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(Special)

➤ Preferred Policing Model for the City of Richmond

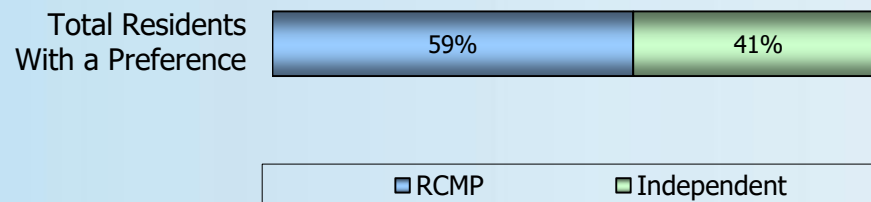


- With all things considered, residents lean towards retaining the current model (40%), though more than one-quarter (27%) expresses a preference for an independent force.
- However, this still leaves approximately one-third of all residents undecided about their preferred policing model for the City.

Base: Total Richmond (n=644)

Q.6) Based on what I have learned about the options for a Richmond police force, I believe the following model would be best for the City of Richmond?

➤ Preferred Policing Model for the City of Richmond Among Those Expressing a Preference



- When considering only those that express a preference, excluding the undecided, a total of 59% favour the current RCMP model compared with 41% that would prefer an independent force.

Base: Total with a Preference (n=445)

Q.6) Based on what I have learned about the options for a Richmond police force, I believe the following model would be best for the City of Richmond?

➤ Comments Regarding Establishing Local Independent Police

	Total (644) %
<u>Positive</u>	10
Better community integration (i.e. local recruits, awareness of issues, diverse population)	6
Like the idea of a local police force	3
Prefer the idea of a joint police service with other Lower Mainland police agencies	2
No problems in other cities (i.e. Vancouver, West Vancouver)	1
<u>Negative</u>	20
Concerned about the cost to taxpayers	13
Satisfied with the RCMP/ don't see the need for a local police force	6
Concerned about corruption/ do not trust local government	5
RCMP has better recruiting/ training/ equipment	3
RCMP provides impartial application of the law	2
Oversight of RCMP from Federal Government	2
National police services/ large/ flexible organization	1
No comments	72
<i>Q.7a) I have the following comments about the City of Richmond establishing local independent police services (if any):</i>	

- About one-quarter of respondents provide additional comments about an independent police force.
- Concerns most commonly expressed relate to the cost of such a force, and a lack of trust in local government managing an independent force.
- Comments in support of an independent force include that it would provide better community integration.

➤ Comments Regarding Continuing with Current RCMP Service

	Total (644) %
<u>Positive</u>	16
Satisfied with services/ performance of RCMP	12
RCMP has a cheaper operating cost/ don't want to pay more taxes	4
National police force/ access to better resources, training and equipment	4
Good reputation/ Canadian icon	2
RCMP officers are well integrated with the community (Language skills, ethnicity etc.)	1
Positive past experience with the RCMP	1
RCMP are better able to police the airport	<1
<u>Negative</u>	10
Not doing enough law enforcement	4
Transient work force/ should recruit from local community	3
Not accountable to Municipal Government	2
Not doing enough community outreach/ low visibility	2
Support the idea of a local police force	2
Past problems with the RCMP (i.e. Robert Dziekanski death, high turnover)	2
No comments	77
<i>Q.7b) I have the following comments about continuing to have police services provided by the RCMP (if any):</i>	

- About one-quarter of respondents also comment on the idea of continuing with the current RCMP model of policing.
- Comments most commonly express satisfaction with current policing, seeing it as a more cost effective and reliable approach.
- Some concern is expressed about the performance of the current police force, highlighting a lack of local and community-focused policing.



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Sample Demographics

GP - 43

(Special)

➤ Demographic Profile

	Total (644) %
Gender	
Male	47
Female	53
Age	
18 to 24	11
25 to 34	17
35 to 44	17
45 to 54	21
55 to 64	18
65 or over	17
Refused	<1
*Area	
City Centre	28
East Richmond	15
South Richmond	32
West Richmond	25
Ethnic Group	
Chinese	49
British & Irish (English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish)	20
Other Western European	6
Canadian	6
South Asian (e.g. Indian, Pakistan, Bangladeshi etc.)	6
East European (Ukrainian, Polish, Hungarian, Serb etc.)	5
Asia – Other (Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Indonesian etc.)	4
German	3
Filipino	2
Other	4
Prefer not to say	2

*Area groupings as follows:

East: Richmond East and Hamilton
South: South Arm and Steveston
West : Thompson, Richmond West,
Sea Island



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Questionnaire

GP - 45

(Special)



As Richmond grows and plans for the future, Richmond City Council wishes to determine the best approach to ensuring police services meet local needs and priorities, and that Richmond continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit.

Policing services are the largest single cost incurred by the City of Richmond. Currently, 20 cents of every municipal tax dollar in Richmond goes to fund police services. City Council wants to ensure it has the best model available to ensure police services are cost effective.

In addition to cost, it is important that Richmond's police service reflects local needs and concerns. This includes the ability to:

- exercise influence over the police services budget;
- influence key decisions such as setting service levels and priorities, and hiring a Chief Constable;
- respond to local community needs such as values, vision and mission; and
- have a stable, experienced core of officers and staff with strong local knowledge of the community and its concerns.

Name: _____ Address: _____
(optional) (optional)

1. I am interested in the police service in Richmond as I am:

Select all that apply:

- ☐ A Richmond resident ☐ A Richmond business owner or business tenant
☐ Employed in Richmond ☐ Post-secondary student in Richmond
☐ Other, please describe: _____

2. When deciding about my police service, the attributes I feel most important to be addressed are:

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *least important* and 5 is *most important*:

	Least important	1	2	3	4	Most important
i) Cost control		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Local accountability		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Reflect community values		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Local/regional hiring		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Providing education/outreach		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi) Response times		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other important attributes? Please describe: _____

3. My major priorities for policing are:

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *not at all important* and 5 is *very important*:

	Not at all important	1	2	3	4	Very important	5	No opinion
i) Crime prevention (includes programs like Block Watch, community education and outreach)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Organized crime and gangs		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Property crime (includes break-and-enters, thefts from autos, auto thefts, etc.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Traffic safety		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Public disorder and vandalism		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi) Response times		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other major priorities? Please describe: _____

4. An independent Richmond police force would provide more local decision making on costs with the police budget developed by a Police Board and approved by City Council. The Chief of Police would be hired by and accountable to the Police Board, which would be chaired by the Mayor. An independent Richmond police force would recruit and hire locally, and its officers would have strong knowledge of the community. An independent police force would be governed by provincial standards and regulations and be accountable to a local police board.

The RCMP is a Canadian national police force. The local RCMP detachment is led by a Superintendent (Detachment Commander), who reports to the RCMP's Lower Mainland District, as well as the City. Hiring and recruiting is done nationally and the City has input into hiring the Detachment Commander. Officers typically do not remain in the community for their entire career. Decisions that impact upon local costs and service needs and priorities may be made at national, provincial or regional levels, with limited input from the City.

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *not very good* and 5 is *very good*:

- | | Not very
good | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very
good | 5 | No
opinion |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) When considering local decision making authority and community needs , I believe an independent Richmond police force would be: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) When considering local decision making authority and community needs , I believe the current RCMP policing model is: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. If the decision is made to transition to an independent Richmond police force, additional funding will be required due to the transition costs. The one-time transition cost to establish a municipal police force is estimated to be \$19.6 million, which would be spread over three years. The transition costs could be paid through a variety of existing sources.

It is estimated that the annual costs of operating an independent Richmond police force would be \$2.2 to \$3.9 million higher than the RCMP.

Please rate the following from 1 to 5, where 1 is *not very good* and 5 is *very good*:

- | | Not very
good | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very
good | 5 | No
opinion |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) When considering operating costs , I believe the current RCMP policing model is: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) When considering operating costs , I believe an independent Richmond police force would be: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. Based on what I have learned about the options for a Richmond police force, I believe the following model would be best for the City of Richmond:

Select only one choice:

- ☐ Current model (RCMP) ☐ Independent Richmond police force ☐ Not sure/Undecided

7. a) I have the following comments about the City of Richmond establishing local independent police services (if any):

- b) I have the following comments about continuing to have police services provided by the RCMP (if any):

8. Please provide any additional comments or feedback:

Completed forms can mailed or delivered to Law and Community Safety Division, Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond BC V6Y 2C1.

All forms must be received by **February 29, 2016**.

Thank you for your feedback. The results of the public consultation will be collated and reported as part of an upcoming Report to Council which will determine the City's next steps.



2016 年列治文警察服務審核： 意見調查表格

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

由於列治文不斷進步、為未來準備，列治文市議會希望選取最佳的方案，確保警力服務能滿足社區成長所需並優先處理社區任務，繼續保障列治文的生活、工作和旅遊安全。

警察服務是列治文市最大的單項開支。目前警察服務所需經費約佔市政稅收的 20%。市議會希望確保警察服務擁有最佳模式，而且最具成本效益。

除了成本外，更重要的是列治文警察服務能迎合本地的需要和關注。警察服務需具備以下能力：

- 能影響警察部門的預算；
- 能影響重要決定，如設定服務水平和優先處理的事項，以及聘請警察局長；
- 能回應本地社區的需求，如價值觀、願景和使命；以及
- 擁有一群穩定、富經驗的骨幹警官和工作人員，對社區和居民所關注的問題一清二楚。

姓名 _____ 地址 _____

(可選擇是否填寫)

(可選擇是否填寫)

1. 我對列治文警察服務感興趣。我是：

選擇所有符合條件的：

- ☐ 列治文的居民 ☐ 列治文企業擁有人或企業租戶
☐ 於列治文受聘 ☐ 列治文的專上學生
☐ 其他，請說明： _____

2. 選擇警察服務時，我認為性質最重要的是：

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是最不重要，5 是最重要：

	最不重要	1	2	3	4	5	最重要
i) 成本控制		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii) 本地問責制		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii) 反映社區的價值取向		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv) 本地/地區招聘		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
v) 提供教育/推廣		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
vi) 回應時間		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

其他重要事項？請描述： _____

3. 我認為維持治安應優先處理的主要項目是：

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是完全不重要，5 是非常重要：

	完全不重要	1	2	3	4	5	非常重要	無意見
i) 預防罪案（包括鄰舍守望，社區教育和宣傳）		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) 有組織罪案及犯罪集團		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) 財產犯罪（包括入屋行劫，入車盜竊，汽車盜竊等）		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) 交通安全		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) 公共秩序混亂和破壞		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
vi) 回應時間		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

其他應優先處理的主要項目是？請描述： _____

4841496 / 2016 年 1 月 5 日
4841496

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4. 獨立的列治文警察部隊將擁有更多有關成本控制的本地決策權，由警察委員會制定並由市議會通過警察預算費用。警長會由警察委員會招募並向其負責，而該會則由市長出任主席。獨立的列治文警察部隊會招募和聘請本地市民，因此警員會對社區非常熟識。獨立的警察部隊會受省級標準和法規監管，並向本地警察委員會負責。

加拿大皇家騎警是加拿大的國家警察部隊。本地皇家騎警支隊由一名總監(支隊專員)統領，向皇家騎警低陸平原區辦事處以及市府報告工作。在全國進行招募和聘用，而市府則參與招募支隊專員。警官在整個職業生涯中一般不會留在該社區。由國家、省、地區要員決定有關本地成本、服務需求和優先處理事項之事宜，而市府卻只有有限度的決策權。

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是不太好，5 是非常好：

	不太好	1	2	3	4	5	非常好	無意見
a) 當考慮本地決策權和社區需要，我相信獨立的列治文警察部隊將會：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 當考慮本地決策權和社區需要，我相信目前加拿大皇家騎警警務模式是：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. 如決定過渡至獨立的列治文警察部隊，將需要額外資金以支付過渡費。建立一個市警部隊的一次性過渡成本估計分三年約為 \$1,960 萬元。可通過多種現有渠道支付過渡費用。

據估計，獨立的列治文警察部隊年度營運費用將比皇家騎警高 \$220 萬至 \$390 萬元。

請就以下各項以 1 至 5 評分，其中 1 是不太好，5 是非常好：

	不太好	1	2	3	4	5	非常好	無意見
a) 當考慮營運成本，我相信當前的加拿大皇家騎警警務模式是：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 當考慮營運成本，我相信獨立的列治文警察部隊將是：	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. 根據我對列治文警察部隊兩項選擇的理解，我相信以下模式將會最適合列治文市：

僅選擇其中一項：

- ☐ 目前模式（RCMP）
☐ 獨立的列治文警察部隊
☐ 不知道/不能決定

7. a) 我對列治文市成立本地獨立的警察服務（如有）有以下意見：

b) 我對繼續使用加拿大皇家騎警警察服務（如有）有以下意見：

8. 請提供任何其他意見或反饋：

填妥的表格可寄回或交回至 Law and Community Safety Division, Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond BC V6Y 2C1。

所有表格必須於 2016 年 2 月 29 日前提交。

感謝您的意見。公眾諮詢的結果將會經整合和報告，作為即將出版的議會報告的一部份，決定城市的下一步。

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APPENDIX C

Letters and Other Written Submissions

From: Gail Hackenbruch <ghackenbruch@sd38.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2016 10:03
To: mayorea; MayorandCouncillors
Cc: PolicingConsult; Sherry Elwood; Wendy Lim
Subject: Richmond Police Services
Attachments: RichmondPoliceServices.pdf

EMAIL SENT ON BEHALF OF DEBBIE TABLOTNEY, CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF EDUCATION (RICHMOND)

On behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond), the attached letter reflects our thoughts about police services and programs in Richmond.

Debbie Tablotney
Chairperson

1



School District No. 38 (Richmond)
7811 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC V6Y 3E3
Tel: (604) 668-6000 Fax: (604) 233-0150

February 18, 2016

Mayor Brodie
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie,

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am writing this letter to share our thoughts about Police Services and what services and programs we are currently receiving from the RCMP.

Firstly, we wish to ensure that the City of Richmond continues to be a safe place to live, work and learn. We appreciate that your comprehensive review of police services has resulted in your identification of two options for consideration for the delivery of police services in Richmond. As you consider whether to continue with the current services provided by the RCMP or establish an independent Richmond police force, we wish to stress our expectation that the option selected will continue to provide a high quality level of police services to our 21,000 students and 2600 staff who reside in 48 schools, the School Board Office, and the Works Yard.

Over the past five years, the RCMP, through the support of the specialized Richmond Youth Team and RCMP Adopt-A-Program Members, provides comprehensive services and programs as well as partnership opportunities to administrators, students, and staff at both the school and District levels. Please refer to the attached Appendix for an extensive listing of these policing services, programs and partnership opportunities.

Furthermore, it has become evident that these RCMP services, programs, and learning opportunities are highly valued by students, school and district administrators, educators, and families. The RCMP/Richmond School District Partnership is a collaborative one and we are grateful for the ongoing opportunities to reflect on our partnership, engage in problem solving and discussion, and set goals for continuous improvement. Regardless of the decision of the City Council, to continue the RCMP contract for police services or to create a new independent Richmond police services, it would be important for the students and staff of the Richmond School District to continue to have access to similar offerings of policing services, programs, and partnership opportunities.

Board of Education:
Debbie Tablotney - Chairperson
Donna Sargent - Vice Chairperson
Ken Hamaguchi Jonathan Ho Sandra Nixon
Eric Yung Alice Wong

School District No. 38 (Richmond) • www.sd38.bc.ca • Our focus is the learner

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(Special)

Once again, thank you for ensuring that the City of Richmond continues to be a safe place to learn, work and live. We appreciate your consideration of our thoughts, experiences, and observations as you select the police services option that best meets the needs of the City of Richmond.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Debbie Tablotney, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

Cc Trustees
Superintendent of Schools
City Councillors
City of Richmond, Law and Community Safety Division
Superintendent Rendell Nesset, RCMP
Cpl David Edge, RCMP

Appendix: Current RCMP services, programs and partnership opportunities available to the Richmond School District

Services

- immediate response to Lockdown situations
- immediate response to support school and district staff with: incidences that breach the District's Code of Conduct; Violence Threat Risk cases; safety incidences that are reported to them resulting in investigation and preparation of Safety Alerts for distribution to other schools; on school property investigations
- creation of RCMP presence at schools through regular visits at assemblies, breaks, school functions etc.
- participation in District's Board of Review for at-risk youth
- engagement with students and parents as School Liaison Officers and Adopt-A-School Members through regular proactive visits, delivering crime prevention, public safety education, early identification and intervention with at-risk youth, and presentations on topics such as: Internet Safety, Staying Safe, drug education, effective decision-making, understanding gangs etc.
- creation and annual update of 48 School Action For Emergencies (SAFE) Plans – the RCMP Youth Section Team took over 4000 photos, obtained floor plans, located suitable locations for triage sites, roadblocks, locations for fire department and ambulance to stand by, school evacuation routes and determined media and parent gathering. SAFE information is used to assist police officers in coordinating responses to any high-risk incident to schools including biochemical incidents to people with weapons. The program is designed to ensure the safety of students, school staff and first responders entering schools during these threats.

Programs

- Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (DARE) program of 10 lessons to all Grade 5 students in 37 schools
- Richmond RCMP School Sports Program – monthly RCMP/School lunch hour sporting opportunities such as soccer, floor hockey, or basketball
- Richmond RCMP/Rick Hansen/SD#38 Difference Maker Program – four-lesson program where elementary and secondary students develop skills to undertake a Difference Maker project in their school or community.
- Richmond RCMP Youth Squad Program - 20 hour 8 lessons for 30 students; designed to introduce students in Grades 10-12 to various facets of policing (traffic, police dog, drug, forensic) and emergency services
- Youth Academy Program - this weeklong event supports 10 Grades 11-12 students in exploring a possible future career in law enforcement; focus areas include: gangs, emergency response teams, recruiting, courtroom procedures, and the criminal codes
- Camp Courage – three one-day camps over the summer to provide students with opportunity to find out what it is like to be a police officer and firefighter
- Cop Cards Program – cop cards, similar to collectible baseball cards, featuring photos of officers and a motivational quote are awarded to youth
- Positive Tickets Program – positive tickets are awarded to youth who demonstrate in safe and pro-social behaviours, the ticket is good for free admission to various City recreation facilities

- On-side Program – RCMP Officers take school-aged youth to local professional sporting events
- Youth Intervention Program (YIP) – RCMP provides assessment, counseling, and referral services to youth identified as having actual and potential conflict with the law
- Restorative Justice (RJ) Program – RCMP in partnerships with Touchstone Family Association supports victims of crime, holds young offenders accountable, and ultimately reduces the prevalence of crime through participation in the RJ Program.

Partnership Opportunities

- SD#38 and RCMP collaboration: development and implementation of the new Lockdown Protocol in schools
- SD#38/RCMP collaboration: development and presentation to Secondary Principals and Vice Principals using case studies to learn more about effective practices for working together eg. searches, interviews, working and communication protocols
- SD#38, RCMP, Richmond Ambulance, and Rescue-Fire collaboration: participation in regular TABLE Top Exercises
- SD#38/RCMP Youth Section liaison meetings: regular touchbacks
- Community Agencies Training: SD#38, RCMP, Vancouver Coastal Health/Mental Health, City of Richmond, Touchstone Family Association, and Team Response to Adolescents and Children in Crisis (TRACC) actively participate in annual Provincial ERASE Bullying Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Training over the past 4 years
- Community Assessment and Action Network (CAAN): SD#38, RCMP and community stakeholder work collaborative to provide timely intervention for youth at-risk for gang involvement

From: Shaena <shaenaf@richmondchamber.ca>
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 15:59
To: Mayor and Councillors
Cc: Mayor and Councillors; Duncan, George; Administrators Office; Carlyle, Phyllis; Townsend, Ted; Matt Pitcairn; Rob Akimow
Subject: Richmond Chamber Input: Police services in Richmond
Attachments: Letter to Mayor and Council Municipal Policing.pdf

Dear Mayor & Council,

On behalf of our Chair, please find attached a letter regarding the opinion of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce on the subject police services in Richmond.

Thank you,

Shaena Furlong

Manager, Communications & Systems
 Richmond Chamber of Commerce
 T: 604-278-2822 ext. 105
 F: 604-278-2972
 Email: shaenaf@richmondchamber.ca
 Website: www.richmondchamber.ca
 Twitter: @RichmondChamber



Expand your network at one of our many events this month! [View our full calendar >](#)

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February 29, 2015

Mayor & Council
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor & Council,

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is the independent voice of business in Richmond and has been representing local business concerns for nearly a century. Following a recent survey of Chamber members and their employees (of which nearly 17% participated) the Chamber is urging the City of Richmond to maintain the existing municipal policing contract with the RCMP.

In our survey, which was distributed to all active members of the Chamber, respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the Richmond RCMP. 78% of respondents indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the service. Only 5.4% rated their level of satisfaction as poor.

Respondents were asked for additional comments and input. Given the high level of satisfaction members had with the RCMP, a common refrain was confusion regarding the impetus to change to an independent municipal service. Because most members did not perceive any major problems with the RCMP, they expressed strong reluctance to make any major changes.

Results show 82% of respondents were opposed to the approximately \$20 million implementation cost. Similarly, 80% of respondents were opposed to the approximately \$2-4 million annual operational cost increase for a municipal force.

To conclude, a clear majority favoured either staying with the RCMP (62%) or investing the additional operating costs associated with a municipal force into improvements provided by the RCMP (14%). Only a minority of 15% of respondents preferred to switch to an independent police force.

It is important to note that our Chamber membership survey was distributed along with links to the City's own Police Services Review Survey Form, as well as the summary overview, discussion guide and report to council, in addition to a link to *Let's Talk Richmond* and a complete Open House schedule.



Ultimately, a shift of this proposed nature from a longstanding RCMP force, to an independent municipal force is far-reaching, and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce does not believe that this is the best direction for our fine City. We very much look forward to hearing the results of the City's own survey and Council's informed perspective on whether to continue to pursue a new independent municipal police force.

Yours truly,

Rob Akimow
Chair 2015-2016
Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Cc: George Duncan, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Richmond
Phyllis Carlyle, General Manager, Law & Community Safety, City of Richmond
Ted Townsend, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications, City of Richmond



From: SWAN Vancouver Society <info@swanvancouver.ca>
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 10:29
To: PolicingConsult
Cc: malcolm@malcolmbrodie.com
Subject: Police Services Review Submission
Attachments: Richmond Police Services Consultation.pdf

Dear City of Richmond:

Please find attached SWAN Vancouver Society's submission to the police services review.

Sincerely,

Alison Clancey
Executive Director
SWAN Vancouver Society
Tel: 604 719 6343
Website: www.swanvancouver.ca



Supporting Women's Alternatives Network
P.O. Box 21520 | 1424 Commercial Drive | Vancouver, BC | V5L 5G2
info@swanvancouver.ca | www.swanvancouver.ca | (604) 719-6343

February 29, 2016

Re: Community Consultation - Police Services Review

Dear City of Richmond:

SWAN Vancouver Society is a community-based, non-profit organization that supports newcomer, migrant and immigrant women engaged in indoor sex work in the Lower Mainland. We provide health, legal, immigration and social information and resources; referrals to community support services; and outreach to im/migrant women who work in massage parlours and micro-brothels in Richmond since 2009. We have interacted on numerous occasions with Richmond RCMP. Based on our experiences with Richmond RCMP, SWAN strongly recommends that the City of Richmond establish an independent Richmond police force. We base our recommendation on two areas: local community needs and cost-effectiveness.

Context of Recommendation

The sex workers whom SWAN supports are concerned about violence, discrimination and stigmatization. In the Lower Mainland, the tragedy of missing and murdered women brought to light police biases and systemic discrimination in law enforcement that permitted a serial killer to prey upon sex workers and operate with impunity for many years. Since the 2012 Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry report¹, police agencies across the Lower Mainland have been reviewing their policing approaches in regard to both indoor and outdoor sex work. A shift has occurred and police now realize that a heavy-handed enforcement approach including arrests, displacement to other neighbourhoods, and workplace raids are not conducive to increasing sex workers' safety. These approaches push sex workers underground where they are more vulnerable to violence. Bias-free policing and relationship building with sex workers is becoming the new norm as reflected in the 2013 Vancouver Police Department's Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines² and the May 2016 Provincial Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines. Unfortunately, the evidence-based shift with its focus on health and safety in response to community needs is not occurring within the Richmond RCMP.

Non-Responsiveness to Community Needs and Concerns

Since 2013, SWAN has contacted Richmond RCMP numerous times to bring forward sex workers' concerns about Richmond RCMP. Despite our attempts to raise awareness of the consequences of Richmond RCMP's heavy-handed enforcement approach on sex workers, the detachment has not connected with sex workers or our organization in any meaningful way. Richmond RCMP have not considered, understood or respected any of the evidence-based information in regard to the policing of sex work. In direct contrast to how we have built relationships and collaborate regularly with the Vancouver Police Department, Richmond RCMP remains fossilized in stigma, biased policing and discrimination when it comes to policing sex workers. Moreover, Richmond RCMP continues to conduct workplace raids, despite empirical evidence that workplace raids increase the vulnerability of sex workers.

¹ Missing Women Commission of Inquiry. (2012). Report available at <http://www.missingwomeninquiry.ca/obtain-report/>

² Vancouver Police Department. (2013). Sex Work Enforcement Guidelines. See Guidelines video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKafib7TN4&feature=youtu.be>

Cost Effectiveness of Current Policing Approaches to Sex Work

It appears that the Richmond RCMP ignores the local context of sex work in the Lower Mainland and takes direction solely from Ottawa. A recent example of costly and unnecessary enforcement is Richmond RCMP's participation in Operation Northern Spotlight, a national anti-trafficking raid carried out in October 2015. Richmond was one of only two RCMP detachments in all of British Columbia³ that participated in this action. However, this is not an isolated event. Our organization has been keeping record of the resource-intensive, costly raids Richmond RCMP has been conducting over the past number of years in massage parlours. Although these raids have not, to our knowledge, resulted in identifying any trafficking victims, Richmond RCMP continues to channel resources towards a strategy that has been demonstrated to endanger sex workers⁴ ⁵. Our requests for a discussion about the consequences of workplace raids remain unanswered. By contrast, I personally contacted three other police agencies in neighbouring municipalities to inquire about their participation in Operation Northern Spotlight. Each responded that this type of enforcement is not compatible with their goals of building an ethical, constructive relationship with sex workers.

It is for the above reasons that SWAN Vancouver Society encourages the City of Richmond to establish an independent Richmond police force. We look forward to a day when we can collaborate with a Richmond police agency that is community-minded and engaged, and a police agency that works with us and not against us to ensure the safety of some of Richmond's most marginalized residents.

Sincerely,

Alison Clancey
Executive Director
SWAN Vancouver Society
<http://swanvancouver.ca/>

³ Confirmed by RCMP 'E' Division Provincial Prostitution Unit in personal correspondence with SWAN Executive Director

⁴ Toronto Network Against Trafficking in Women, The Multicultural History Society of Ontario & The Metro Toronto Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic. (2009). Trafficking in Women Including Thai Migrant Sex Workers in Canada. Available online at http://www.mhso.ca/mhso/Trafficking_women.pdf

⁵ Sex Workers Project. (2009). The Use of Raids to Fight Human Trafficking. Available online at <http://sexworkersproject.org/downloads/swp-2009-raids-and-trafficking-report.pdf>

From: peter
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 23:49
To: PolicingConsult
Cc: peter boldy
Subject: Municia said deadline was Feb 29 at 2359
Attachments: GRC_Review_2016_Survey_Form_CouncilApproved_Jan18_2016.pdf;
RCMP_Services_Review_2016-02-29_Submission.pdf

Please see attached **Police Services Review Survey and Submissions**

Please **reply** so I have confirmation of receipt for my records.

Survey
Submissions

RCMP_Services_Review_2016-02-29_Submission

I recommend that City of Richmond establish municipal police service as first step.

I recommend commissioning forwith a *study* of regional policing using Peel Regional Police in Ontario (consists of 2 main and 1 small municipality) serving 1.5 million people total.

I recommend preserving the *option* to later regionalize the municipal police services of the City of Richmond and Delta Police Department, as a pilot, even if the Province does not want to regionalize the whole breadth of the lower mainland.

Part1

comments about continuing to have police services provided by the RCMP

Why Drop RCMP?

The RCMP is an iconic organization in Canada, known throughout the world. It is a federal entity, largely under the control of Ottawa and seeks to please many masters. But one can only please one master.

The RCMP as a federal law enforcement entity has at least **three tiers** hidden within an opaque organizational structure. There is "federal mandate" (explained later), provincial policing (small communities and unincorporated areas of the Province of BC) and municipal (urban) policing.

RCMP total resources are insufficient and allocation of that total is sub-optimal.

The total resources of the RCMP overall are set primarily by the Government of Canada. The RCMP reports to the Minister of Public Safety (who also has CBSA and CSIS). Apparently the federal government has cut the RCMP budget by ~25% in recent years. In any case, resource constraints plague the RCMP and force upper management to made hard choices as they trade-off serious and organized crime investigations (delayed, deferred, deflected away without even being opened) to accept more national security investigations (terrorism). Commissioner Paulson said so in Parliament.

Why does this Matter to Richmond?

This matters even to a municipality that outsources urban policing to the RCMP because there are serious and organized crime networks that are **not** handled by RMD RCMP, **not** the purview of Integrated Teams (e.g Homicide), and must be referred (typically by local RCMP General Duties officer) to a hidden RCMP "Federal Team". No referral, no investigation.

The federal government resources available to the RCMP limits what the RCMP can do in a steady-state.

Similarly, from the overall RCMP resources the **RCMP upper management assigns resources to the specific "Federal Teams" and team resourcing will likely be the determining factor in how much resource the RCMP can assign to the serious case**. None of this will be under municipal government or even local RCMP detachment control. Clearance rates may not even capture these occurrences. It's as if they never happened.

Allocation of the available resources within the RCMP is sub-optimal because Canadians end up with the **worst of two worlds**: A nation-wide paramilitary organization that **dissipates** most of its resources to **dispersed "detachments"** across the Big Land performing routine policing while **"detachments" are unable to tailor their resources to the workload (circumstances) because specialist skills for serious and organized crime networks are not under the control of the detachment commander or the municipality paying for "contract policing"**.

In addition there are horizontal referrals to "Integrated Teams" that consist of other RCMP detachments and/or municipal police services. These horizontal silos across other police services do allow pooling of resources for burden (cost) sharing but **there is "not" one integrated team assignee available for each major category of serious and organized crime**. For homicide, yes, but what of other serious categories? These "might" be assigned to "federal teams" within the RCMP, or not assigned at all and thus are not counted as the denominator for clearance rates. **This would tend to inflate (improve) the reported clearance rate. In other words a pre-screen by a Gatekeeper can keep novel or serious cases off the occurrence books.**

To reiterate, within the RCMP there is also rigid vertical tiers from detachment to federal teams executing a "federal mandate" for RCMP. **Repeat, the federal teams are not the same as the Integrated teams.**

An example makes it concrete.

A person goes to the local RCMP "detachment" to report a serious and organized crime network. The occurrence is deemed "not local RCMP." The occurrence is not for one of

the few "Integrated" enforcement teams. Thus, the occurrence should/could/would go to the RCMP "federal mandate" team for that district of the province. But the federal team has unlisted numbers. The citizen at the local detachment is almost totally dependent on the local RCMP "General Duties" Officer on duty at that moment to Open a RCMP File and then promptly refer the occurrence to an Intake Officer on the "Federal Mandate" team. You wouldn't want a GP deciding—at the local level—that a person did not need a cardiologist. Likewise an occurrence involving a serious and organized crime network should not be shelved by a General Duties officer because he is quite literally a general duties constable with no training or experience in this particular area of the law.

If no RCMP file is created in the local detachment RCMP then it is tantamount to the occurrence "never happened" (data integrity for statistics like clearance rates/caseload are tainted).

If a RCMP File is created then it is referred to a Federal Mandate Team and the person reporting the occurrence must wait to hear from whomever.

A second example of an unusual but serious and organized crime occurrence. A citizen report a Criminal Breach of Trust (think of Senator Mike Duffy, or Pamela Wallin, or the Ontario Premier's staff members David Livingston and Laura Miller). This esoteric but serious occurrence can not be left to a local detachment's General Duties officer who is not equipped to assess the merits of the facts or the applying the law to those facts.

In a municipal police service like VPD or a regional police service like Peel Regional Police the various specialized investigative units are directly accessible by the citizen. Not so with RCMP. The local detachment General Duties officer performs a gatekeeper function and if s/he does not open a File or refer the matter to RCMP "Federal Mandate" / "Federal Policing" / "Federal Teams" then the occurrence report is never made. Even if a File is opened, if the gatekeeper deems it so s/he can close the occurrence without an investigation ever being seen by the specialist investigators.

Part2

comments about City of Richmond establishing local independent police services Why transition to a Municipal Police Service?

The City will have direct influence over the new Chief and can help to set the Objectives, Goals, and Priorities. For example, the creation of forged IDs for money laundering of foreign assets by new arrivals seeking to move assets corrupting obtained into Canada.

I recommend the City of Richmond consider drawing up terms and conditions for the new Richmond municipal police that requires the new employees to reside in the City of Richmond. Considering the future option of a regional service encompassing Richmond and Delta, perhaps Delta residency is acceptable.

Making this a condition of police employment (and should be considered for any and all City of Richmond employees) ensures that officers are familiar with and have a stake in life of the City of Richmond.

I'm from Toronto and I have seen first hand when tens of thousands of Toronto employees live outside Toronto, don't know or care about Toronto, and spend their pay check in satellite communities like Peel Region (e.g. Mississauga), Durham Region (e.g. Pickering), York Region e.g. Vaughn).

I recommend the City of Richmond select from the applicants of Richmond RCMP only the best officers and use this transition as a opportunity bypass any officers with non-trivial items on their personnel records. The *Braidwood* Inquiry ~2010 mentioned how hard it is for the federal government to shed a substandard RCMP officer and that municipalities (or BC itself) had almost no way to remove a substandard officer. Therefore do not hire a problem RCMP officer for the new service, do the vetting at transition time.

Dated 2016-02-29 in City Of Richmond, BC

Peter Boldy

POLICING

For a thinner, smarter blue line

It is virtually unheard of for a police officer, especially one in a senior role, to simultaneously contradict the two most sacred tenets of his profession: that a cop should never break ranks; and that police departments constantly need to add new officers in order to keep crime at bay. But Peter Sloly, a deputy police chief in Toronto, did just that last week.

"Until policing stops being focused and driven on that reactive enforcement model, it will continue to be exponentially costly," Mr. Sloly said. "We can probably drop ourselves by several hundred police officers, which represents tens of millions of dollars."

Mr. Sloly's critics immediately pointed out that he had been turned down for the job of police chief last year after being told the position was his to lose. "Sour grapes," said the head of the police union. But, as one local columnist slyly noted, it's hard to tell whether Mr. Sloly said these things because he didn't get the job, or didn't get the job because he says these kinds of things. The conclusion of most observers is that it's the latter.

Far more important than imputed motives is the fact that Mr. Sloly raised an important and timely issue. Much of what he said can be linked to a series of recent reports, including one made to the Toronto Police Services Board last year, which detail how outdated thinking has meant that we have too many police officers in this country.

Mr. Sloly's broadside came after the Police Services Board submitted to city council its highest budget proposal in history, one that topped \$1-billion. In Canada as a whole, the cost of policing at the federal, provincial and municipal levels has risen faster than the rate of inflation for the past 20 years, even as the crime rate has dropped significantly.

The vast majority of policing costs – up to 90 per cent – are the ever-expanding salaries of uniformed officers, of which there are more and more. According to Statistics Canada, there were 188 officers per 100,000 Canadians in 2003, and 202 in 2012. The cost of policing across Canada that year was \$13.5-billion.

"A broad consensus is emerging among all levels of government that police risk pricing themselves out of business," said one report published by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute in 2014.

Of course, policing is never going to go out of business. It's an integral part of civil society. Do away with law enforcement and everyday life would look like a scene from *Mad Max*. Furthermore, policing has gotten more complicated in the past quarter-century. Officers today have to deal with many more mentally ill people than in the days when patients were locked away in grim institutions. Cybercrime and terrorism are also new realities.

On the other hand, from the 1990s to today, there has been no conclusive link made between adding more cops and getting less crime. Researchers are split on the subject: Some see a correlation while just as many see our aging population, stiffer sentences and better crime-

prevention as factors in a crime rate that keeps dropping.

Police unions are, of course, on the side of those who say more cops equals safer streets. They are the first to challenge any hint of a budget cut by warning of apocalyptic consequences wherein normal society is turned on its head and criminals run wild, cats chase dogs up trees and houses spontaneously combust.

But that's a distraction from Mr. Sloly's point: Smarter practices and better technology mean police forces might not need as many uniformed, sworn officers as they currently have.

The report last year to the Toronto Police Services Board pulled together dozens of best practices that have allowed police departments around the world to reduce staffing while increasing the effectiveness of their patrols. Other reports, including the one from the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, have similar recommendations. Their essential point is the same, though – that it makes no sense having an armed, trained police officer earning \$100,000 a year directing traffic, investigating bylaw infractions, typing up notes from a taped interview, providing courthouse security, or doing any number of jobs that are below their pay grade.

Half of the calls for service handled by police do not involve an emergency or a crime in progress and could be given to lower-paid civilian staff trained in forensics and victim support. This includes crime-scene investigations, as is being done in the U.K. and some American cities. As well, private firms can and do handle security at many courthouses, a job done by police in Toronto and elsewhere.

The most radical proposal out there is for the cross-training of police officers, firefighters and ambulance personnel so that they can be used in all three roles as needed, creating economies of scale. This is being done successfully in one California city and is much needed in Toronto, where firefighters already spend the majority of their shifts as first responders to medical incidents.

Other efficiencies can be found through technology; for instance, using data about when and where crimes are being committed to create more effective staffing during shifts, or outfitting police cars with GPS trackers so dispatchers can send the closest one.

These are just some of the modernizations already in use that challenge the orthodoxy of employing vast numbers of police officers. (Toronto has more than 5,200 sworn members), all paid high wages but spending much of their time doing minor jobs that don't call on the skills and training that earned them those high wages in the first place.

Toronto's police chief, Mark Saunders – the candidate who got the job that Mr. Sloly coveted – says he wants to bring his force into the 21st century, but it's clear that his mandate is to do so slowly. Mr. Sloly wanted to move quickly. If he leaves his job in Toronto, as now seems likely, some forward-thinking Canadian police department should hire him.

Richmond RCMP Policing

I do not support changing to an independent police force from the current RCMP policing model.

I attended an open house, read the staff report, and researched the national Statistics Canada records for policing in Richmond. The Crime Severity Index for Richmond is lower when compared with other Lower Mainland municipalities. Violent crime is especially low in Richmond. Policing statistics reveal that crime rates in Richmond are lower than the BC average and comparable to the Canadian national average. These statistics suggest that either the RCMP is doing a competent job or that the relative demand for policing services is actually decreasing. Including this information with the City's presentation materials could have helped the public to feel better educated.

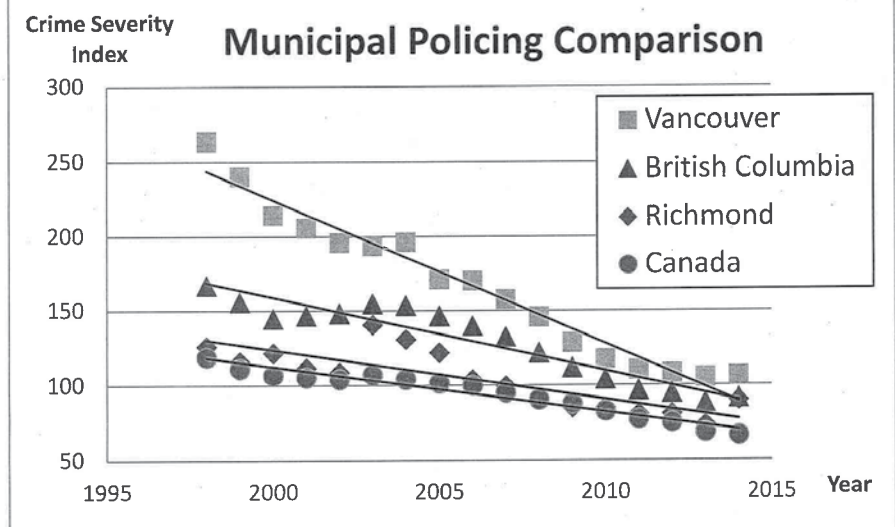
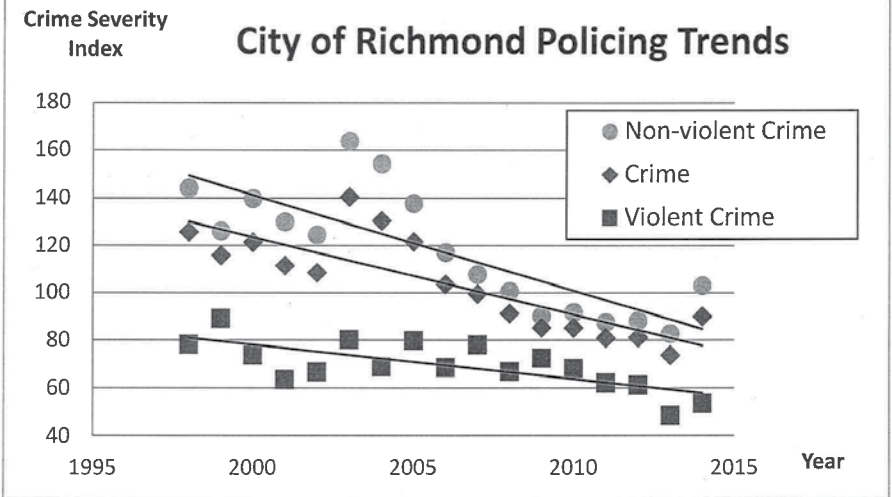
The materials provided by the City do not contain enough detail for me to be able to make an informed decision about the changes that are described. For instance, I still have questions about trends in local crime that require specific attention? It is unclear what specialized programs are needed at this point? What has the RCMP's response been to specific City concerns in the past? If there are ongoing communication issues between the City and the RCMP police force it is not made clear by the information provided.

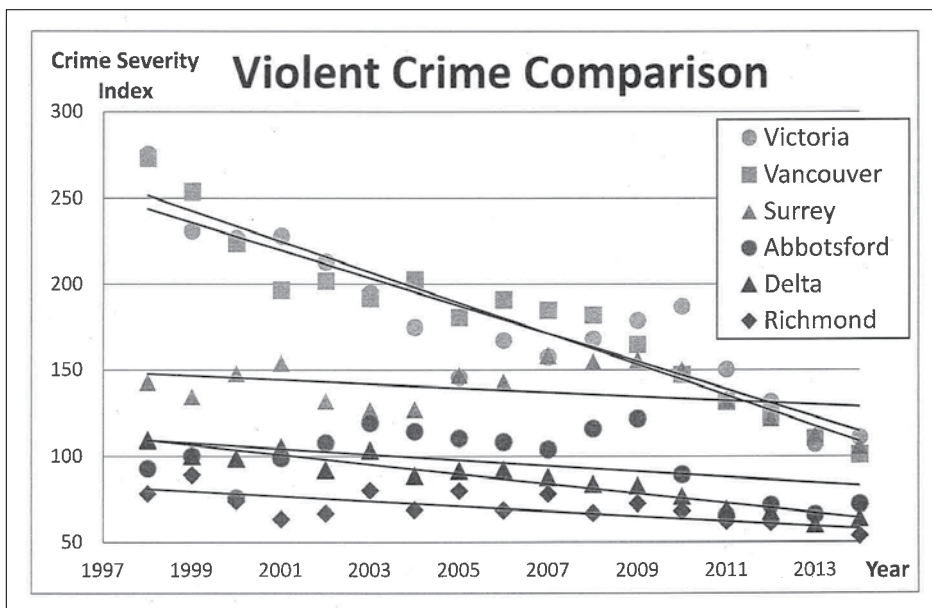
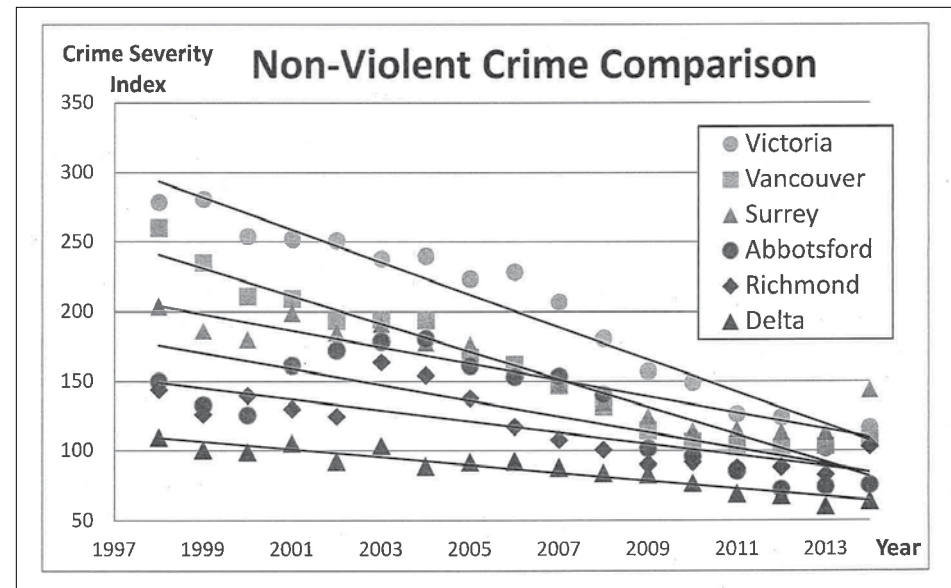
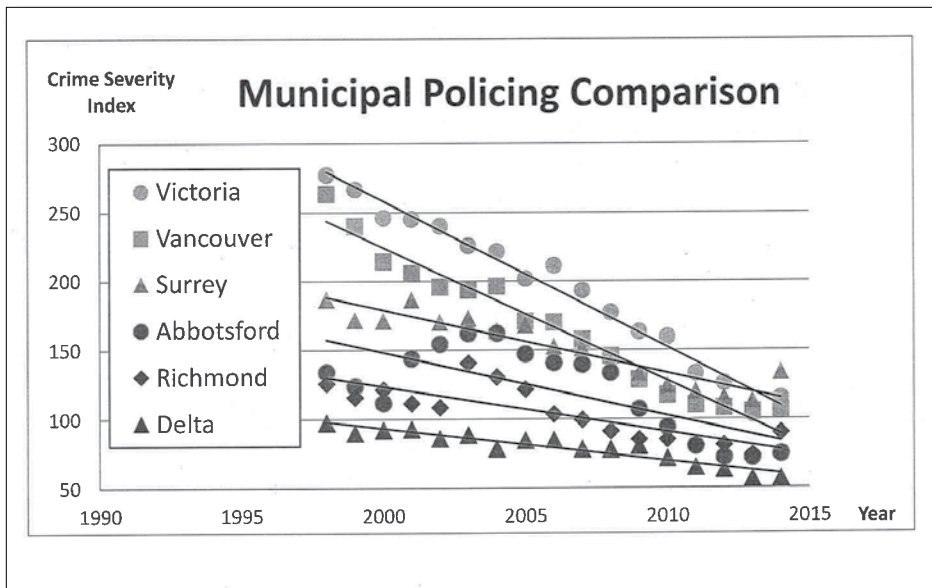
Whatever net present value calculation the City chooses to use, the independent police force will cost a minimum of \$50 to \$80 million more over the remaining 15 years of the current RCMP contract. Based on the information provided it is difficult to justify this additional expense.

The argument for greater local oversight seems to be a bit of a stretch. The Provincial representatives required by the board of an independent police force would still be able to outvote municipal representatives.

If anything makes Richmond unique it is the close proximity to the Vancouver International Airport. In which case maintaining a close working relationship with the YVR RCMP detachment is desirable when confronting international criminal activities.

John Terborg





From: Peter Bull
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 15:36
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Richmond Police Services Review
Attachments: police services review feb29.pages.zip

I respectfully submit some thoughts and question. While no doubt the attached contains holes big enough to drive an inter-urban through it is submitted because I care about the city I have called home since 1973. They are in random order, my apologies for that.

Although I don't believe it has affected my thoughts, in the interest of disclosure I should tell you that I was an auxiliary constable at Richmond RCMP from 1979 to 1985

Thank you.

Peter Bull

One Time Transition Costs

I find it hard to accept the statement in the Report to Council of November 24, 2015 that these "will not impact property taxes". Any funds taken from reserves or surpluses is money from Richmond tax payers and if used for this purpose will have to be replaced, from those same taxpayers. Loans incur interest and eventually have to be repaid, again at the expense of the taxpayer. A suggestion was made to me that casino money could be used, I don't frequent the casino so none of that money comes from me, but surely those funds can be better spent elsewhere. One suggestion, how about programs to feed schoolchildren in Richmond who go to school each day hungry. In Richmond!

Training

When an officer reports to Richmond he/she is trained and receives ongoing training while they are stationed here. How will the City fund ongoing training, is it included in the budget, now and the future?

Police Board

While appointed by the Lieutenant Governor I have no idea what type of person might be appointed. Would they have any policing experience, would they understand the decisions made by the Chief Constable? I am confused by paragraph two on page six that states "...the provision of police services using community safety officers.", while Item 8 on page 11 says, "There will not be a second tier of police officers, such as Community Safety Officers". I am concerned that we might be tempted to bring staffing levels up to those of the jurisdictions used in the report, something we clearly can't afford.

Union Contract/Manpower Issues

If local contracts use VPD as a base, not unreasonable, and VPD vehicles are crewed 80% of the time by two officers, would a city police force be the same? As the RCMP generally has one officer per vehicle would this mean less vehicles on the road or will additional members be needed just to maintain the status quo?

Bringing experienced officers from other jurisdictions often mean those experiences are put to good use here - "best practices". Recruits bring youth and/or life experience and new ideas. If some members are transferred out they become an asset to their new force, as their replacements become an asset to Richmond. Any organization is a triangle, there is only one chief and only a few senior positions to which an employee can attain. And how do we ensure "lifers" continue to add value to the organization?

VPD

There are frequent mentions of VPD and yet no direct comparisons listed, only with Delta and Abbotsford. I understand that VPD's 1,700 members police a population of 603,000 and we have 200 officers for ~200,000, it would have been helpful to have some additional information.

YVR

I am not sure if the mention of YVR remaining status quo means they would continue to members I assume that when the smaller of the two areas, YVR, is short of members because of sickness, maternity/paternity, court appearances etc., their shortfall is covered by other Richmond members. In the event a new city force is chosen it might be best just to let them stay with the RCMP.

February 20, 2016.
The City of Richmond,
6911 No. 3 road, Richmond, B. C.

Attention: Law and Community Safety Division.

Re: Policing Review: the top 7 reasons why Richmond needs a local community based police force.

To whom it may concern:

I live in a Richmond Town Centre neighbourhood that has been hit with 35 reported break-ins in the past 24 months. This level of crime is unprecedented in Richmond's history. With massive high density development underway and more coming soon, it's clear to me that big city crime is in Richmond or arriving soon. **I strongly support a local community based police force for Richmond and here's why.**

1. Metro Vancouver is in critical need of a regional police force. But it's not going to happen because citizens with community police forces (Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Abbotsford and West Vancouver) are unwilling to give up accountability and local control of policing in their communities.
2. The proof is in the pudding. If citizens in Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Abbotsford and West Vancouver are unwilling give up their local police departments, it must be a better way of policing. 366,000 people can't possibly be wrong.
3. If Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Abbotsford and West Vancouver **can afford** community police departments, surely a wealthy community like Richmond can.
4. How hard can it be to police a jurisdiction that's an island in the middle of a river delta with just 5 roads in and out?
5. The organizational framework of the RCMP is not equipped to handle urban community policing needs. This federal agency, headquartered in Ottawa, with a para-military structure and attitude, was never intended for urban community policing in the 21st century. With its numerous federal and international responsibilities, we can't possibly expect this organization to handle community policing with diligence, concern and care. It's like asking the FBI to do community policing.
6. The RCMP's attitude toward female officers, harassment complaints, citizen's complaints, aboriginal women, missing women and unionization for its members, is nothing short of deplorable. As a citizen of Richmond, I don't want my tax dollars supporting this Neanderthal thinking and behaviour. **I know we can do better.**
7. The tasing of Mr. Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver Airport by four Richmond Mounties was an international embarrassment to the citizens of Richmond.

Jerry Heed, Richmond, B. C.

February 23, 2016

City of Richmond
Law and Community Safety Division
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

Re: Richmond Police Services Review 2016

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FEB 29 2016

& DISTRIBUTED

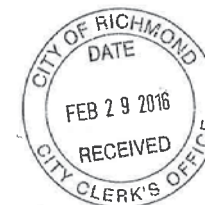
Enclosed please find my survey form. I would like to add the following comments:

- The options given were 'either/or' – either we keep the RCMP or we replace this with our own municipal force. I would like to see a third option presented – a municipal force in partnership with other lower mainland municipalities (i.e. Delta, Surrey, Burnaby).
- Given the limited options presented, as a taxpayer I DO NOT support the additional financial burden of our own municipal force. I may consider supporting a Richmond municipal force in the future, if the following criteria were met:
 - Sharing of costs (administration etc.) with other municipalities and/ or the creation of a lower mainland police force (unlikely, but possible...)
 - Additional review of the costing of a municipal force, taking into consideration the comments made in the enclosed Globe and Mail February 2015 editorial 'For a thinner, smarter blue line'. I am aware we have little control of the RCMP costs, however, before having our own force we must reassess what costs we can reduce, by rethinking how we hire officers and what specific skill sets we need for the various positions and to best serve the community.
- An additional \$2 – 4 million dollars per year is a substantial amount, in order to just have some 'local' control of our force. I have deep reservations that costs of a municipal force may spiral out of control, with the statement of 'what can we do? We need more officers/ vehicles etc.'

Regards,

Anna Delaney

Cc: Richmond City Mayor and Council



GP - 61

(Special)



Province Rolls Out Community Safety Officer Program

Released on December 1, 2014

Options to promote community safety just increased with the rollout of the Community Safety Officer (CSO) program.

“Under this program, any Saskatchewan community can apply to hire Community Safety Officers,” Corrections and Policing Minister Christine Tell said. “This will allow communities to address low-risk to harm, high-priority policing needs.”

CSOs will help meet needs including traffic and liquor enforcement, bylaw enforcement, and serve as a crime prevention community liaisons. Introducing CSOs will free up the RCMP and municipal police to focus on higher impact needs in participating communities.

SUMA and SARM collaborated with police and officials in developing this program designed to enhance police services in Saskatchewan.

“Our membership has expressed a need for an alternative enforcement option,” SARM Acting President Ray Orb said. “The CSO program will be a feasible way for

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2014/december/01/community-safety-officer-program#>

1/3

rural municipalities to address some priority policing needs they have identified, especially those in the high-growth areas of the province.”

“This will be another tool for urban governments to enhance their bylaw and public safety enforcement – from the early adopters, such as North Battleford, to our towns, villages, and all urban municipalities,” Ron Osika said on behalf of SUMA President Debra Button. “We all want safer communities and this program can help us achieve that goal.”

The pilot program implemented by North Battleford this summer will serve as the model for other Saskatchewan communities.

“The term Community Safety Officer goes beyond just the enforcement component,” North Battleford Mayor Ian Hamilton said. “This program allows us to engage and work collectively with many stakeholders in order to foster a positive community image and reputation toward a safe community.”

A six-week curriculum for CSOs is being developed at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. The first class of recruits should begin training in February 2015, with graduates expected to be working by mid-2015.

“Saskatchewan Polytechnic prides itself on delivering applied, employer-driven and student-focused education,” Saskatchewan Polytechnic President and CEO Dr. Larry Rosia said. “Through consultation and our strength in applied learning, we will develop curriculum that equips grads to meet needs in their municipalities from day one.”

The expansion of this program is in line with the ministry’s Building Partnerships to Reduce Crime initiative, which works with communities to find new approaches to prevent crime in Saskatchewan.

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2014/december/01/community-safety-officer-program#>

2/3

9/29/2015

Province Rolls Out Community Safety Officer Program | News and Media | Government of Saskatchewan

-30-

For more information, contact:

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<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2014/december/01/community-safety-officer-program#>

3/3

From: Mayor and Councillors
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2016 08:19 PM
To: mayorea
Subject: FW: Re : RCMP

From: Jon Moore
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2016 17:57
To: Mayor and Councillors
Subject: Re : RCMP

Mayor Malcolm Brodie

This letter is for the reasons for staying with having the RCMP doing the policing in our city of Richmond . I just do not understand why you would want to spend (and borrow) that large sum of money to start a new Police Force . The dollars just are far to much to make the change to a private police force .

Another thing what guarantees they will give us the same protection and quick response that the RCMP are giving the citizens of Richmond now .

I am a resident of Burkeville and with some of the problems that have occurred in this neighbour hood the response time has been excellent . They are dispatched from YVR along with the main city and they have been arriving within minutes to help . There has been occasions when I called the RCMP that there was an officer (or officers) here before I was able to explain the entire incident . Amazing response !!!

I just do not think we will get that kind of response from a private police force . The neighbour hood regular patrols by the RCMP are on going and it is good to feel that this kind of policing is happening .

Please think very hard before you make a move from the RCMP . The cost alone is just too much . And if you and council have to borrow the money for the setup then that really will be more costly then what you said on TV the other day .

This city of Richmond (which I have been a citizen of for 64 years) has a safe feeling from the RCMP and the ongoing work they provide .

Please stay with the RCMP for the city of Richmond !

A concerned long time resident of Richmond
Jon Moore

1

GP - 63

Richmond Police Service Review 2016
Mayor and Council

We strongly support keeping
the RCMP to police Richmond.
With the airport and a big
Casino as well as a growing
Population we very much
benefit from their training.

As to the subject of transfers
this is also a benefit to keep
new faces in the hole of
law enforcement.

Next the cost - it seems even
at the outset the RCMP win
to say nothing of the growth
that would take place in a
local organization.
Again we strongly support
the R.C.M.P.

Ruth & Fred Krause



cc: Phyllis Carlyle
Ted Townsend
Mark Corrado

February 29, 2016

Mayor & Council
Richmond, BC
Fax: 604-276-4332

Re: Policing in Richmond

Dear Mayor & Council,

Further to the policing needs for the City of Richmond. Have you considered using unarmed Community Safety Officers (CSO) for all traffic, by-law and other low-risk enforcement functions?

These CSOs would be hired directly by the city and take their direction from the city, as currently done for the by-law officers. These officers do not carry guns or tasers but do carry other non-lethal self defense tools.

I believe that many local governments in Alberta were the first in Canada, to take the lead in hiring unarmed CSOs for all traffic enforcement and other low-risk enforcement functions therefore savings local governments huge amounts of taxpayers money. In addition to the huge financial savings, direction to the CSO were immediate as the direction came from the Community governments that employed the CSOs.

Approx. 3 years ago, the CSO program was been implemented in the Province of SK (see attached press release from Govt SK) for local governments.

In the three Territories, unarmed By-law Officers (aka Municipal Enforcement Officers) enforce traffic laws, by-laws and other low-risk enforcement functions. In the NWT, the By-law officers enforce the Territorial Motor Vehicles Act, Territorial ATV Act, local by-laws and other low-risk enforcement duties.

The City of Yellowknife Municipal Enforcement Division (Bylaw Officers) are 100% self funding through the collection of fines issued, therefore resulting in NO taxpayers money funding their Municipal Enforcement Division. This is one of the very few across Canada that is 100% self funding.

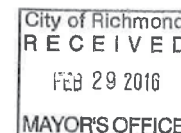
CSOs could be hired directly as employees of the City, or under contract to the City. Should the City hire CSOs through a contracted firm the savings would be even greater, as the City is not paying for employee benefits, vacation, Stat days, training, liability and employee errors.

CSOs cost approx. 60% compared to the cost of RCMP officers. RCMP offices are not needed to conduct traffic enforcement and other low risk enforcement duties as proven in AB, SK and the three Territories.

Thank you for your consideration.

D Peters
Dave Peters

Attachment - Press release on CSO in SK.



GP - 64

From: iCare Online
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2015 09:57
To: PolicingConsult; iCare Online
Subject: City of Richmond releases report on police service/feedback

Dear Sir/Madam,

My Name is Ofra Sixto, and I am the owner and operator of iCare Childcare, located at the RJDS school in Richmond. I am also a part of the CCDAC committee, dealing with childcare issues as they rise, and ongoing issues such as needs of parents and teachers in the field.

I read the report that came out on Nov 26, 2015 from the city of Richmond, detailing the needs to separate our police force from the RCMP and create an independent police force to fit Richmond needs. This luxury will cost us close to \$20 million.

I strongly suggest that you will consider dispensing this money towards education and prevention, and what better prevention there is, but the early years? It is a well known fact, that the first five years lasts forever. Child care in Richmond is in great need for this money. Childcare grants can benefit from added money. The money can also be used for affordable housing, which in return may create a less stressful environment in the homes of these families. City centre has a great need for programing to disadvantaged families and children. Poverty hit the highest it had ever been, forcing 1 out of 3 children to go hungry. I can go on an on as to where the money can be of better use, But I believe that many of you are aware already. Richmond is taking huge steps, separating itself from other municipalities already in child care. Lets take the next step up and give a hand to those children that are in desperate need for help.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ofra Sixto ECE

Kids are worth it!!!!

1

From: Heather Logan
Sent: Monday, 4 January 2016 12:17
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: RCMP verses Municipal Force

To City Council:

My family moved to Richmond in 1974. I went to school here and made life-long friends. I have lived in Terrace, Victoria, Burnaby, Ladner and Vancouver. I have travelled throughout this beautiful province. I returned to Richmond in order to raise my family as I love this community. Growing up Richmond was a wonderful experience. I feel Richmond has always been safe and I think that has to do with having the RCMP as our police force. As a Richmond tax payer and mother of two children I have had experience with the Richmond RCMP. On two occasions, I had to file a missing persons report for my elderly mother who got lost driving. My mother is also a Richmond taxpayer. Both instances were extremely serious and involved various RCMP detachments and other police services in BC. I was impressed with the RCMP officers who handled both situations. They were not only professional, but they understood the stress and anxiety that my family was under and at all times were reassuring that their resources would be used to find her. I think their training and experienced officers enabled them to handle both situations with extreme professionalism and compassion. They were able to use their RCMP police helicopter in Kamloops to locate my 89 year old mother who was driving on a forest service road near Barriere, BC last January. In both missing persons instances she was located by the RCMP. She has since lost her license, which was a whole other issue. My point is, I think Richmond residents would not get the same level of service, experience and knowledge that the RCMP provides Richmond. The police training alone could not be duplicated by a municipal force. Why would council want to take on managing or overseeing a police force? The council should be focused on retaining neighborhoods and families in Richmond. Growing and managing any safe, livable city should start from the ground up. Begin with children and families - they have to come first. They are the foundation of any safe, livable community. The focus needs to be on making Richmond affordable for families, provide early childhood education and out of school care options and good schools. Make it easy for families to choose to stay in Richmond. To Work here, Live here, and Play here. Too many families are leaving. Neighbourhoods are changing fast and drastically many are becoming ghost towns. My family intends to stay here as long as we can, but I don't know if my children will be able to afford to live here. I moved back to Richmond to raise a family because we feel safe here, we like the schools, the recreation programs, the parks, and the proximity to everything in the lower mainland and we are confident in the services the RCMP provides the city of Richmond.

Sincerely,
Heather Logan

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From: J.L
Sent: Sunday, 24 January 2016 19:36
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: policing feedback

we need more traffic enforcement in richmond. nobody sees any so they are not afraid to speed run red lights and such. do you have any radar guns? the speed limit now on russ baker way seems to be about 90k not the posted 60k. again nobody sees any enforcement so they are not afraid to speed. how about some presence west of 3rd maybe catch people turning left after the light turns red. o no there goes another ambulance to a crash scene. stop playing on your mountain bikes and do some traffic enforcement. how bout radar on railway or 1 rd. tickets teach people a lesson before the tbone someone at an intersection doing 80k. maybe set up a the intersection of westminister highway and 3rd and do something about people playing on their phones and turning left way after the light has turned red. o no there goes another ambulance to an accident scene. maybe we could see you with a speed trap in front of thompson school someday? no enforcement no worries for the aggressive drivers too. the rcmp dont seem to be providing traffic enforcement so maybe we should try something else for this problem. the rcmp seem to be doing a fine job other than traffic enforcement. thanks for letting us give input.

From: Marian Thomson
Sent: Wednesday, 17 February 2016 23:41
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: RCMP

I think getting rid of the RCMP in richmond would be terrible thing to do..Canada's mounties are world famous and do a great job.
It would cost so much money. I vote to keep The RCMP in richmond.
Marian Thomson

From: Anne Macdonald
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2016 18:24
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Policing

Get with it guys!!!! I have lived in this community for 60 years and the only option to me would spend the money on policing and preferred RCMP as they are respected and admired. With the taxes I pay I expect monies spent on protecting us and not on other incidental expenditures like wages for our representatives. Prioritize guys!!!! A Macdonald

Sent from my iPhone

From: Neil Cumming
Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2016 11:45
To: PolicingConsult; MayorandCouncillors
Subject: Police Services Review

Ladies and Gents:

I have carefully read all of the information and reports provided by the City on the topic of Richmond's police services and attended yesterday's open house to discuss the matter with staff. I was also hoping to see at least some of the councillors at the open house, but as expected, they were conspicuously absent. I have chosen to present my comments in this form because the survey form presented by the City does not provide an opportunity for an adequate response.

I went into the open house with two questions:

1. What problem are we trying to fix?
2. After we go through the transition process, what will be different and better?

With respect to the first question, what I read and heard is that there are concerns about costs being imposed on the City over which they lack control. This is possibly a valid concern, but the proposed solution appears to be a scenario that involves a transition cost of some \$20 million and additional operating costs of several million dollars per year. This obviously doesn't make sense, and doesn't fix the (alleged) problem. Beyond that, what I heard was framed in terms of local community needs and values, culture, priorities, accountability, strategies, objectives, and similar abstract and unspecific concepts. The staff at the open house were unable to cite specific examples of problems that needed fixing other than what I would characterize as bafflegab.

Regarding my second question, again the answers I got were highly unspecific and vague. The issue that made most sense was recruitment, training and retention of personnel. However, I have not seen any information that suggests that the current situation is so bad that it is in need of repair that will add millions of dollars in costs.

There are several aspects of this debate that cause me concern. Chief among these is the concept of oversight by a local police board, chaired by the mayor, according to the applicable act. While on principle I can support this concept, I have to state that in light of the current mayor's recent performance on other issues, I do not have confidence in his ability to objectively and effectively fulfill the role of chair of a police board. Similarly, I have concerns that a large majority of board members would be appointed by order in council of the provincial government. I fail to see how his is an improvement over the current system, especially when it is alleged that the province is part of the problem.

When I boil this all down, I see several things going on here:

1. This appears to be a politically motivated initiative, driven by a lust for more power. Such is typical of politicians. There has not been a cogent case made for the need for change based on specific and identifiable problems.
2. The scenarios presented include only two options: the status quo or a community police force operated by the City. In my view, the vastly preferable option is a single regional police force encompassing all members of the GVRD from UBC to Langley, including the Transit Police. This actually does make compelling sense, and would perhaps alleviate some of the excessive cost implications. It would also address in a better fashion some of the stated problems with the current model. This option is mysteriously not presented, although I acknowledge that it is probably a bridge too far, given the lust for power and the parochial behavior of most of our local politicians.
3. Based on what I heard from staff, the concerns expressed by Council really get to the heart of the relationship between the City, the Province and the RCMP. It is apparent that (a) these problems are not unique to Richmond, and (b) there is an opportunity for improvement. It seems to me that the City has not worked hard enough or cooperatively enough with the Province and the RCMP to try to resolve the issues. This is not surprising given the Mayor's confrontational approach often taken with other levels of government. Hence, I am left wondering whether the real problem doesn't lie within.

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To summarize:

- a. There is clearly an opportunity for improvement to some aspects of the police services in Richmond, but the current situation is not nearly so broken that it requires a wholesale change as proposed. This appears to be a solution in search of a problem.
- b. The City needs to work harder with neighbouring municipalities, the Province and the RCMP to resolve some of the issues.
- c. If a wholesale change in policing model is to be contemplated, the superior option is a regional model, which appears to have been summarily discounted. Why?

Respectfully submitted,

Neil A. Cumming

From: S
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2016 14:22
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Police Services Review 2016

In response to your invitation for comments, I would like CONTINUING THE RCMP CONTRACT for the following reasons:

- a) the RCMP has done this job well for Richmond for a while now and there is no foreseen reasons for us to change
- b) your second alternative includes contracting out. I take it that the services are presently being contracted out to the RCMP now, anyways
- c) if other services are needed by Richmond, in addition to what is being contracted out to the RCMP, we should obtain quotes to determine the quality expected, but more so the costs (present and future).

I am a citizen of Richmond, BC and would like the above comments considered.

Sam Virani

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GP - 67

From: Balwant Singh
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2016 17:24
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: RCMP

Dear City of Richmond

I am a 30 year resident of Richmond, and I would like to have RCMP continue their loyal service in Richmond. They have done a amazing job all along and there is no need for a change and spend a tone of tax payers money.

RCMP has been a very community cultured policing.

So I recommend they stay in Richmond.

Thank you

Sincerely

Balwant Singh

From: Susanna
Sent: Saturday, 20 February 2016 19:31
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Feedback

Hello,

I read the TOA of the survey and did not accept, therefore my survey results were not accepted.

In summary:

I support the current model of the RCMP serving Richmond.

In the 30 years I have lived here, I have never had a negative experience with them.

I do not support a Richmond community police force model.

I do not support one more nickel of taxes to go to the City of Richmond.

Please forward to the appropriate contact.

Regards,

S. Darnel

From: Lyall & Sheila
Sent: Sunday, 21 February 2016 10:46
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Police Services Review.

Under the existing contract that Richmond City has with the RCMP if the city is not satisfied with the services being provided do they not have recourse to request the RCMP correct any deficiencies? If it is not broken don't fix it. How much extra is it going to cost the Richmond taxpayers just so city hall has more control than the existing setup with the RCMP? To change a contract during mid term always costs extra money. We strongly object to changing the present system if it is going to cost us any more money. Increasing taxes to pay for a change for changes sake is unacceptable. Also with the airport being part of the Richmond area, another police force would certainly complicate the situation. Also farming out services for specialty services such as homicide, forensic and emergency response will further complicate the situation and certainly cost way more. Because of increase in land values the city of Richmond has received \$1,181 in increased taxes from us from 2014 to 2015. We don't condone a further increase to pay for a change in policing.

Thank you,
Sheila and Lyall Reimann

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From: nemenio bugarin
Sent: Sunday, 21 February 2016 22:47
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Fw: You participated in a survey on 'Lets Talk Richmond' site. Would you like to Signup?

I am a resident in Richmond and I'm very much concerned about the increasing number of traffic accidents, break- ins, robberies that is always published in the Richmond News.

I am an ex-military officer with previous security experience and I have attempted to make suggestions to some issues within the City of Richmond, but I was told that there is nothing can be done because RCMP is under Federal supervision.

This is why I am for a local Richmond Police Force and I hope I can be of any assistance in case the intended transformation will materialize.

Thank you and hoping for the best.

Nemenio P. Bugarin

On Saturday, February 20, 2016 7:27 PM, Let's Talk Richmond Team <notifications@engagementhq.com> wrote:

Hi Nemenio
Thank you for participating on 'Lets Talk Richmond'.
Please take the next step and Sign Up here.
http://www.letstalkrichmond.ca/users/sign_up?verification_code=b33385820873cf7aa35e4328feb49b1a
Signing up will help us keep you informed about this project and others.
It will make it easier for you to log in next time you visit us.
By telling us a little bit about yourself, you help us know that we are reaching the broader community.
Thank you
The team at 'Lets Talk Richmond'

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From: jvejvoda
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2016 22:11
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: RCMP

21.2.2016

Please keep RCMP in the City. It is cost prohibitive to have own police force. It is rather disturbing to see the City of Richmond even to seriously consider a change in in police services in light of huge costs involved.

Thank you,
John and Jitka Vejvoda

From: Bob Garnett
Sent: Tuesday, 23 February 2016 21:14
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Questions/comments

How will the police board be selected. Why is the Province involved. Will these be local people or political appointees.

Will we be a lower priority with IHIT and the other purchased services?

Why not a Regional police force rather than taking all the overhead ourselves. We do most things regionally, i.e. GVRD, Translink

Bob Garnett
Richmond, BC

From: Bev Louis
Sent: Tuesday, 23 February 2016 00:24
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Policing in Richmond

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to stay with the RCMP rather than create an independent Richmond Police service for the following reasons:

1. Costs associated with creating a new police force are too high.
2. Length of time to train a new police force to perform at the same level as the current RCMP would be too long.
3. No evidence exists that a new local dpolice force in Richmond would provide better policing in Richmond or that such a service would be more cost-effective.

Perhaps our tax money could be better used by improving traffic flow in Richmond and from Richmond to Vancouver.

Sincerely,

Beverly Louis

From: Diane Ostrowski
Sent: Thursday, 25 February 2016 08:11
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Re: You participated in a survey on 'Lets Talk Richmond' site. Would you like to Signup?

Hello,
No thank you. I was in attendance yesterday at the City hall and did not like the answers I heard. As a taxpayer, I am appalled that city would even consider this move, not to save money but to spend even more! Does anyone care there are seniors like myself on a pension. I need my elected officials to find ways to reduce taxes and not spend as if taxpayers have pockets full of money.
Please leave RCMP in place, I believe they have a much better record of recruitment than Justice Institute. Richmond is a safe city because of RCMP.
Sincerely,
PharmD

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 24, 2016, at 9:34 AM, Let's Talk Richmond Team <notifications@engagementhq.com> wrote:

Hi PharmD

Thank you for participating on 'Lets Talk Richmond'.

Please take the next step and Sign Up here.

http://www.letstalkrichmond.ca/users/sign_up?verification_code=f121d621bcc1fc785434e36e56bd926f

Signing up will help us keep you informed about this project and others.

It will make it easier for you to log in next time you visit us.

By telling us a little bit about yourself, you help us know that we are reaching the broader community.

Thank you

The team at 'Lets Talk Richmond'

From: Ken & Lynda
Sent: Friday, 26 February 2016 14:50
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Richmond Policing

Dear Madame or Sir:

I do have concerns with the proposed Richmond policing model options being restricted to two. May I suggest, the most effective and efficient force would be one serving the entire region. Calgary has a single city police force. Edmonton has a single police force. Victoria and Esquimalt have a single police force. Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam share an RCMP detachment. Richmond (RCMP) borders three independent police districts, - Delta police, New Westminster police and Vancouver police. Surely, the costs of duplicated efforts are less effective or efficient than a combined effort would be. Surely, the costs of human resource management, staff training, and equipment management duplication could be reduced under a single regional jurisdiction.

Several lower mainland communities combine policing efforts for specific purposes, - homicide investigations, gang related investigations, illegal drugs, and emergency response. These units work across municipal boundaries for a good reason, - more effective and efficient communications, investigation and operational efforts. Duplicate investigation costs (cross border) may be eliminated. Reduced court costs resulting from regional processing instead of municipal jurisdictions should benefit all participating municipalities and the Provincial government. Reduced taxpayer funded witness requirements (police time) should afford increased patrol time availability for crime reduction purposes.

I understand, Translink police have regional based authority within defined Translink boundaries. Perhaps, the easier route to achieve a regional police force would involve expanding the policing functions of the existing Translink police (new name required) or displace the Translink force with a replacement, all encompassing regional force.

I agree, the existing management of RCMP resources is lacking (governed from Ottawa) and lacks local accountability for costs, discipline, effectiveness and policy development. Changes to auxiliary officer functions without consultation, discipline, suspensions with pay, training and transfers come to mind. The desires and needs of local taxpayers are dismissed or ignored.

May I suggest, a rushed decision to select the RCMP or create a new municipal force is not necessary. I do request renewed consideration be given to amalgamating with one or more bordering municipal police forces. The need for a regional force was recognized in the Opal "Pickton murders" inquiry, and by Vancouver and West Vancouver police chiefs.

In order of preference, I support a regional police force incorporating as many lower mainland jurisdictions as possible, amalgamation with one or more neighbouring police forces, maintain the RCMP and finally, a separate Richmond police force. The first two focus on improved and effective community policing costs, the RCMP for cost and a separate Richmond force as least desirable for cost and inefficiency.

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In the event Richmond elects to form a separate police force, what costs will result from the change from the RCMP, and what costs would result from a future change to a regional police force? It seems a regional police force is inevitable at some time in the future.

Perhaps any policing cost savings afforded to the federal government by changing from the RCMP to a municipal police force could be recovered by Richmond during a transition period to offset some of the setup costs. The same could apply to the establishment of a regional police force. Surely, a single change (with costs) to a regional force is preferred over the future prospects of initially changing to a municipal force and later to a regional force.

Good luck with it.

Sincerely,

Ken McLennan

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From:
Sent: Saturday, 27 February 2016 11:23
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Fully support the RCMP.

Just ridiculous to waste time and money on a city of Richmond police force when we have a fine RCMP force That is doing a fine job. Richmondites feel safe and well policed. Enough of this dog and pony show.
Bill MacLean.

Sent from my BlackBerry® PlayBook™
www.blackberry.com

From: Todd Follett
Sent: Saturday, 27 February 2016 18:31
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Policing

As a resident, I would like to express my opinion opposing a municipal force and supporting a continuing contract with the RCMP. I have three main reasons for this opinion. The first is cost, RCMP as municipal police are to some extent subsidized by the Federal government.
The second is ease of cooperation between police forces in Greater Vancouver. Most of the municipalities in the area are policed by the RCMP, and different detachments can work together easily. This is more difficult with completely different organizations.
The third, and most important, reason is that a relatively small municipal force simply lacks the depth needed for effective policing across the broad spectrum of crime.
The special units, such as economic crime, just do not have the pool of talent needed to draw from to keep the units staffed with well trained and interested officers. I believe I have heard some suggestions that specialized investigations would be contracted out. To my mind, this would result in the worst of both worlds, providing the city with neither control nor priority in whatever agency takes the contract.
I think it would be better if City Council worked with the RCMP to address the problems it feels exist, rather than set up a new force.
Thank you.
Todd Follett

From: Graeme Price
Sent: Sunday, 28 February 2016 11:05
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: A further suggestion

Regarding replacing the RCMP in Richmond I would ask the Council to also consider working with Delta to form a joint Richmond/Delta police force. I suggest this because Delta already has the infrastructure in place, and we are so close that as events occur manpower can be diverted.

I support terminating the RCMP contract.

Graeme Price

From: Jerome Dickey
Sent: Monday, 29 February 2016 18:03
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: Richmond Police Services Review

Please add my comments below as input to the City of Richmond Police Services Review.

Thanks,
Jerome Dickey

I've been weighing all sides of the debate recently regarding the future of policing in Richmond. I like to understand the various views and different interests involved by reading the Richmond News articles and opinion pieces before commenting as an informed resident who cares about our city.

"Is there really a policing problem in Richmond?", the writer states. Obviously we could debate forever whether there is a problem but the real question is, are the best interests of Richmond residents served by our current policing model? This has to be weighed by a number of criteria, including financial costs, measures of crime management and reduction along with other cost-benefit metrics. Overall, it appears Richmond is charged an average and some would say reasonable cost for the service provided. The Richmond RCMP, by the statistics provided, appears to do a fairly good job of keeping the peace. So the question may not be so much one of a "problem" but rather improving policing for the future as our city continues to expand rapidly.

I appreciate current City Council taking a proactive approach to look into the future of what Richmond needs and when we do so, other factors, some of which are not so easy to quantify but just as important become essential for consideration. One factor is the average age or length of service for officers and how this relates to level of experience and impact on policing provided. I believe the average length of service is quite low and my own antidotal observations would support that. I've heard Richmond is regarded as a great training place for new officers. Great for the RCMP, not so great for the long-term needs of any community where experience within the community is very important to understanding the dynamics, history and cultural aspects of a complex and growing city like Richmond is.

Secondly, Council has identified input to decisions and control over the local force as concerns. Is this a problem? I would suggest yes and no. Yes, clearly Richmond does have some input to RCMP decisions but no, they don't appear to have meaningful control over a variety of governance issues. How many officers get taken off for special temporary assignment, when, for how long and who goes are driven by federal priorities, not the needs of Richmond.

Finally, if having a local police force is such a bad option, why have Delta, Vancouver, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Abbotsford and many other municipalities with their own local police forces not gone back to policing by the RCMP? It's easier to build trust and strong, collaborative relationships with officers who are part of the longer-term fabric of our community than simply considering these officers as numbers who can be transferred in and out at any time based on the changing needs of Ottawa.

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As my father, a long time RCMP Officer once told me, the RCMP was always intended to be a federal police force, much like the FBI in the United States, and was never intended to do urban policing. As urban communities grow, a local force is important to developing deep connections within the community, which is essential for effective local policing. Sage advice from someone who spent 24 years serving with the RCMP in numerous roles. By moving to a local police force, the RCMP would still have an important role to play with regard to many federal policing matters in Richmond but day to day policing which involves regular interaction and contact with residents, businesses and the community at large would remain with the local force and result in deeper ties within our community, helping Richmond unify as not just as a city but as a community.

So, "is there really a policing problem in Richmond?" Ah, if only everything could be put into such a simplistic question. The City is engaging with residents for feedback and a decision will need to be made. It takes courage to make difficult decisions like this that will benefit Richmond long into the future. I hope our City Councillors will consider not just the data or facts but qualitative aspects as well before moving Richmond into the future and not getting stuck in the past.

From: PolicingConsult
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2016 11:05
To: PolicingConsult
Subject: FW: City of Richmond BC - General Comments, Compliments and Questions - Case [0216-CS-COMMENT-007569] Received

A general comment, compliment, or question has been submitted through the City of Richmond online Feedback Form. Below is the information which was provided by the person submitting the feedback.

General Comments, Compliments and Questions

Category: Comment

Comment/Compliment/Question:

It has come to my attention that the City of Richmond is considering the formation of a private police force (ie Richmond City Police or some such) and opting out of having our police services supplied by the RCMP. I would just like to say that I am opposed entirely to this idea, and would strongly recommend long and careful consideration of the possible multiple downsides to this move. Please, please, please do a LOT of well-publicized community consultation before undertaking a serious and potentially disastrous change of this nature.

Personal Information:

Sandra Jensen

Richmond BC

Tech Information:

Submitted By: 199.175.130.61

Submitted On: Feb 27, 2016 12:47 PM

APPENDIX D

Open House Summaries

OPEN HOUSE #1

Strategic Summary Memo:

Police Services in Richmond – City of Richmond Open House #1

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
South Arm Community Centre
5-8pm

Attendees

Staff in Attendance

Phyllis Carlyle
Ted Townsend
Mark Corrado
Douglas Liu
Linda Ching

Consultants in Attendance

Jackie Asante, FleishmanHillard
Curranne Labercane, Brook Pooni Associates

Summary of Open House #1

A total of 45 people attended Open House #1. Approximately 75% of the attendees were older adults. The overall sentiment was positive/neutral. Many people came for further information. Two retired RCMP officers attended the Open House and shared their feedback. In addition, two retired local police force officers shared their input with Ted Townsend for half an hour. Global BC and Sing Tao both attended the Open House and captured a variety of comments by attendees.

In addition, three staff members from the South Arm Community Centre attended the Open House, as well as approximately 17 people who were participating in events at the Community Centre (e.g. fitness classes, running club).

The most common themes identified within the verbal comments at Open House #1 were:

- Costs to the Richmond taxpayer;
- Concerns over materials presented (e.g. preference for more information and change in way information is presented); and
- Opportunity for municipal police force/autonomy for Richmond.

What We Heard

Costs Concerns

- *The cost isn't an issue.*
- *What are the costs?*

Materials Presented

- *I'm disappointed in the display boards and materials – they give the wrong impression of the RCMP – that something is wrong the RCMP itself.*
- *I have real concerns about the information in the materials. There is no mention of the issue of self-selection and a stable local police force. Officers prefer to choose where they want to work, and with a municipal police force, officers can spend their entire service in their chosen municipality. RCMP officers often transfer to other municipalities after a few years after training.*

Opportunity for a Municipal Police Force/Autonomy

- *I am in favour of a municipal police force. I think it's good to have more autonomy over our own police force and economic resources.*
- *We are overdue for our own municipal police force.*

Other

- *Are other municipalities looking into a municipal police force?*
- *A municipal police force won't solve our problems – look at the problems local police forces are having in Ontario.*
- *How efficient are the RCMP?*

OPEN HOUSE #2

Strategic Summary Memo:

Police Services in Richmond – City of Richmond Open House #2

Thursday, February 18, 2016
East Richmond Community Hall
5-8pm

Attendees

Staff in Attendance

Phyllis Carlyle
Mark Corrado
Douglas Liu
Linda Ching
Andrea Lee

Consultants in Attendance

Anna Lilly, FleishmanHillard
Curranne Labercane, Brook Pooni Associates

Summary of Open House #2

A total of 15 people attended Open House #2. Approximately 50% of the attendees were older adults. The overall sentiment was positive/neutral. One person arrived at approximately 4:30pm with questions/concerns about the materials. A concerned couple spent a significant amount of time speaking to Mark Corrado, as their child is undergoing RCMP training.

In addition, four people from a Bible study group that took place in the neighbouring room dropped in after their class to learn more. Another attendee took away 5-10 booklets and surveys, as the attendee works with various community groups and plans to share information about Richmond's police services engagement.

The most common themes identified within the verbal comments at Open House #2 were:

- Costs to the Richmond taxpayer;
- Outreach (e.g. would have preferred more notice of event and an event in the Hamilton area);
- Retention of officers; and
- Idea of combining municipal police forces in the future.

What We Heard

Costs Concerns

- *I'm concerned about my property tax.*
- *What will happen to the RCMP headquarters and associated costs, if Richmond has its own force?*
- *Are contracted resources, such as access to specialized RCMP Integrated Teams, included in the annual operating budget shown in the display boards?*

Outreach

- *This Open House was not adequately advertised.*
- *I would like to see an Open House in the Hamilton area.*
- *I'm glad that you're going out to the public with this.*

Retention of Officers

- *I have concerns about retention. Will training costs be born by the municipality – what if the recruit leaves the municipality during or shortly after training?*
- *Local police forces have trouble retaining officers.*

Combining Local Police Forces as an Option

- *Would Richmond join up with another municipal police force?*
- *Would a Richmond municipal police force link with Delta or Vancouver in the future?*

Comparison to other Municipalities

- *Have there been any municipalities that have recently moved over to a municipal force?*

Materials Presented

- *The boards show annual operating costs for a municipal police force of \$2.2 million to \$3.9 million above the RCMP's annual operating costs - this is too low. The boards need more details.*

Decision-making (e.g. preference for this decision to become referendum)

- *Council alone shouldn't make this decision. I would like to see this issue be decided via a referendum.*

OPEN HOUSE #3

Strategic Summary Memo:

Police Services in Richmond – City of Richmond Open House #3

Saturday, February 20, 2016
Thompson Community Centre
10am-1pm

Attendees

Staff in Attendance

Phyllis Carlyle
Ted Townsend
Mark Corrado
Douglas Liu
Linda Ching

Consultants in Attendance

Katie Robb, FleishmanHillard
Curran Labercane, Brook Pooni Associates

Summary of Open House #3

Approximately 50 people attended Open House #3. Of the 50 attendees, approximately 75% were 55+ in age. The overall sentiment was positive/neutral. Both Global BC and Ming Pao covered the Open House.

Three people enquired about whether there was going to be a presentation at the Open House, and one person took extra booklets home for his neighbour.

The most common themes identified within the comments were:

- Crime Prevention/Reaction;
- Costs to the Richmond Taxpayer;
- Autonomy; and
- Survey Concerns.

What We Heard

Crime Prevention/Reaction

- *What about terrorist crime? It seems like this would be beyond the scope of a municipal police force.*
- *Will moving to an independent police force have an impact on break and enter crime?*
- *What happens if a terrorist event happens on the Skytrain or at the airport? Crime doesn't operate within local borders.*
- *The RCMP is better at pinpointing the usual suspects.*
- *The RCMP has the fastest response times.*

Cost Concerns

- *What are the costs? How do the two types of policing compare financially?*
- *The big thing for me is costs.*
- *Taxes are ridiculous and this is going to increase them further!*

Autonomy

- *It's time we had our own police force.*
- *We need a municipal police force – we have big city crime. Other cities fight tooth and nail to keep their municipal forces.*
- *The province doesn't want a regional force, so our only choice is a municipal force.*

Survey Concerns

- *Why is the survey so biased?*
- *Why does the survey guide favour municipal police force?*

Other

- *This [Open House set up] wasn't what I was expecting.*
- *The way the RCMP treats women is abhorrent – why do taxpayers want to pay for that?*

GP - 79

OPEN HOUSE #4

Strategic Summary Memo:

Police Services in Richmond – City of Richmond Open House #4

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Steveston Community Centre
5-8pm

Attendees

Staff in Attendance

Phyllis Carlyle
Ted Townsend
Mark Corrado
Douglas Liu
Linda Ching
Kim Decker

Consultants in Attendance

Katie Robb, FleishmanHillard
Curranne Labercane, Brook Pooni Associates

Summary of Open House #4

Approximately 58 people attended Open House #4. Of the 58 attendees, approximately 65% were 55+ in age. The overall sentiment was positive/neutral.

Several attendees came after their activities at the Community Centre. One person took home extra booklets for friends and neighbours. Two RCMP officers spent a significant amount of time with Mark Corrado and the surrounding attendees discussing how a transition would be carried out (e.g. pensions; makeup of a new municipal police force) and the positives and negatives of each policing model.

The most common themes identified within the comments were:

- Transition Concerns;
- Costs to the Richmond Taxpayer;
- Decision-making (e.g. how and when will decision be made?);
- Municipal Police Force vs. RCMP;
- Outreach (e.g. reasoning for this process); and
- Materials Presented (e.g. accuracy; one-sided).

What We Heard

Transition

- *How would the transition work? Would it be gradual?*
- *When would we give notification to the RCMP?*
- *What would happen to Richmond's RCMP officers if we switch to a municipal force?*
- *If a municipal police force is decided upon, would you be willing to hire Richmond RCMP officers?*
- *What about the pensions for those RCMP officers who would consider switching to a municipal police force?*
- *Realistically, the only RCMP officers who would transfer to a municipal police force would be junior members of the RCMP, as senior officers won't want to give up their pensions.*
- *What would be the makeup of a municipal police force (veterans vs. new recruits)? Would some officers come from the RCMP?*
- *Would the airport be policed by our municipal police force if we made this switch?*
- *Are members of the municipal police board appointed?*
- *Would the Province appoint the police chief and board? Would the board come from Richmond?*

Costs

- I'm concerned about the costs.
- How much would it cost to have a municipal police force? How did you come up with these numbers?
- Will it cost more or less with a municipal police force?
- There are a lot of hidden costs with a municipal police force.
- Has there been any definitive answer about where the money is coming from to transfer to a municipal police force?
- I don't want to pay more money.
- Our concern as taxpayers is that if we pay more with the same results, then we are going backward.
- I don't really care about the costs. I want to know that there are enough people on the street to keep me safe at night.

Decision-making

- When will the decision be made?
- Will there be a referendum on this issue?
- How will this be decided?
- How will we know if the final decision will be based on public input?
- Why don't we have a vote on this issue?
- Is everyone on Council in favour of this?
- Is there a public hearing on this?
- How many survey participants will you need before Council makes a decision?

Municipal Police Force vs. RCMP

- We're a big enough city; we need a municipal police force.
- I'm in favour of the RCMP.
- I want the RCMP to stay.
- We've had great service with the RCMP.
- The RCMP has more options in terms of career advancement.
- I disagree that RCMP officers don't know the community – after 2 months on the job, they know the community better than anyone.
- How does the ability of a municipal police force compare to the RCMP in addressing local needs?

Outreach

- What's impetus for this outreach process?
- What triggered this process?
- Do we really have a problem that needs fixing?
- What problem are we trying to solve?
- I would like to see RCMP involvement in this process.
- There are no French forms.

Materials Presented

- The costs reflected in the materials don't seem accurate.
- The materials seem to be slanted in favour of a municipal police force and I don't appreciate it.

Other

- Will the results of the survey be made public?
- There are pros and cons on both sides.
- I'm glad I came.

OPEN HOUSE #5

Strategic Summary Memo:

Police Services in Richmond – City of Richmond Open House #5

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Richmond City Hall
5-8pm

Attendees

Staff in Attendance

Phyllis Carlyle
Ted Townsend
Mark Corrado
Douglas Liu
Linda Ching

Consultants in Attendance

Anna Lilly, FleishmanHillard
Curranne Labercane, Brook Pooni Associates

Summary of Open House #5

The overall sentiment of Open House #5 was positive/neutral. Approximately 50 people attended, and about 75% were 55+ in age.

Sing Tao attended the Open House, as well as two people who had attended previous Open Houses - one came for more information, while the other had technical problems filling out the survey online. In addition, eight people from a tai chi group participated in the survey after their exercise.

The most common themes identified within the comments were:

- Costs to the Richmond Taxpayer;
- Municipal Police Force vs. RCMP;
- Decision-making (e.g. how and when will this decision be made?);
- Outreach (e.g. reasoning for this process);
- Transition Concerns;
- Materials Presented (e.g. accuracy; one-sided); and
- Survey Concerns.

What We Heard

Costs

- *Are property taxes going to go up? If yes, why would we want it?*
- *Will the city release a per-household cost before making a decision?*
- *\$20m start-up costs and \$4M [over the RCMP annual budget] annually? Is that what I want?*
- *If we're 4 years into a 20 year contract, would there be a penalty for cancellation?*
- *What about cost control?*
- *Why waste the \$20 million on transition costs when we can put this toward building a hospital?*
- *Have contracted services been accounted for in costs? [3 questions on this topic]*
- *This is something that we may be able to do after we build a hospital.*
- *Do we have cost comparisons to other municipalities in terms of policing?*
- *I'm confused about priority-setting and how that works today. How are resources currently applied?*

Municipal Police Force vs. RCMP

- *How does the length of training compare for a municipal police force versus the RCMP?*
- *I think we should have our own municipal police force.*
- *I like the idea of a national police force.*
- *I would prefer our own municipal police force.*
- *What is the advantage of a municipal force?*
- *I believe that a municipal police board would be political in nature and make decisions based on political views.*
- *A municipal police force would have a lot of local knowledge.*
- *I don't want my police force controlled by local politicians.*
- *I don't want a police board that is politically influenced by the mayor.*

Decision-making

- *Will the decision be made by council or a referendum? What is the mayor's position on this?*
- *It seems like City Hall has already made its decision.*
- *City council or the mayor is pushing this – there is an agenda here.*
- *When will the result be announced?*
- *I hope there's a referendum on this decision.*
- *What percentage of the population needs to participate, in order to make a decision on this matter?*

Outreach

- *Why is Council initiating this process?*
- *What is the impetus for this? Is it Council-driven?*
- *I don't understand why we are going through this process - the RCMP are doing a good job.*

- *Why is this even coming up if people aren't dissatisfied?*
- *What are the reasons why we are looking into a municipal force? Have we had any issues with the RCMP detachment?*

Transition

- *How long would it take to make a switch to a municipal police force?*
- *What about policing at the airport, after a transition?*

Materials Presented

- *The one thing I don't like about the questionnaire is that name is optional – you could easily stack this!*
- *The display boards seem biased. There must be some positives in having the RCMP.*

Survey Concerns

- *How accurate will the survey be if you are welcoming input from stakeholders, such as 'post-secondary' students (as per LetsTalkRichmond.ca), who aren't Richmond taxpayers?*

Other

- *I'm hearing stuff on the news about this, and I'm concerned.*
- *There's a lot of information in the materials about values – how do you define these? What are these values? I would like to know what the Mayor and Councils' values are, if they are the ones providing direction on the police force. Can't we dialogue with the RCMP on these issues?*
- *By bringing this up aren't you increasing turnover in the RCMP (e.g. deteriorating morale and problems retaining staff during a transition)?*

APPENDIX E

Media Coverage and Social Media Commentary

Community policing is a local matter

Richmond News
Wed Mar 9 2016

Page: A9
Section: Letters
Byline: Andy Hobbs
Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, Re: "Mayor missing out **policing** facts," Letters, Feb. 26.

While the city and the mayor have been painstakingly fair, it's ironic that the writer himself is both selective and inaccurate.

Richmond does, in fact, pay for **RCMP** recruit training at Depot (Regina) on a cost recovery basis. This is part of the contract and the federal government and the **RCMP** do not provide the training for free.

Having been in charge of the VPD's Recruiting Unit, the claim of additional expenses for national advertising and training is inaccurate. The overwhelming majority of recruits are from the Metro Vancouver area. The process is extremely competitive and approximately six to eight per cent of applicants are hired.

Local police departments, like local fire departments, receive more than enough qualified local applicants.

Every month of the year, members are transferred to and from the **Richmond** Detachment. This occurs for many reasons, such as promotion or a member moving to a new assignment or another province.

When constables are replaced, most of them are recruits from Depot (Regina)

while some come from other assignments in B.C. or elsewhere. These transfers occur monthly, quarterly, year after year.

In a local independent police department, this does not happen any more than it does with the fire department. The relationships and experience acquired in a member's career, remain in **Richmond**.

The notion that the **RCMP**'s current lower pay is somehow a good thing is not. The Federal Treasury Board has arbitrarily held back **RCMP** officers salaries and that will, quite rightly, change at some point to catch them up.

When that occurs, **Richmond** will have absolutely no input, but will pay its share of the costs.

It's incorrect to say all cars would have two police officers, since municipal departments like the VPD have both one officer and two officer cars.

The deployment of police officers is based on thorough analysis of calls for service and results in roughly 60 per cent two officer cars and 40 per cent one officer cars, with more police officers working at 1 a.m. than at 9 a.m. Most people can appreciate that many incidents (robberies, sexual assaults, fights, homicides, noisy parties

etc...) require more than one police officer and police are busier at 1 a.m. than 8 a.m. The current **Richmond policing** budget, \$41.5 million is sufficient for a department of 200 members and the transition cost, spread over three years, is affordable. As for a Police Board with the Mayor as chair, this model is used in cities throughout Canada.

Community **policing** is a local matter and the mayor and council are much closer to **Richmond** than Ottawa.

So, yes, Mayor Brodie is more than qualified to be chair of a **Richmond** Police Board.

Andy Hobbs Retired VPD member

Length: 458 words

Tone: Negative

Reach: 46966

Regional police is the way to go

Richmond News
Wed Mar 9 2016

Page: A8
Section: Letters
Byline: Ken McLennan
Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, Re: "Mayor missing out **policing** facts," Letters, Feb. 26.

The future of **Richmond's policing** policy remains unresolved. Three compelling considerations include - accountability, effectiveness and cost.

Currently, accountability remains in the hands of Ottawa based officials and fails to meet the necessity of local accountability (suspensions with pay, training, transfers, E Division Headquarters costs, etc.).

Effective performance results can be compromised (investigations, prosecutions) by poor retention rates, transfers, force morale, unresolved abuse/harassment allegations (**RCMP**) related to distant human resource management, training and ineffective accountability.

Why are the **RCMP** incapable of investigating their own members

effectively? In terms of cost, why have a separate police chief and associated support management staff in each regional municipality?

Why not have a borderless regional police force serving the entire region incorporating the existing TransLink **policing** function?

What is the annual cost of police witness attendance for duplicate court proceedings (necessitated by multiple jurisdictions) resulting from the existing multi border jurisdictions?

Surely, the loss of useful police patrol availability due to court obligations requires more officers (more taxation) or reduced public services.

The current choices provided for **Richmond policing** fall short of the medium and long term solution.

May I suggest the first choice - transition to a regional police force.

Second choice - amalgamation with one or more bordering police forces (Delta, New Westminster and Vancouver). Third choice - continued **RCMP** reliance.

And a distant fourth choice - a new **Richmond** police force (more expensive and future structure uncertainty).

Many examples of single police forces serving much larger cities and areas (Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto) exist.

They incorporate homicide, drug, gang investigations, etc. within those forces without the existing cumbersome multijurisdictional complexities of the GVRD.

The choice for **Richmond** - a new regional force or a transition toward that goal by joining

forces with one or more bordering municipalities with the ultimate goal (regional force) in the future with minimal reorganization costs as more communities join.

The region needs and requires decisive and rational leadership in defining and serving regional needs beyond municipal bounds.

Good luck all.

Ken McLennan **Richmond**

Length: 347 words

Tone: Negative

Reach: 46966

Burnaby won't move away from RCMP

Burnaby Now
Fri Mar 4 2016

Page: A5
Section: City
Byline: Jeremy Deutsch
Source: Burnaby Now

Every once in a while, the topic rears its head on whether cities like Burnaby should consider dumping the **RCMP** and move to a municipal police force.

But as **Richmond** takes a serious look at the issue, it doesn't appear the Burnaby Mounties will be riding off into the sunset anytime soon.

Mayor Derek Corrigan said the city is interested in the results from **Richmond**, but there are no plans to follow suit and consider a change in **policing**.

He said if the city was not getting the service it wanted from the **RCMP**, the municipality would look at an alternative, but instead he praised the local force for providing excellent service to Burnaby.

The mayor said the city had briefly looked at a change a few years back but found transition costs were too expensive.

"It's significantly more expensive to go through the transition, and that's what I think makes everybody very hesitant about moving over to that model," he told the NOW, noting the annual cost for a **municipal force** would only be about 10 per cent more than using

RCMP. Corrigan said he's not convinced the transition costs have changed much in recent years to make the switch desirable.

Earlier this month, the City of **Richmond** underwent consultation with residents pertaining to keeping the **RCMP** or establishing a new municipal police force.

The **Richmond** News reported the city's mayor, Malcolm Brodie, had stated residents would have to contrast paying more money for a **municipal force** with having a local detachment where decisions are being made in Ottawa and "very often there's no consultation, no discussion, or even any considerations at a local level."

Corrigan seemed to agree, suggesting the problems with **RCMP** arise with decisions in Ottawa, adding local decisions in the detachment are always of high quality.

Under the current **RCMP** contract signed in 2012, the city covers 90 per cent of police costs, with Ottawa picking up the other 10 per cent.

The city's 2016 budget has **policing** costs pegged at \$44.7 million.

The NOW reached out to a few councillors to get their opinion about the **RCMP** and the **municipal force**.

Coun. Nick Volkow said he agreed with **Richmond**'s mayor about the relationship between the municipalities and Ottawa, adding he believes Burnaby would be better off with a **municipal force**.

"The reality is all the decisions are taken in Ottawa, and very few of any consequence are taken here locally, so that's the issue," he said, adding that he has nothing but respect for the frontline **RCMP**.

Coun. Sav Dhaliwal said he is be interested to see what **Richmond** comes up with but doesn't feel a pressing need to change forces.

"I personally don't see any reasons for us to be pursuing that," he said. "We have a very good police force that works with us on issues."

While Dhaliwal noted the costs for **policing** have gone up in Burnaby, he suggested that's also been the case for cities with municipal police forces.

Length: 493 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 47812

Stay with RCMP: Chamber

Richmond News

Wed Mar 2 2016

Page: A7

Section: News

Source: Richmond News

Local businesses are largely opposed to a shift to a municipal police force, according to the **Richmond** Chamber of Commerce.

"A common refrain was confusion regarding the impetus to change to an independent municipal service. Because most members did not perceive any major problems with the **RCMP**," noted a chamber news release.

The chamber surveyed its members and 79 per cent of respondents (no total number was given) indicated they were satisfied with the **Richmond RCMP**.

"Ultimately when members were asked what they felt the best path forward for **Richmond** was, a clear majority favoured staying with the **RCMP** or investing the additional operating costs associated with a **municipal force** into improvements provided by the **RCMP**," noted the chamber.

The City of **Richmond** recently concluded a survey to assess public opinion on shifting from the **RCMP** to a **municipal force**. Onetime costs are estimated at close to \$20 million and average annual operating costs are in the range of \$3 million more for a **municipal force**. The benefits of a local force are said to be better local control as the city's mayor would chair the police board.

Length: 186 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 46966

Building bridge to city hall

Richmond News

Wed Mar 2 2016

Page: A1 / Front

Section: News

Byline: Alan Campbell

Source: Richmond News

Would officers in a new, **Richmond** police force speak Chinese? More Chinese-speaking seniors in **Richmond** should make a bigger effort to speak English.

And more English language teachers are needed in the city for Chinese seniors to learn one of Canada's official tongues more efficiently.

These questions and concerns were just some of the issues raised Friday by the Chinese community during a 90-minute long meeting on community safety hosted by businessman Peter Liu at a restaurant in Golden Village.

Just under 100 people - all but three, including guest speaker Coun. Bill McNulty, were of Chinese ethnicity and most were in their senior years - turned out at the China

House Seafood Restaurant on Capstan Way.

Liu organized the question and answer event, the first in a series, to bridge the language barrier between the Chinese community and city council, saying there are simply too many people in the community who don't speak English and are not able to express their concerns to city hall.

"It was a very promising start, although it did take time to warm up," said Liu of the event, where attendees were treated to free dim sum, courtesy of the China House sponsors.

"I'm actually organizing the next (meeting) right now. I'm hoping to get another councillor, MLA or an MP. The subject is likely still to be community safety, as it's a hot topic."

McNulty, who had the help of Liu translating on the day, said the event was "outstanding."

"There were some very good issues; it was way better than anticipated," he said.

"People's concerns were expressed and I was impressed by the depth of the questions."

Moments before the event kicked off, McNulty told the **Richmond** News how it's important "We come to their 'home;' this is where they eat every day, Chinese people rarely eat at home," in reference to holding the meeting in a Chinese restaurant.

As Chinese copies of the City of **Richmond**'s police survey, handed out by Liu, circulated the room, the **Richmond** News' Facebook posting of an earlier story about the meeting was shown on the restaurant's large TV screens.

Pointing to the screens and highlighting public comments on the Facebook page, Liu talked about the reaction to the story from the English-speaking community in **Richmond**.

In particular, he drew attention to one comment saying, "If you don't like it, go back to your own country" and "We are too nice in Canada."

He told the crowd how the official languages of Canada are English and French and how he encouraged his children to learn those languages.

"I would urge everyone in this community to learn English. **Richmond** is not a place for hatred," Liu added.

When asked Monday why he chose to highlight the more negative comments on the News' Facebook page, Liu said the comments were "not reflective of what we are trying to do."

"This is not a language issue; it's a communication issue. Even if you speak English, it's not easy to contact your councillor."

When the time came for questions for McNulty, people seemed reluctant to go first, while some appeared more concerned with tucking into the sponsor's veritable feast than the proceedings.

Henry Yao, who ran unsuccessfully for city council in 2014, asked in Chinese and in English why the city was even considering an independent police force.

"Over the years, we've not been happy with the **RCMP** - they do a good job - but they are accountable to Ottawa, 4,000 miles away," answered McNulty.

A man calling himself Frank, who moved

from China 10 years ago, expressed in his own language how there are "more and more break-ins in **Richmond**."

"I've asked police to increase patrols in certain areas," replied McNulty.

In actual fact, according to the **RCMP**, break-ins were down across the city in 2015.

McNulty then urged people to join Block Watch and to call the **RCMP** immediately if they feel something suspicious is happening.

Yao also asked if police officers in an **independent force** would speak Chinese? "Absolutely," said McNulty, "we would need officers that reflect our community; be they Mandarin, Punjabi or Filipino."

"Our city is growing and more than 65 per cent speak Cantonese or Mandarin."

One man - who introduced himself as a good friend of McNulty, while speaking in Chinese - urged all citizens in **Richmond** to study English.

He told of a neighbour who, after a misunderstanding, ended up getting handcuffed by police, because he didn't speak English.

"Officers need to be trained to deal with multi-cultural issues, but people should make an effort to speak English," McNulty said in reply.

"People have come to Canada and they need to embrace the country and the language. It's a two-way street; when I go to

China, I try to speak Chinese."

Another man told how many Chinese seniors don't speak English and how the community needs more help from volunteers or the City of **Richmond** to help the seniors.

"There is a limit to what we can do and we're also limited by the number of (Chinesespeaking)

people that want to work for the city," said McNulty.

One of the three Caucasian people in attendance was community activist Kerry Starchuk, who has campaigned for years for a certain percentage of English to become mandatory on signs across **Richmond**.

"This is a good start," said Starchuk, when asked about the meeting.

"But where are the East Indians, the South Koreans? This, essentially, is a Chinese event."

Liu said before last week's meeting how it's incumbent upon city council and officials to communicate in a language the growing Chinese-speaking community understands.

However, Starchuk questioned who, in actual fact, is responsible for such an imbalance.

"It's not the new immigrants, it's the leadership (in government)," she said.

Starchuk did, however, think the event was positive, but would like to see more ethnicities represented at the next meeting. "How do we get these people speaking English? If you're motivated and make time, it can happen," she added.

Length: 997 words

Tone: Positive

Reach: 46966

Illustration: Photo By Alan Campbell / Businessman Peter Liu, far left, hosted a lunch Feb. 26, featuring city councillor Bill McNulty, centre, in a bid to help Chinese-speaking residents become more engaged in civic politics. McNulty and Liu both ran in the last civic election under the **Richmond** First banner - McNulty for city council, Liu for board of education.; Photo by Alan Campbell / The mainly Chinese audience raised questions about public safety and some spoke to the need to learn English.;

Mayor missing out **policing** facts

Richmond News

Fri Feb 26 2016

Page: A4

Section: Letters

Byline: Roger Phillippe

Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, This is what Mayor Malcolm Brodie is not telling the residents of **Richmond** about a municipal police force: Staffing and training of new **RCMP** members is paid for by the federal government and when they arrive in **Richmond** they are boots on the ground ready to go.

Not all presently stationed **RCMP** members will convert to a municipal police so these positions will have to be advertised nationally, meaning more cost.

Municipal police staffing and training will be paid by **Richmond** taxpayers.

The concern about longevity of **RCMP** members stationed in **Richmond** has been raised.

Recent statistics supplied by the **RCMP** advise that 39 per cent have been stationed in **Richmond** under five years; 46 per cent have five to 10 years; 11 per cent are at 10-15 years and 4 per cent of members have 15-20 years.

Richmond will lose its 10 per cent **policing** discount from the federal government if they implement a municipal police.

New municipal police forces will be unionized and tied to Vancouver City Police pay scale, which is one of the highest in Canada.

Approval for a municipal police must be authorized by the Province of British Columbia, which has said they would rather create one Lower Mainland police force instead of having many separate police forces.

Municipal police have two-man cars.

The **RCMP** has one man per car, so will we have to double the number of police in **Richmond**?

Richmond city council has already admitted that it will cost the taxpayers of **Richmond** more for a municipal police force.

All of this is to what avail and at whose expense? The **Richmond** tax payer?

Do you feel the mayor would be a suitable choice to head the police board?

Complete the online survey at **Richmond.ca** by scrolling to "**Police Services** Review."

Complete this survey before Feb. 29.

Roger Phillippe

Richmond

Length: 304 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 46966

Open houses start on police services

Richmond News
Wed Feb 17 2016

Page: A4
Section: News
Source: Richmond News

The first of five open houses on a **police services** review is set to take place Wednesday (Feb.17) at South Arm Community Centre, from 5-8 p.m. The open houses are a chance for the public to review a council report that outlines the pros and cons of establishing a municipal police force.

Among the basic highlights is the fact a changeover is expected to cost in the range of \$20 million and annual operations would be about \$3 million extra. On the flip side, Mayor Malcolm Brodie has noted the city would have more control of **police services** without the **RCMP** making decisions from Ottawa headquarters.

Any **Richmond** resident can also go online to LetsTalkRichmond.ca to read the documents and input his/her comment. One may also email PolicingConsult@**Richmond**.ca or call 604-276-4000.

All submissions must be made by Feb. 29 for **Richmond** city council to consider them.

Open Houses, 5-8 p.m.: Feb.17 - South Arm Community Centre. Feb.18 - East **Richmond** Community Hall. Feb.20 - Thompson Community Centre (Note: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

. Feb.23 - Steveston Community Centre. Feb.24 - **Richmond** City Hall

Length: 188 words
Tone: Neutral
Reach: 46966



Richmond municipal police force talks held

24 Hours Vancouver
Tue Feb 16 2016

Page: A3
Section: News
Source: 24 Hours Vancouver

From Feb. 17 to Feb 24, the City of **Richmond** is hosting a series of community centre open houses on whether the city should split from RCMP and start its own **police** force. Visit letstalkrichmond.ca for more information.

Length: 37 words
Tone: Neutral

City police seems to be OK in other cities

Richmond News
Wed Feb 3 2016

Page: A8
Section: Letters
Byline: Jerome Dickey
Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, I've been weighing all sides of the debate recently regarding the future of **policing** in **Richmond**.

I like to understand the various views and different interests involved by reading the **Richmond** News' articles and opinion pieces before commenting as an informed resident who cares about our city.

"Is there really a **policing** problem in **Richmond**?" one writer states.

Obviously, we could debate forever whether there is a problem but the real question is, are the best interests of **Richmond** residents served by our current **policing** model?

This has to be weighed by a number of criteria, including financial costs, measures of crime management and reduction along with other cost-benefit metrics.

Overall, it appears **Richmond** is charged an average and some would say reasonable cost for the service provided.

The **Richmond RCMP**, by the statistics provided, appears to do a fairly good job of keeping the peace.

So the question may not be so much one of a "problem," but rather improving **policing** for the future as our city continues to expand rapidly.

I appreciate current city council taking a proactive approach to look into the future of what **Richmond** needs and when we do so, other factors, some of which are not so easy to quantify but just as important become essential for consideration.

One factor is the average age or length of service for officers and how this relates to level of experience and impact on **policing** provided.

I believe the average length of service is quite low and my own antidotal observations would support that.

I've heard **Richmond** is regarded as a great training place for new officers.

Great for the **RCMP**, not so great for the long-term needs of any community where experience within the community is very important to understanding the dynamics, history and cultural aspects of a complex and growing city like **Richmond** is.

Secondly, council has identified input to decisions and control over the local force as concerns. Is this a problem?

I would suggest yes and no.

Yes, clearly **Richmond** does have some input to **RCMP** decisions but no, they don't appear to have meaningful control over a variety of governance issues.

Finally, if having a local police force is such a bad option, why have Delta, Vancouver, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Abbotsford and many other municipalities with their own local police forces not gone back to **policing** by the **RCMP**?

It's easier to build trust and strong, collaborative relationships with officers who are part

of the longer-term fabric of our community than simply considering these officers as numbers who can be transferred in and out at any time based on the changing needs of Ottawa.

As my father, a long-time **RCMP** officer once told me, the **RCMP** was always intended to be a federal police force, much like the FBI in the United States, and was never intended to do urban **policing**. As urban communities grow, a local force is important to developing deep connections within the community, which is essential for effective local **policing**.

Sage advice from someone who spent 24 years serving with the **RCMP** in numerous roles.

By moving to a local police force, the **RCMP** would still have an important role to play with regard to many federal **policing** matters in **Richmond** but day-to-day **policing** which involves regular interaction and contact with residents, businesses and the community at large, would remain with the local force and result in deeper ties within our community, helping **Richmond** unify as not just as a city but as a community.

So, “is there really a **policing** problem in **Richmond**?” Ah, if only everything could be put into such a simplistic question.

The city is engaging with residents for feedback and a decision will need to be made.

It takes courage to make difficult decisions like this that will benefit **Richmond** long into the future.

I hope our city councillors will consider not just the data or facts but qualitative aspects as well before moving **Richmond** into the future and not getting stuck in the past.

Jerome Dickey **Richmond**

Length: 680 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 46966

Not willing to take police gamble

Richmond News

Wed Feb 3 2016

Page: A9

Section: Letters

Byline: Scott Stewart

Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, Re: "Why local **policing** is best for **Richmond**," column, Jan. 20.

I enjoyed reading Andy Hobbs' guest column. I was interested to know how something can cost more, but we will pay about the same for it.

I, too, have retired from a long career in law enforcement. I learned to seek out facts and evidence, so I was curious how Mr. Hobbs managed his math.

We know that a first class constable in a municipal police force makes \$92,165 per year and a **RCMP** first class constable makes \$82,108 per year. That is a difference of about \$10,000 per member; we have about 230 members in **Richmond**.

In addition, the federal government mails us a cheque for 10 per cent of the police budget every year. According to Mr. Hobbs' figures, that should be about \$4.15 million per year.

There are other costs; New Westminster pays about \$5,500 for every member it hires and that is just in attraction and testing, not training. Right now, the **RCMP** absorbs that cost in Ottawa; we do not see it in **Richmond**.

I could go on, but you get the point. Municipal cops cost a lot more, so how can we keep the price about the same as we pay for **RCMP**?

Part of the column speaks about greater local control. If we are paying more, we simply need to buy less to keep the costs about the same. This means a reduction of service.

To me, safety of the people in **Richmond** is number one; we enjoy a relatively low crime rate while not paying significantly more for protection. The system is working.

The folks in **Richmond** are having a hard enough time making ends meet with the existing increases in tax.

We cannot afford to take the chance that a municipal police force will cost us a great deal more.

Sorry, I am not willing to gamble with safety or family budgets.

Scott Stewart **Richmond**

Length: 319 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 46966

Local police a costly option for what gain?

Richmond News
Wed Jan 27 2016

Page: A9
Section: News
Byline: Rob Howard
Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, Re: "Why local **policing** is best for **Richmond**," Opinion, Jan. 20.

We all want a safe community. But is replacing the **RCMP** with a local police force the right option for our city?

At an estimated \$20 million to pay for start-up costs, and an additional \$2 to \$4 million per year in ongoing costs (dollar amounts provided by a city council report), creating a local police force is an extremely expensive proposition for taxpayers.

In his guest column, Mr. Hobbs appears to be recommending a solution to a problem which is not properly defined or clearly understood.

Is there really a **policing** problem in **Richmond**?

Is the city being underserved by the current model of **policing**?

Does either proposal (local police force or **RCMP**) make our city safer?

At a time when the economy is stagnant, is it wise to raise taxes and spend millions of additional taxpayers' dollars on replacing the **RCMP** in our community?

Richmond's crime rate is comparable or less than most surrounding communities, and our "cops per resident" ratio also compares very favourably.

Does city hall have some other reason for proposing an expensive switch? Extensive public education and discussion need to take place for the public to feel confident in any decision made. In my opinion, adopting a cooperative, joint working approach with the public, the city and the **RCMP** to better understand and address residents' concerns about safety and security needs to be undertaken before we consider making changes to our police force.

Everyone should feel safe where they work and live, everyone deserves peace of mind.

The question is, would the expenditure of millions of dollars, as proposed by Mr. Hobbs, significantly improve community safety in **Richmond**?

Rob Howard

Richmond

Length: 286 words
Tone: Positive
Reach: 46966

Police options posed

Richmond News
Wed Jan 27 2016

Page: A5
Section: News
Byline: Graeme Wood
Source: Richmond News

Richmond residents are being asked to fill out a public consultation survey to help guide **Richmond** city council in an upcoming decision that will shape the future of **police services**.

To obtain a discussion guide and a **police services** review report, residents can go online to LetsTalkRichmond.ca or pick up the material at **Richmond** City Hall.

Upon reading the materials - which weigh various issues pertaining to keeping the **Richmond RCMP** or establishing a new municipal police force - residents can then fill out the survey.

The survey assesses residents' **policing** priorities and asks whether the **RCMP** or a **municipal force** would be better for the needs of the community.

The discussion guide focuses on four key issues: decision-making authority, local needs and values, financial costs and service delivery and staff.

According to the discussion guide, many decisions about local priorities and costs are made outside of **Richmond**.

It also notes that the **Richmond RCMP** detachment has a high turnover rate compared to municipal detachments.

The survey addresses an estimated annual operating cost increase of \$3 million for a **municipal force**, as well as an estimated \$19.6 million one-time transition cost.

RCMP. Superintendent appointed by national headquarters. \$41.5 million per year. No added costs to keep **RCMP**. Officers recruited across Canada, high turnover. **RCMP** partners: Burnaby, Coquitlam, Surrey

Richmond Police. Chief appointed by local police board, chaired by mayor. \$44.5 million per year (estimate). \$19.6 million to install new force (estimate). Local recruitment of officers, less turnover (anticipated)

. **Municipal force** partners: Vancouver, Delta, New Westminster

Length: 252 words
Tone: Neutral
Reach: 46966

Why local policing is best for Richmond

Richmond News
Wed Jan 20 2016

Page: A8
Section: Letters
Byline: Andyhobbs
Source: Richmond News

Richmond is considering whether to end its contracted service with the **RCMP** and create its own municipal police department similar to Delta, Vancouver, New Westminster and other cities in British Columbia and Canada.

This should not be seen as a negative reflection of the **RCMP**, a nationally and internationally recognized icon of Canada, but rather as a natural progression for a growing Canadian city.

Richmond has changed a lot since 1950 when the **RCMP** began **policing** the farming/fishing community. The question now is, what model provides the most effective and accountable form of community **policing** in an increasingly diverse, growing urban city? **Policing** has also changed a lot over the years and urban **policing** is a specialized form of it.

Police departments are an integral part of a city's identity. One only has to think about the London Met, the LAPD or NYPD to see the emphasis on unique local issues and specialization.

The same is true in Canada, where larger cities with local police departments focus on issues unique to being urban centres. But it's not just major cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Calgary that have their own police departments.

So do cities much smaller than **Richmond**, such as Winkler and Brandon, Manitoba; Moose Jaw and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; Medicine Hat and Taber, Alta; and Nelson and Central Saanich, B.C. It's important that police departments reflect the local community priorities, including the vision, mission and core values.

A key area of effectiveness concerns the retention of experienced personnel and this is true for any business or organization. The **RCMP** has many talented members, but it also has a vast array of responsibilities throughout Canada and with international **policing** partners. In addition to contracted provincial and municipal (cities and towns) **policing**, it is responsible for demanding and

complex investigations including, but not limited to, commercial crime, firearms, maritime and border security, organized crime and terrorism, just to name a few.

While these responsibilities provide **RCMP** members with great career opportunities and valuable experience, they also result in a higher turnover of personnel than in municipal departments. Training and developing police officers is expensive and labour intensive. It eliminates the ongoing "training ground" scenario experienced in **Richmond**.

In terms of ongoing costs, it's been suggested

the annual operational police budget could increase by two or three per cent if **Richmond** opted for a local police department, but this is highly speculative. There is no evidence ongoing costs will have to increase. In fact, in 2014 **Richmond** spent 21 cents of every dollar on **policing**, whereas Vancouver spent 20 cents. On average, cities spend about 20 per cent of their respective annual operating budgets on **policing**,

regardless of whether they have a municipal department or an **RCMP** detachment. For example, per capita (the VPD is about 6.5 times larger), **Richmond's** reported **policing** budget (2015) of \$41.5 million was proportionately larger ($41.5 \times 6.5 = 269.75$ million not including civilian staff) than Vancouver's (\$257.5 million including civilian staff).

Admittedly, comparisons are difficult.

However, here is the take away: municipal police departments such as those in Delta, New Westminster and Abbotsford have to make their case to their city councils and no over-arching provincial contract can trump those decisions.

Accountability and transparency are enhanced with a police board, which, in effect, would be the police department's employer. The board would have real authority including: hiring and firing the chief constable; working with the chief in the selection of the police executive; actively developing and approving police policy; investigating service and policy

(systemic) complaints from the public; leading and approving the strategic plan; dealing with human resources issues; and reviewing, guiding and approving the budget submission to city council.

The board is chaired by the mayor with one city appointment and typically six other provincial government appointments. The provincial appointments are made in consultation with the city and would be qualified residents of **Richmond** with demonstrated track records. The board provides effective local accountability and civilian oversight. Police boards do not exist with the **RCMP** model.

Accountability, transparency and civilian oversight are also provided through the B.C. Police Act (BCPA) and the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC), which set out standards and provide an independent, disciplinary process regarding complaints. The BCPA and the OPCC do not apply to the **RCMP** since it's a national force and is covered by the **RCMP** Act.

Moreover, shifting schedules, deployment models and community initiatives can be tailored to meet **Richmond's** unique needs. For example, criminal activity and calls for service can be analyzed and shift models can be developed to, as closely as practicable, match the deployment (numbers of police working) to the times, days and areas where calls for service (crime) are predictably going to occur.

Richmond is a unique, vibrant major city. **Policing**, similar to other sectors such as teaching and nursing, is more specialized than it was 65 years ago.

Urban **policing** is a form of police specialization and a locally focused **Richmond** police department, that reflects local vision and values, is an affordable and effective **policing** model.

Andy Hobbs is a retired VPD member with 35 years of service, grew up in **Richmond**, is a local volunteer, and a former two-term school trustee

Length: 864 words

Tone: Negative

Reach: 46966



Richmond police department would offer city more control, says retired officer

CBC.CA News

Mon Jan 11 2016, 2:13pm ET

Section: British Columbia

Byline: CBC News

The **City of Richmond** is considering creating its own police force, separate from the **RCMP** ? and that could give it greater control over policing policy, according to one retired police officer.

The **RCMP** have policed Richmond since 1950, when the island was mostly a farming community. But the city has considered creating a municipal police force in recent years and experts are weighing in on the pros and cons of such a move.

"And now it's quite a dynamic city with probably about 208,00 people with a big downtown core and it's really a little metropolis," said Andy Hobbs, a longtime Richmond resident and retired Vancouver police officer.

"Looking at the policing option is quite natural."

Local accountability

Hobbs says the **RCMP** has been doing a good job in Richmond and a move away from them would not necessarily mean better police officers.

But having a municipal police force means city council would be able to tailor the direction of its police force to local needs, he notes.

"It's not really about the members of the entities. It's about things, for me, like accountability, [and] local influence on policy."

City council would have almost total control over the policing budget, says Hobbs.

"If they say we'd like you [the police] to hold 20 vacancies or we'd like you to hire 20 people or we'd like you to keep your car's five years longer, you're going to do that. Because they're the ones who cut the cheque and the buck stops at city hall."

Retaining officers in Richmond

Another big advantage to having a municipal police force is that officers tend to stay with force for their entire career, says Hobb.

In comparison, **RCMP** officers sometimes have to relocate to other cities due to the organization's provincial and federal obligations.

"In my career, everybody that retired from the Vancouver Police Department out of my class spent their entire career there."

He says it has worked well for Vancouver.

"So you get somebody who is selected, recruited, trained in Vancouver ... and you get to retain those people."

Richmond residents can submit their thoughts on a municipal police force here.

To listen to the full audio, click the link labelled: Should Richmond form its own police force?

Length: 370 words

Tone: Neutral

Stop the games, is there cash for cops?

Richmond News

Wed Jan 6 2016

Page: A9

Section: Letters

Byline: Scott Stewart

Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, I am confused; I understand that **Richmond** City Council is seeking to start their own police department. They conservatively estimated the start-up cost to be \$20 million.

I know that they would be giving up a 10 per cent subsidy of all **policing** costs from Ottawa.

I know that without that subsidy, and with the wage difference between a municipal first class constable and an **RCMP** first class constable, we will pay about \$17,000 more per year for each constable.

I know under the city's plan, **Richmond** would pay for things such as attraction and selection; presently, the federal government covers that cost.

Local police pay about \$5,500 per member successfully recruited. OK, so we know

it will be expensive, but council says we can afford it and need the protection. Yet, when the **RCMP** ask for funds to hire a few more members to give us better protection, council says the money is not there! Does the **RCMP** need to do more with less because we do not have the money or is council setting them up to look bad in the future? In any case, the people of **Richmond** deserve protection not games. If we have the money council claims we have, we should support the request of the **RCMP** and increase the strength of the detachment. I am sure council must have noticed the population in **Richmond** is growing which puts more pressure on all the emergency services.

Scott Stewart

Richmond

Length: 242 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 46966

Public asked to weigh in on municipal police debate

Richmond News
Thu Dec 24 2015

Page: A14
Section: News
Source: Richmond News

The **City of Richmond** is launching a public consultation period into whether or not it should set up its own police force.

Beginning Jan. 11, the consultation will continue until Feb. 29 and will, ultimately, ask residents their thoughts on whether they want to continue with the current service provided by the **RCMP** or establish an independent Richmond police department.

Under Richmond city council's direction, city staff have been conducting an ongoing review of police services.

But before any final decision is made, council is asking for the community to weigh in on the two options.

From Jan. 11, the public can access a Discussion Guide and other supporting information, as well as a feedback survey on letstalkrichmond.ca.

Printed versions of the discussion guide and survey will also be available for pick-up at city hall or can be mailed by request.

Public open houses and other consultative meetings will be held in January and February.

Watch for dates and other details about these meetings on the city website at richmond.ca and in the Richmond News.

The city will also be conducting public polling to gather additional information.

All feedback received as part of the public consultation will be reported to council to assist in its final decision, according to the city.

The News reported earlier this month how the **City of Richmond** estimated the transition alone to a municipal police force would cost close to of \$20 million.

The report was drafted following a request from city council, which, on the whole, has expressed concerns about local control and oversight of the Richmond **RCMP** detachment. In addition to the onetime transition costs, it is estimated that a municipal force will cost about seven per cent - or \$3 million - more to operate on an annual basis, meaning a 1.5 per cent increase to property taxes.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie said previously that residents would have to contrast paying more money for a municipal force with having a local detachment where decisions are being made in Ottawa and "very often there's no consultation, no discussion, or even any considerations at a local level." In 2012, the B.C. government renewed a 20-year contract with the federal government to allow the **RCMP** to continue to work in the province at a municipal level.

That contract can be terminated by Richmond with a two-year notice.

The annual budget for the Richmond **RCMP** contract is approximately \$41.5 million.

- With a file from Graeme Wood/Richmond News

Length: 407 words
Tone: Neutral



Independent police force talks

24 Hours Vancouver
Fri Dec 18 2015

Page: A5
Section: News
Source: 24 Hours Vancouver

Richmond City Hall will talk **Richmond** City Hall will host consultation from Jan. 11 to Feb. 29 on the topic of whether the city should stay with the **RCMP** or create its own police force. The community is asked to provide input at letstalkrichmond.ca, or in person at city hall.

Length: 49 words
Tone: Neutral

Property tax hike may top out at close to five per cent

Richmond News
Wed Dec 9 2015

Page: A6
Section: News
Byline: Graeme Wood
Source: Richmond News

The City of **Richmond**'s 2016 budget - one that proposes a property tax hike of up to 4.9 per cent - appeared to be light on details for councillors at a finance committee meeting Monday evening.

"We just need to know what the parameters are, moving forward," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie, regarding a proposed boost to the **RCMP** budget, just prior to the committee sending the budget report back to the finance department for further review.

The city tabled a \$104 million capital budget - the smallest in four years - as well as a \$232 million operating budget. City expenses are set to rise by three per cent as revenues remain stable.

While the base tax hike has been tentatively set at 2.2 per cent, the city proposes to add another one per cent to bolster its infrastructure reserves.

On top of the proposed 3.2 per cent tax hike, there is the outstanding issue of adding \$3.2 million to hire 17 new Mounties, which would represent a 1.7 per cent tax hike.

Doing so would bump up property taxes by a total of about five per cent.

Brodie said he wanted to consider the **police** option more, prior to making a decision on the entire budget.

Coun. Alexa Loo also wanted more information, but said the city needs to bite the bullet on **policing** costs.

"I think it makes sense to hear a little bit more on a few of these items," however, "with **policing**, we have seen a zillion reports. I think we know that this ask for 17 new officers is nothing new on the table. We can send it back for more information, send it sideways and upside down. We know we need more **police** officers. ...We're sitting here pussyfooting around," said Loo, who noted **Richmond** has a low per capita rate of officers compared to the rest of the country, while suggesting spending \$20 million to transition to a municipal force is not prudent.

At the end, council voted unanimously to send the budget report back to staff.

Loo also wanted to understand how staff scrutinized certain projects and presented recommendations. Coun. While Linda McPhail wanted more detailed breakdowns of community services, including the **police**. And Coun. Bill McNulty wanted to know more about why the city appeared to be saving money on job vacancies.

As it was the case last year, the finance department was forced to defend the additional one per cent tax hike for infrastructure reserves, particularly after Coun. Carol Day questioned the policy.

General Manager of Finances Andrew Nazareth said the Long Term Financial Management Strategy - adopted in 2003 after council was found to be emptying the reserves - has resulted in an uncommitted reserve balance of \$226 million.

And doing so has meant property tax hikes have been stabilized at around three per cent, noted Nazareth.

"We have to make sure we don't take the foot off the pedal now because all we need is one big turn and we wouldn't be able to react with a solid reserve," said Nazareth.

Since 2003, council has nixed the one per cent tax hike six times. Nazareth said, had it not, the city would be close to not requiring the LTFMS.

The city's annual budget increased by \$5.2 million; salaries accounted for 65 per cent of that increase, while additional **RCMP** costs (not including the proposed 17 new officers) accounted for 17 per cent.

Nazareth noted collective agreements, due in 2016, with CUPE 718 and CUPE 394, as well as the **Richmond** Firefighters' Association, could impact the budget.

He noted in the report that **Richmond**'s average property tax per dwelling is \$1,520, below the regional average of \$1,825.

The report noted municipal costs have risen higher than the Consumer Price Index.

One of those costs that came under scrutiny was library services.

As was the case last year, Chief Librarian Greg Buss was forced to defend his \$9.6 million budget after Brodie questioned Buss asking for an additional \$200,000 for e-books.

"Can't you find efficiencies?" asked Brodie.

Buss said he had and is implementing new fees in January.

McNulty said he agreed with more late fees as late books inconvenience others, while Loo suggested giving Buss even more money than he asked for as the library provides a service for low-income people.

Brodie, the chair of the finance committee, was less pennywise when it came to finding money to fund Steveston's interurban tram, which requires \$396,000 in renovations, according to city staff.

The city contends full restoration of the tram is required sooner rather than later in order to ensure "optimum preservation for future generations."

More money is needed to open the tram building's doors on a more frequent basis.

Brodie, McNulty and Loo voted for funding the restorations from casino revenue, however councillors Day, McPhail, Chak Au, Ken Johnston, and Derek Dang applied the brakes. The tram funding would have been in addition to the \$104 million capital spending. Proposed by staff is \$44 million for infrastructure (including the widening of No. 2 Road from Steveston Highway to Dyke Road), \$21 million for land acquisition (such as for the planned Middle Arm waterfront park), \$8 million for parkland acquisition (the city is in talks with the **Richmond** School Board), and \$3 million for the second phase of building the Garden City Lands park/nature reserve.

For a full list of proposed one-time expenditures, go to **Richmond**-News.com.

Length: 874 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 46966

What about a regional force?

Richmond News
Wed Dec 9 2015

Page: A9
Section: Letters
Byline: Ken McLennan
Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, **Policing** in **Richmond** deserves/requires consideration of the third option, - regional **policing**.

Apparently, it works with Metropolitan **police** in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa and Winnipeg.

Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam have a combined **RCMP** service. We have recognized the necessity of combining jurisdictions into single (integrated) force efforts related to illegal drugs, homicide, gang activities, etc..

Why is it necessary to have a separate TransLink **police** force with all the associated duplication of administrative overhead and limited jurisdiction boundaries?

Why not a single integrated **police** force for the region? Imagine the efficiencies if a single **police** officer could investigate similar crimes on each side of Boundary Rd (Vancouver/Burnaby), process charges through a single court jurisdiction/crown prosecutor while avoiding the cross boundary complications, complexities and costly duplication of manpower. Note the similar multijurisdiction problems in the Victoria area.

Why is it necessary to appeal B.C. **RCMP** issues to Ottawa headquarters? Good luck! Why have the **RCMP** proven incapable of investigating the conduct of their own members with emphasis on the shameful tragedy at YVR regarding the Tasing of Robert Dziekanski, or the failed missing women investigations, abusive staff relations, contempt of parliament and **RCMP** pension mismanagement.

How many **RCMP** members/non **RCMP police** have been and are suspended with pay (actual cost) pending settlement of misconduct issues versus suspended without pay? How many **RCMP/non-RCMP** officers are on paid stress leave in B.C.? Perhaps each local **police** force and the **RCMP** could provide the number of regular and overtime hours with associated costs involved as court witnesses.

Duplication/overlap costs are unknown. While attending witness activities, those same **police** are not present on the street.

Yes, we need changes. May I suggest it begin with regional management and accountability. We do not require duplicate **policing** costs associated with administration, training, operating standards, arbitrary boundaries and inter-force prejudice and rivalry issues.

Any serving **police** officer in the Lower Mainland could have full **policing** authority within the served region (not just their own community). Would anyone consider dividing the existing jurisdictions into smaller areas? I think not.

Regarding Mr. Assaly's letter of Dec. 4 ("Change from **RCMP** too costly"), can we afford not to change the model? Any chance the recently retired Mr. Jim Chu (VPD **police** chief) might consider the regional challenge? It is a lot to ask.

Ken McLennan

Richmond

Length: 396 words
Tone: Negative
Reach: 46966

Change from RCMP too costly

Richmond News

Fri Dec 4 2015

Page: A8

Section: Letters

Byline: Gary M. Assaly

Source: Richmond News

Dear Editor, Re: "Police transition to cost \$20M," News, Dec. 2. Another asinine idea hatched by the brain trust at city hall.

When asked why **Richmond** needs its own police force Mayor Brodie did not have any definitive answers or reasons. Most of his answers were in the abstract.

To quote the story, "issues with the **Richmond RCMP** were mostly at the higher levels and did not have to do with any particular problems on the ground with officers." Apparently the city (mayor and council) wants more control over all aspects of **policing**. I did not realize until just now that this mayor and council had previous experience in managing a police force. If you have a problem with the "higher levels" sit down with them and discuss the issues and come to an amicable arrangement instead of wasting millions of taxpayer dollars.

We all know that the \$20 million in transition costs will at least double. In addition to this, it is estimated that the **municipal force** will cost seven per cent or \$3 million per year more to operate. And more good news for taxpayers - this all translates into an estimated 1.5 per cent increase in property taxes.

Of course all of these numbers will increase on an annual basis because of any number of bogus excuses emanating from city hall.

According to this newspaper, and quoting from the independent report prepared for the city, **Richmond** has one of the lowest crime rates in the region. In addition, the report found that **Richmond** spends \$178,940 per officer compared to independent forces in Delta (\$188,000) and Abbotsford (\$190,000). In terms of per capita costs **Richmond** saves about 50 per cent under the current arrangement.

The independent report also concludes that additional costs will be incurred on administrative functions. Other costs will be for salaries, benefits, claims and litigation and recruitment.

All of these items are estimated to be higher without the **RCMP**. The city would also lose the federal subsidy of \$4.2 million and have to contract out the integrated investigative services (homicide) and ICARS (traffic fatalities).

You have to ask yourself, does this make any economic sense, and why is it even being considered. It is simply another example of taxpayer dollars being wasted on another grandiose project with no net benefit to the community.

I would recommend that all **Richmond** taxpayers read the full article regarding this subject in the Dec. 2 issue of the **Richmond** News.

Gary M. Assaly

Richmond

Length: 405 words

Tone: Negative

Reach: 46966

Police transition to cost \$20M; Mayor Brodie asks residents to weigh pros and cons of creating city force

Richmond News
Wed Dec 2 2015

Page: A1 / Front
Section: News
Byline: Graeme Wood
Source: Richmond News

Richmond residents will soon be asked to make a choice: Keep the Mounties, or pay more for local control of policing in their community.

A new report from the **City of Richmond** indicates transitioning to a municipal police force would cost close to of \$20 million.

The report was drafted following a request from Richmond city council, which, on the whole, has expressed concerns about local control and oversight of the Richmond **RCMP** detachment.

In addition to the one-time transition costs, it is estimated that a municipal force will cost about seven per cent - or \$3 million - more to operate on an annual basis, meaning a 1.5 per cent increase to property taxes.

Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie said public consultation is forthcoming, and while he did not want to prejudice his own opinion before hearing from residents, he said he was concerned about the costs laid out in the report.

When asked what precipitated the request from council, Brodie said issues with the Richmond **RCMP** were mostly at the higher levels and did not have to do with any particular problems on the ground, with officers (for example, a growing class action lawsuit concerning bullying of females in the force).

"You've got fundamental issues with governance. A local force would have a municipal police board chaired by the mayor, and then city council gets one other appointee," said Brodie.

A board would set budgets, determine policing needs, review staff performance, hire the chief constable, and handle labour relations and discipline.

The biggest point of contention from city hall, said Brodie, has been decisions made by Ottawa that appear to circumvent local input - namely a new, \$1 billion regional **RCMP** detachment (Green Timbers) in Surrey.

"The situation over Green Timbers probably epitomizes the problem. The **RCMP** and federal government decided to build a new facility in Surrey. It is gigantic; they never decided who was going in there and what the cost would be. And the cost remains an outstanding point of contention. The province - it is my understanding, - is working on this, and they've met great resistance," said Brodie, who is concerned municipalities in E-Division (Western Canada) will be stuck with part of the bill.

Brodie said, with the report, a decision to turf the **RCMP** now comes down to weighing the benefits of more local control versus the costs associated with a transition.

Brodie said residents would have to contrast paying more money for a municipal force with having a local detachment where decisions are being made in Ottawa and "very often there's no consultation, no discussion, or even any considerations at a local level."

In 2012, the B.C. government renewed a 20-year contract with the federal government to allow the **RCMP** to continue to work in the province at a municipal level. That contract can be terminated by Richmond with a two-year notice.

The annual budget for the Richmond **RCMP** contract is approximately \$41.5 million.

The report notes the **RCMP** has had difficulty providing the budgeted number of police officers. However, in 2015, for the first time in the last five years, it met and exceeded its target (193 officers with a 190 officer budget).

In Metro Vancouver, Richmond has the second highest ratio of population to police officers with 923 residents per officer.

However, it's noted Richmond has one of the lowest crime rates in the region.

Still, the report notes, the Richmond **RCMP** carries a higher criminal caseload (49) per officer, which is 40 per cent more than officers in an average independent service (35).

The report found that Richmond spends \$178,940 per officer, while independent forces in Delta and Abbotsford spend \$188,000 and \$190,000, respectively (in terms of per capita costs, Richmond saves about 50 per cent).

The report concludes that Richmond would have to spend additional resources on administrative functions. Furthermore, cost factors such as salaries, benefits, claims and litigation and recruitment are estimated to be higher without the **RCMP**.

The city would also lose an annual federal subsidy, costing \$4.2 million, and would have to contract out integrated investigative services (such as IHIT (homicide) and ICARS (traffic fatalities)).

The one-time transition costs of \$20 million are said to come from capital costs, consulting, recruitment, legal work, and pre-and postimplementation overlap. Former **RCMP** deputy commissioner Peter German and Robert Rolls, a former 33-year member of the Vancouver Police (and its director of human resources), consulted with the city on the report.

The report states that public consultation would be a key determinant for any decision council is to make.

Earlier this month the **RCMP** invited council to visit Green Timbers, while the Justice Institute of B.C., which trains municipal police officers, made a presentation to council outlining its educational services.

Length: 774 words

Tone: Negative

Reach: 46966

Illustration: / Mounties march on as Richmond considers municipal police.;



Municipality considers replacing RCMP with its own police force

Vancouver Sun
Sat Nov 28 2015

Page: A5
Section: Westcost News
Byline: Matthew Robinson
Source: Vancouver Sun

Richmond residents may soon be asked whether they want to turf the **RCMP** and set up a municipal police force. Councillors started a **policing** review after renewal of the agreement with the Mounties in 2012.

While they felt the local **RCMP** detachment provided "excellent" service, according to a recent report by staff, council was interested in better local control over costs and governance. If **Richmond** had an **independent force**, a local police board would have oversight of **policing** priorities, goals and objectives.

But while **Richmond** Mounties costs residents \$41.5 million this year - about 20 per cent of the city's operating budget - an **independent force** would be even more expensive.

That's because of one-time transitional costs of \$20 million, a loss of federal and provincial subsidies, and other expenses. City staff plan to consult residents on the options early next year. The earliest an independent police force could come into service would be April 1, 2018, according to the report.

Length: 155 words
Tone: Positive
Reach: 185174



Richmond eyes own police force; Proposal would cost taxpayers millions of dollars above what they pay for RCMP

24 Hours Vancouver
Fri Nov 27 2015

Page: A5
Section: News
Byline: Michael Mui
Source: 24 Hours Vancouver

The **City of Richmond** is examining creating its own police force to give it more control at the civic level, but also costing taxpayers millions in additional funding per year.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie said on Thursday his biggest issue with how the **RCMP** is run is that Ottawa calls the shots, and the city's communications with them are limited.

"Cost control, transparency and accountability - we're (currently) in a position that the **RCMP** is basically able to dictate some added costs and we're in a position where we have to pay them," he said, pointing to how the city has to pay for its share of the **RCMP** B.C. headquarters, in Surrey.

"The best example is Green Timbers, where years later we still don't have an agreement for what we have to pay in terms of extra costs for that building.

"They had a perfectly good headquarter in Vancouver, they moved to Surrey and we're supposed to pay a lot of extra costs."

The cost for the city, assuming Richmond will have an independent police force in 2018, would be anywhere from \$46.9 to \$48.6 million - in addition to a one-time, \$20-\$24 million transition cost.

The current **RCMP** projected cost in 2018 is \$44.7 million.

What Richmond would gain under an independent police model is arguably more control. In a civic police board model, the chairperson of the board - which oversees the force - is the mayor of the city.

"You will have very direct input into that as mayor and a higher level of control, but the offset is that in the usual police model you have about seven board members," he said. Five of those members are expected to be appointed by the provincial government.

The proposed change would also likely allow Richmond to keep its officers here, instead of being transferred around every few years as many **RCMP** officers do. It also gives the city the ability to hire local residents who know the city. While there are some advantages, Brodie said his chief concern is the major cost involved.

To cover the differences, the city is expected to come up with the transition fee from its savings, Brodie said, while implementing a 1.08-1.9% property tax hike above standard increases - that money will have to be maintained on an annual basis. "We believe the local (**RCMP**) detachment has provided a good level of service, we believe we are a relatively safe community, but the issues we're looking at are higher level and long term," Brodie said.

"The question is whether a local police force with a local police board will be more responsive to the local priorities than the **RCMP** could be."

michael.mui@sunmedia.ca

Length: 448 words
Tone: Positive

Illustration: Postmedia Network / Richmond **RCMP** investigate a stabbing in 2012.

New police costs counted

Richmond News

Fri Nov 27 2015

Page: A14

Section: Community

Source: Richmond News

The **City of Richmond** would have to spend \$19.6 million in order to transition from an **RCMP** detachment to a municipal force, according to a city staff report released Thursday afternoon.

In addition to the onetime transition costs, the first year of operating a municipal police force would cost an estimated \$3 million more than it would to keep the **RCMP**, the report concludes.

The report is in response to city council's request to examine adoption of a municipal police force.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie has previously stated that having control of the police force is important.

"As our community grows and evolves, we want to ensure our police service reflects the community's changing needs and priorities," said Brodie Thursday in a news release.

More on the report is online at Richmond-News.com.

Length: 130 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 46966

Richmond to consult public on RCMP contact

metronews.ca

Thu Nov 26 2015

Section: METRO NEWS | NEWS | VANCOUVER

Byline: Matt Kieltyka - Metro

The **City of Richmond** will launch consultations in early 2016 as it moves ahead with possibly breaking its contract with the **RCMP**.

British Columbia - which has the largest deployment of **RCMP** officers in the country - signed onto a 20-year agreement with **RCMP** along with five other provinces and three territories in 2012.

But Richmond city council have since raised concerns over its oversight of the **RCMP's** policing plans and finances.

Council asked staff to review its options and on Thursday it released a report on police services that breaks down the two remaining choices: keep the **RCMP** or start a new police force.

The report says transitioning to an independent police department would come with a one-time cost of \$19.6 million.

Staff projects the operating budget for a new police force in 2018 (the earliest one could be set up) would be between \$46.97 million to \$48.67 million at existing service levels, compared to \$44.74 million if it keeps using **RCMP**.

While a new force is more expensive, the report notes that Richmond currently has the second-lowest ratio of police officers to population in the region.

All individual municipal police department in the region are served by more officers per capita while Richmond **RCMP** officers have a 40 per cent higher criminal caseload, according to the report.

Property taxes would need to be raised whether the city decides to start a new police agency or increase current **RCMP** staffing levels, the report states.

A statement from the city says it has not made any decision at this time, despite "significant concerns about the **RCMP** Municipal Police Unit agreement when it was renewed" in 2012.

Both options, keeping the **RCMP** or starting a new police force, will go to public consultation next year, it said.

"Our council is committed to ensuring Richmond is a safe place to live, work and visit now and in the future," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie in the release. "As our community grows and evolves, we want to ensure our police service reflect the community's changing needs and priorities."

The city will continue to be served by the **RCMP** in the interim.

Length: 348 words

Tone: Neutral

Municipal police force? Been there, done that; 100 years ago, the RPF was formed with Richmond's population at less than 5,000

Richmond News
Fri Oct 23 2015

Page: A11
Section: News
Byline: Matt Hoekstra
Source: Richmond News

It was a quiet year for police.

Officers responded to just one report of breaking-and-entering, a handful of petty thefts and some violations of the Lords Day Act for working on Sunday. There were few deaths - except for those on Nov. 11, 1916.

That night, the Richmond Police Force was called into action on the north arm of the Fraser River. The small, fledgling municipal force started work just a year earlier - a century removed from the current debate of leaving the RCMP to reestablish a municipal force in Richmond. At 7 p.m. George Smith drove his bus toward the open North Arm drawbridge. He didn't stop. The bus smashed through a gate and plunged into the cold river.

Police and others raced to the scene to help. Three passengers were saved but nine people died, including Smith. Most of the bodies weren't recovered.

At the time, it was the worst motor vehicle accident in the region's history, according to a report in the Victoria newspaper The Daily Colonist, and certainly the most serious call the Richmond Police Force had answered.

In 1915 Richmond's population was nearing 5,000, prompting a shift in policing models. The community demanded a department with greater oversight than what it was used to: council-appointed constables patrolling the streets.

Enter the Board of Police Commissioners, a body created by council and chaired by the mayor, which marked the start of 25 years of a municipal police force. The board reviewed reports from the police chief on crime and police activities, and also heard complaints from

citizens. In those years police dealt with many matters, including those far removed from the big cases of TV dramas. In his first annual report to council, police chief Andrew Waddell didn't exactly raise eyebrows.

"No cases of a serious nature have been committed, the majority having been petty thefts, assaults, offences against the Indian Act, gambling, cruelty to animals, violations of the Motor Vehicle Traffic Regulations and the Game Act," he told council on Jan. 3, 1916, according to handwritten council minutes preserved at the City of Richmond Archives.

"A great number of undesirables have been brought before the court and the municipality freed of them. The most serious cases were six of theft which I am pleased to report were all convicted."

The police board heard complaints of everything from vehicles speeding near

schools and cyclists riding without lights to calls for more stop signs and requests to crack down on liquor being smuggled into school dances at Cambie Gym.

In the Depression years, the board heard of illegal cigarette sales, stolen chickens and pricey prisoners' meals. Board members also urged police to follow municipal staff and cut salaries, and local cops obliged. The chief agreed to donate \$5 per month to a relief

fund, while constables would fork over \$4. Cases of police misconduct are also found in the board's minutes. In 1935, Const. H. Tims was called onto the carpet for "certain alleged irregularities in the collection of trades licences."

Tims submitted his resignation, but the board refused to accept it, firing him instead and demanding the immediate return of his equipment.

In the final year of the force, police responded to an average of 37 calls per month. Officers also made five arrests each month, on average.

In 1940, the province lured **Richmond** to a B.C. police force at a lesser cost. **Richmond** agreed to pay \$9,200 annually for the service - 25 per cent less than the municipality spent on **policing** that year.

The switch was made in 1941 but didn't last long. The **RCMP** took over in 1950.

Today, city council is mulling a return to a **municipal force**.

Coun. Bill McNulty, chair of council's community safety committee, said he's waiting to see details on the cost.

Other cities are watching closely. Mc-Nulty noted if **Richmond** made the switch it would be a first in Canada.

Length: 639 words

Tone: Negative

Reach: 46966

Illustration: / (See hardcopy for photo); Photos from City of **Richmond** Archives / The first entry in the minute book of **Richmond's** Board of Police Commissioners, in 1915, shows the inaugural meeting took place at the Steveston courthouse, now the Adorabelle Tea Room, on Third Avenue, just north of the Steveston Hotel. Right, Andrew Waddell, the first police chief of the **Richmond** Police Force.;

City needs its own police force

Richmond News
Wed Sep 9 2015

Page: A8
Section: Letters
Byline: Greghalsey-Brandt
Source: Richmond News

The recent public outcry about the 40 hour delay by the **Richmond RCMP** before releasing any details about the shooting in the Dover Park area of the City only underlines the need to review whether or not the **RCMP** is the right police force for the City.

Virtually no hard information was released in the press conference held 40 hours after the incident. More information was provided to the **Richmond** public via the Vancouver Sun coverage the next morning, than the **RCMP** cared to provide. There is no method for the City to require the **RCMP** to be more timely and forthcoming in their response. They are a law unto themselves and this relatively small operational matter is a good example.

I spent 23 years at city hall trying to deal with the **RCMP** and was therefore pleased to read the announcement from the Mayor's office that the City of **Richmond** was still examining establishing our own police force. Apparently documents in to City research thus far will be released this fall and hopefully a public input process completed before City Council reaches a decision.

Historically the development of the **RCMP** was as a paramilitary force to keep the peace in the West. This morphed into a police force focused on small and rural town **policing** across parts of Canada plus federal jurisdictions such as airports and national security. All larger cities across Canada created their own police forces which focused on city **policing** challenges such as drugs, robbery, gangs, homicides, fraud and traffic. For some reason the cities of metropolitan Vancouver did not follow this nation wide trend. Virtually all cities the size of **Richmond** across Canada have their own police forces.

Metro Vancouver has five municipal forces and eight **RCMP** detachments, which is a patchwork that no one would ever deliberately design. Personally, I would prefer a metropolitan police force with local precincts but knowing the byzantine political structure that is greater Vancouver, that will not happen, and therefore I can only deal with what is best for **Richmond** at this time in our history.

Imagine having a police force in your city that has a 20-year contract that was negotiated between the provincial and federal governments and that the City has no say in. Imagine a contract that states the City has no say over costs such as salaries, cars, guns, radios, computer equipment and buildings. Imagine an employer that has no say over the number of members you have in your City. The numbers can be increased or decreased without your consent but you pay all the bills. You have no say about how long an officer stays in **Richmond**. It could be a few months or a few years, without an officer really getting to know our neighbourhoods and problems. Imagine having a situation where City Council votes to hire new members for a bike squad and an extra beat patrol but when the additional members arrive they are reassigned to drugs or homicide without Council's knowledge or consent. Imagine where Council votes to set up community police stations and hire the additional officers necessary to staff them but when the stations are established there are actually no officers in them. They are staffed by hardworking volunteers. The City cannot hire or fire members, and as exemplified by the 40-hour delay incident, there is no accountability to the City to answer questions. Unlike cities who have their own police forces, there is no police board made up of local citizens and city council members to give overall policy direction, set budgets, hire and fire and choose a police chief.

This is directly opposite to the present **RCMP** model in which the entire structure gets its directions from Ottawa.

If the City of **Richmond** is going to have a discussion about what type of police force we are going to have, it is first necessary to identify that we now have a problem. If our citizens are not aware that there are serious shortcomings with the existing **RCMP** model, they will naturally support the status quo. I hope that over the next few months the pros and cons of the municipal police model vs. the **RCMP** model will be aired and discussed fully so that we can get the model that works best for our City.

We must also remember that this discussion is not about the individual police members who serve our community. Whichever model is chosen, the men and women who staff the police force will be the best they can be. This discussion is about the model that works best for **Richmond**.

Greg Halsey-Brandt is a former mayor of **Richmond**, MLA and city councillor.

Length: 779 words

Tone: Negative

Reach: 46966

City considers police force

Richmond News

Fri Aug 21 2015

Page: A11

Section: News

Byline: Philip Raphael

Source: Richmond News

Would **Richmond** benefit from forming its own city police force, or should it stay with the **RCMP**? That's the question local council members will be contemplating in the coming weeks and months after Mayor Malcolm Brodie announced recently that the city was continuing to research the feasibility of forming its own independent municipal police force.

And while it can be a polarizing issue, Andy Hobbs, a longtime member of the Vancouver Police Department and **Richmond** resident said it's one worth looking into.

Hobbs, a former local school trustee who ran unsuccessfully for council in the 2014 civic election, told the News there are pros and cons to both models of **policing**. But from his experience with the VPD, the main benefit of establishing a local police force would rest with having local control in terms of finances and governance.

"It puts the governance in a local environment, rather than in some cases being as far away as Ottawa," said Hobbs. "The bottom line is you have control over your budget. So, if you decide you're going to have 10 less police officers, then the department has 10

less police officers. That's entirely within the city's decision-making process.

"In the end, the city cuts the cheque." Where a nationally based police force has an advantage would involve the **RCMP**'s scope of responsibilities, history and experience which could come into play during large scale events such as a disaster - natural or man-made, Hobbs said.

"There's a capacity in the **RCMP** that you can rely on," he said. "And sometimes that can be a good thing." So too is the **RCMP**'s diversity of personnel who can come from all regions of the country.

But whichever organization ends up **policing Richmond**'s streets, Hobbs said a key to its success relies on the ability to adapt and change with the needs of the community, something he acknowledges the **RCMP** in **Richmond** has spent a lot of effort on and achieved good results.

As for what he thinks city council will ultimately decide, Hobbs said the choice between the two is so close it could go either way.

"I think some people are super-conscious about changing the status quo," he said. "But at the end of the day I think council will vote sincerely for what they think is the best model for **Richmond**."

The city is currently three years into a 20-year contract with the **RCMP** which contains a two-year out clause if the decision is made to make a change.

Length: 414 words

Tone: Positive

Reach: 46966

Illustration: / Andy Hobbs;

City looking at alternatives to RCMP contract; Graeme Wood Greater control over a regional police force an attractive byproduct

Richmond News
Wed Aug 5 2015

Page: A4
Section: News
Source: Richmond News

Richmond residents may soon be asked if they want to cut ties with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Last week, Mayor Malcolm Brodie announced the City of **Richmond** was continuing to research the feasibility of forming its own independent municipal police force.

At issue for Brodie is costs and governance.

"We've got issues on the governance side of things, consisting of the difference between having an Ottawa-based police force that interacts with council through a community safety committee ...compared to the controls you can set with a police board, appointed by the mayor," said Brodie.

A major thorn in the side of the city, according to Brodie, has been the **RCMP**'s decision to build a \$1 billion E-Division headquarters in Surrey named Green Timbers.

Brodie said the facility wasn't necessary and, furthermore, local municipalities were not properly consulted, particularly when it came to the bill.

Brodie said to the best of his knowledge, the dispute over the bill is ongoing between the **RCMP** and the Province of B.C. Another issue for Brodie is unilateral decisions made in Ottawa, such as making supervision of all volunteer auxiliary staff mandatory.

That decision has placed extra costs and responsibilities on community **policing**.

"Initially, steps had to be taken to protect our volunteers. But in the longer run it really symptomized the kind of decisions that get made by Ottawa with very little local input. Auxiliaries allow city to expand its services," noted Brodie.

Policing is the single largest cost to the City of **Richmond**, accounting for just over 20 cents for every tax dollar it collects.

By comparison, community services account for 18.1 cents, engineering and public works for 16.3 cents and **Richmond** Fire Rescue for 14.9 cents.

Brodie said the review is looking at the relative cost of a local force versus that of what the city presently pays the **RCMP**.

The **RCMP** runs a number of integrated units (such as the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team) in the Lower Mainland and costs are supposed to be shared among the participating municipalities. However, the cost sharing is not always exact.

According to a staff report to the city's safety committee last December, **Richmond** paid about \$370,000 more for **policing** than was necessary last year.

But Brodie said a **municipal force** for **Richmond** would still likely outsource such integrated services, as is done elsewhere.

He said there appears to be no political will to assemble a Metro Vancouver police force and he believes there are "limitations" to such an idea.

Brodie said the review could be finished by the end of the year (as early as September)

and the findings would then be presented to the public for comments to **Richmond** City Council.

If council were to cut ties with the **RCMP**, it would need to give two years notice.

Concurrently, the **RCMP** is presently looking at staffing levels, which is another decision the city would want to be a part of, said Brodie, who noted his concern was not with police officers.

"I believe we have a safe community here and people have had good service from the local detachment."

Last year marked a five-year high for residential break-ins in **Richmond**. So far, as of May 2015, such crimes are down 3.1 per cent.

Earlier this year West **Richmond** residents rallied against break-ins, asking the **RCMP** and city to improve community Block Watch programs.

Metro Vancouver municipal police forces: -Vancouver -West Vancouver -Delta -New Westminster -Abbotsford

Length: 566 words

Tone: Positive

Reach: 46966

Illustration: File photo / The Red Serge worn by the **RCMP** in **Richmond** may just be a thing of the past if city council opts to develop its own police force.;

RCMP

February 20, 2016 7:21 pm

Updated: February 20, 2016 8:01 pm

Richmond asking residents whether they want a non-RCMP police force



By Nadia Stewart Video journalist
Global News

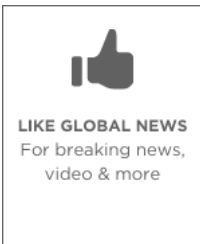
WATCH: The City of Richmond is asking for public input over whether to replace the RCMP and adopt a municipal police force. Among the main concerns, critics argue the city has little or no say over the RCMP, and it may actually save money if the city adopts its own municipal force. Nadia Stewart reports.



Listen

For Richmond residents, twenty cents of every tax dollar they pay the city goes towards paying the RCMP. Now, city council is asking for public input over whether or not to replace the Mounties and adopt an independent municipal police force.

The city's mayor admits it's a conversation that's been going on for years.



"What I want to know is what people think of making a change and if they're prepared to make a change, are they willing to pay the cost of making that change," said Malcolm Brodie.

The city pays \$41.5 million every year for the RCMP's services. Making the switch to an independent municipal force would cost about two to four million dollars more, along with a one-time transition cost of \$19.6 million.

Should Richmond adopt its own police force?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Vote

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However, Brodie said money is only one factor in a longer list of concerns that resurfaced once the province renewed its contract with the Ottawa-based police force.

"Transparency, accountability, adherence to local priorities, cost control is always a big one," said Brodie.

The Mayor also points to Green Timbers, the massive RCMP headquarters in Surrey, as just one example of how decisions made in Ottawa impact provinces and municipalities, but he said they have little say in how those decisions are made.

"They built this huge building for many hundreds of millions of dollars without any firm knowledge of who was going in there and who was going to pay for it and how they were going to pay for it, and that issue remains outstanding today," said Brodie.

For residents, the switch would come at a cost of a two to three per cent increase in property taxes.

Many are still weighing the options.

"I'd like to see a regional police force. I think the idea of going to a community policing is just short-term," said Ken McLennan.


People in Richmond have until the end of February to fill out the online survey.

If they decide to make the switch, the province still has to sign off on it.

GP - 126
(Special)

Richmond
February 18, 2016 5:41 am

Richmond considers scrapping RCMP for municipal police force

 By Amy Judd Online News Producer
Global News




File photo.
File/ Global News

- A A +
Listen

The City of Richmond is asking residents for feedback as officials consider scrapping the RCMP and forming their own municipal police force. Wednesday night was the beginning of a series of open houses for residents to give their opinion. But so far, it is not attracting public interest. Only a few people showed up at the South Arm Community Centre to comment on the proposal. The city has shared its concerns about the RCMP in recent years, including a lack of oversight and transparency. The open houses are aimed at determining the level of support from the public. For more information on future meetings, check out the City of Richmond’s website.



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PROMOTED STORIES
GP - 127
(Special)

Richmond wants your opinion as it considers ditching the RCMP

LOCAL ([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/CATEGORY/LOCAL/](http://www.news1130.com/category/local/))

by SIMON DRUKER ([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/AUTHOR/SIMON-DRUKER](http://www.news1130.com/author/simon-druker/))

Posted Feb 17, 2016 7:50 am PST



(Courtesy RCMP)

SUMMARY

The mayor says there would have to be a lot of support from the community for the idea to go through

GP - 128
(Special)

City is looking at how much it would cost to make the switch, including a bump of \$2.4 million to the operating budget



RICHMOND (NEWS 1130) – The City of Richmond kicks off a series of open houses tonight as it looks into the idea of forming its own police department.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie says people would have to get on board in pretty big numbers for the idea to really gain traction and he adds the five open houses this month should help determine that level of support.

“What I would want to see from the people, before I would want to make a move to an independent police force, would be that there’s a very good level of public support, notwithstanding the very considerable costs that are involved in making a transition.”

Brodie says the city has carefully looked at the idea, but it’s hard to put an exact price tag on it, but he does have a rough estimate.

“There would be one-time costs of about \$19.6 million which would have to be paid over a period of three years. In addition to that, there would be a \$2.4 million bump to the operating budget and that’s to get the same level of service. So it’s a very costly item.”

Surrey was the last city in the Lower Mainland to consider a similar idea.

Delta Police Chief Neil Dubord heads up one of the region’s independent departments and says moving away from the Mounties isn’t about placing blame.

“It’s not about policing services or communication. It really becomes about what’s right for the City of Richmond. The City of Richmond isn’t a farming and fishing town anymore and they’ve grown and they’re far more cosmopolitan and diverse, and they’re examining what model best fits their city,” says Dubord, who previously headed up the Transit Police.

He adds moving away from the Mounties wouldn't create any more communication or logistical issues. "I don't think, in my opinion, whether that would be a municipal police agency or a provincial police agency similar to the RCMP."

Tonight's open house runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the South Arm Community Centre. They continue until February 24th and you can swing by City Hall with suggestions until the end of the month.

MALCOLM BRODIE

([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/TAG/MALCOLM-BRODIE/](http://www.news1130.com/tag/malcolm-brodie/))

| RCMP ([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/TAG/RCMP/](http://www.news1130.com/tag/rcmp/))

| RICHMOND

([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/TAG/RICHMOND/](http://www.news1130.com/tag/richmond/))

Possible implications for Canadians if Trump becomes US President

LOCAL ([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/CATEGORY/LOCAL/](http://www.news1130.com/category/local/))

by MIKE LLOYD ([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/AUTHOR/MIKE-LLOYD/](http://www.news1130.com/author/mike-lloyd/))

Posted Feb 23, 2016 7:46 am PST Last Updated Feb 23, 2016 at 8:47 am PST

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Bye-bye RCMP? Richmond to gather public opinion on moving to municipal police force

BY LAUREN SUNDSTROM

11:25 AM PST, WED FEBRUARY 17, 2016

NEWS

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Image: Flickr / BC Emergency Photography

The City of Richmond is hosting the first of a series of open houses tonight to gather public opinion on whether or not to

CP-131
(Special)

give the RCMP the boot.

Richmond mayor Malcolm Brodie said the City was “forced” to sign a renewal contract with the RCMP and felt certain aspects of it were unfair and incomplete.



SEE ALSO: City of Richmond considering giving RCMP the boot

“We’ve been looking at the police model since that time,” Brodie told Vancity Buzz.

One of the main issues, according to Brodie, is that the RCMP is governed by a police board in Ottawa, and he questions whether Richmond would be better off being governed locally with a municipal police board.

“The issues with the RCMP relate to issues of accounting and transparency and local control and finances – those kinds of issues, as opposed to policing on the street,” he said.

There are many factors to consider when switching from the RCMP to a municipal police force, including cost. Brodie said there will be impacts to the operating budget, and a large impact in terms of straight transitional costs, including a one-time cost of nearly \$20 million.

“You can’t look at this issue without considering the question of cost.”

Brodie said they get on-going feedback about the Richmond RCMP from the public, especially in the past month since public consultation started. The five open houses are as follows:

- Wednesday, February 17; 5 to 8 p.m. at South Arm Community Centre
- Thursday, February 18; 5 to 8 p.m. at East Richmond Community Hall
- Saturday, February 20; 5 to 8 p.m. at Thompson Community

**GP - 132
(Special)**

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- Tuesday, February 23; 5 to 8 p.m. at Steveston Community Centre
- Wednesday, February 24; 5 to 8 p.m. at Richmond City Hall

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Breakfast Television

Citytv Vancouver

Tue Feb 16 2016, 9:04am ET

had vote in favour of fossil fuel and say steps were need to stop climate change?

we believe that the hypocrisy runs deep at ubcn we are market as sustainable university and innovateing to combat climate change but yet, we have so many dollars invested in fossil fuels and there is huge gap twin that and students and staff and faculty are outrage about it

>> Greg: tomorrow **richmond** hold five open house to help decide whether to replace rcmp with independent municipal **police** s have been in charge of policeing in **richmond** since 1950 and mayor says it is done a good job and time to look at whether it the city will be better swerved a force that's locally accountable.

independent force will cost about \$20 million overthree years and with additional budget of 2 to \$4 million each year.>> you have a **police** force now, local detachment now, and have same size local detachment, local **police** force with new model as well.

so do we benefits that are clear enough and important enough make that expenditure?

> Greg: huge effort under way get new acute tower built at **richmond** hospital.

north tower deemed seismically unstable.

hospital foundation enlist support after the city to get a commitment from the province to build new building.

foundation is it offering \$40 million to the cost of a new tower.

> people **richmond** want to know that there is going to be health care there for them when they need it.

there earthquake, there is huge iue but original tower will not be able to withstand moderator stronger earthquake.

Length: 2 minutes

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Richmond to host open houses on city's policing options

Vancouver, BC, Canada / News Talk 980 CKNW | Vancouver's News. Vancouver's Talk

Ria Renouf

Posted: January 20, 2016 11:09 am | Last Updated: January 20, 2016 04:37 pm



waferboard / CC

GP - 135
(Special)

The City of Richmond will be hosting five open houses to consult the public about it's police services.

There are also formal consultations underway, scheduled to go until about the end of February.

The City has been reviewing whether or not to continue its partnership with the RCMP.

POLL: Do you think Richmond should continue with the RCMP or have its own City Police?

City of Richmond is hosting open houses on city's policing options. Do you think Richmond should continue with the RCMP or have its own City Police?

RCMP (46%)

City Police (54%)

Poll closed: Jan. 20, 2016 @ 11:59 PM

The five scheduled dates and locations for consultation are:

- Wednesday, February 17, 5-8 p.m., South Arm Community Centre, 8880 Williams Road.
- Thursday, February 18, 5-8 p.m., East Richmond Community Hall, 12360 Cambie Road.
- Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m.-1p.m., Thompson Community Centre, 5151 Granville Avenue.
- Tuesday, February 23, 5-8 p.m., Steveston Community Centre, 4111 Moncton Street.
- Wednesday, February 24, 5-8 p.m., Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Road.

2 Comments

GP - 136
(Special)

Comments

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titan061@hotmail.com on *Jan 19, 2016 at 04:25 pm* said:

The RCMP is less likely to be corrupted. RCMP members are moved from town to town, which there is less chance of local politicians infiltrating and controlling the RCMP. Although RCMP are caught in a bad way which the news reports on occasion, this is only showing they are getting caught. When you never hear about municipal police ever getting caught in a bad way, we must question the over-site.

[Log in to Reply](#)



Eli on *Jan 19, 2016 at 06:11 pm* said:

Surrey should definitely follow Richmond's lead on this.

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Richmond police department would offer city more control, says retired officer

City council would be able to tailor the direction of its police force to local needs says Andy Hobbs

By The Early Edition, [CBC News](#) Posted: Jan 11, 2016 11:05 AM PT Last Updated: Jan 11, 2016 11:13 AM PT

The City of Richmond is considering creating its own police force, separate from the RCMP — and that could give it greater control over policing policy, according to one retired police officer.

The RCMP have policed Richmond since 1950, when the island was mostly a farming community. But the city has considered creating a municipal police force in recent years and experts are weighing in on the pros and cons of such a move.

"And now it's quite a dynamic city with probably about [208.00 people](#) with a big downtown core and it's really a little metropolis," said Andy Hobbs, a longtime Richmond resident and retired Vancouver police officer.

"Looking at the policing option is quite natural."

Local accountability

Hobbs says the RCMP has been doing a good job in Richmond and a move away from them would not necessarily mean better police officers.

But having a municipal police force means city council would be able to tailor the direction of its police force to local needs, he notes.

"It's not really about the members of the entities. It's about things, for me, like accountability, [and] local influence on policy."

City council would have almost total control over the policing budget, says Hobbs.

"If they say we'd like you [the police] to hold 20 vacancies or we'd like you to hire 20 people or we'd like you to keep your car's five years longer, you're going to do that. Because they're the ones who cut the cheque and the buck stops at city hall."

Retaining officers in Richmond

Another big advantage to having a municipal police force is that officers tend to stay with force for their entire career, says Hobb.

In comparison, RCMP officers sometimes have to relocate to other cities due to the organization's provincial and federal obligations.

"In my career, everybody that retired from the Vancouver Police Department out of my class spent their entire career there."

He says it has worked well for Vancouver.

"So you get somebody who is selected, recruited, trained in Vancouver ... and you get to retain those people."

Richmond residents can submit their thoughts on a municipal police force [here](#).

To listen to the full audio, click the link labelled: [Should Richmond form its own police force?](#)

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Richmond exploring possibility of creating its own police force

LOCAL ([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/CATEGORY/LOCAL/](http://www.news1130.com/category/local/))

by MARTIN MACMAHON ([HTTP://WWW.NEWS1130.COM/AUTHOR/MARTIN-MACMAHON](http://www.news1130.com/author/martin-macmahon))

Posted Dec 1, 2015 12:45 pm PST



(iStock Photo)



RICHMOND (NEWS 1130) – Should Richmond ditch the Mounties and create its own local force?

That city is exploring that possibility, and if you live there, you'll soon have a chance to weigh in.

The province's decision to give the Mounties a 20-year contract extension back in 2012 upset some municipal leaders, including Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie (<https://twitter.com/malcolmbrodie>). He says that's what prompted his city to get staff to look into the matter.

"We were forced to sign the new RCMP contract when there were a number of issues that were outstanding and unaddressed," says Brodie.

The primary issue is a desire for more local control over the force, according to Brodie, rather than leaving major decisions to Ottawa.

A recently released staff report indicates moving away from the RCMP would cost an initial \$20 million, and then an additional \$3 million per year after that beyond what the city already pays for police services.

"There will be higher operating costs in the end," says Brodie. "That's with the same level of service... you can't look at the difference between the two models and ignore the costs that are going to be incurred if you're going to make the change."

You can have your say at public consultation sessions planned for early in the new year as this discussion continues.

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City of Richmond considering giving RCMP the boot

BY LAUREN SUNDSTROM

10:50 AM PST, THU AUGUST 13, 2015

NEWS

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Image: Flickr/Richard Eriksson

Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie said the city is lining up

GP 142

(Special)

the floor to the public on whether they should eliminate the RCMP and move to a municipal police force.

At the moment, the city is tied into a contract with the RCMP for 20 years, but the contract can be broken with two years notice and provincial approval of a new police force.

Mayor Brodie told Vancity Buzz the two issues he's concerned with are that of governance, since the RCMP is Ottawa-based, and finances.

"There are a lot of financial issues with the RCMP that don't get easier over time."

One of the major financial issues Mayor Brodie cited was the building of the Green Timbers RCMP headquarters in Surrey when they had a "perfectly good headquarters" that they left behind in Vancouver.

"The province and the federal government have been quarrelling and debating ever since who should be in there and the like and we've had virtually no input into the situation. It's a terribly dysfunctional situation," he said.

When asked what Mayor Brodie believes the cost of forming a municipal police force would be, he said they are fine-tuning those numbers.

"There will be significant transition costs if we make a change and there will be operating cost implications as well. So we're in the process of examining that."

Once those numbers are available, the public will be consulted on whether they believe staying with the RCMP would be beneficial for the city or if the costs associated with transitioning to a municipal police force would be worth it.

But does the public trust the RCMP? Brodie said they will wait to find out via the consultation.

"My read on it is that the local detachment has done a really

GP - 143
(Special)



POPULAR



Woman hospitalized after 5th sexual assault in Burnaby since January 29

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"I wish someone had killed me instead of her", Maple Batalia's mother speaks during

good job and I'd be surprised to hear that there's a distrust."

Mayor Brodie expects the public consultation will take place early in the Fall, and if all goes to plan, Richmond could have a new police force by 2018.

Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Vancouver, and West Vancouver all have municipal police forces.

2 points

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(Special)

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**VANCOUVER'S NEWS.
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Richmond looks at moving to a municipal police force

Vancouver, BC, Canada / News Talk 980 CKNW | Vancouver's News. Vancouver's Talk

Shane Woodford

Posted: August 12, 2015 07:41 pm



Three years after signing onto the 20 year RCMP contract the city of Richmond is taking a serious look at dumping the Mounties for a municipal police force.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie says the city will ask its residents for feedback while they prepare a report to be tabled this fall.

Brodie says the city can get out of the 20 year RCMP contract signed in 2012.

“It has a two year opt out clause. If we made a decision by early 2016 it would be for two years after that. In order to get there we first of all want to go through a public consultation and ask the citizens of our city what kind of a police force do you like?”

He says the RCMP have served the community well but the problem is de the force’s governance model, cost, and dealing with RCMP hierarchy in far away

**GP - 145
(Special)**

Ottawa.

"What we have chosen to look at is the idea of a local police force and having separate contracts for the integrated teams than we do now."

Brodie adds the big issue is dealing with the RCMP decision makers in Ottawa.

"Working with an Ottawa based hierarchy makes for some real challenges some times. That brings into question cost as well and we also have the question of governance."

Even though the last RCMP contract was signed with much fanfare that local governments would have more of say Brodie says it has not worked out that way.

"It is all motivated because of the challenges that we face really with the RCMP and how they load on top of us, very often with little or any notice, changes that maybe work for us or maybe they don't."

Brodie says the city was "forced" to sign on to the 20 year RCMP deal in 2012.

8 Comments

Comments

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EbN on *Aug 11, 2015 at 08:29 pm* said:

Good for you, Brodie. Your neighbour, Delta, seems to do just fine. If you asked for any help they might provide, I am certain, they would co-operate. Recruiting, in my estimation, is the key to success. Don't hire

**GP-146
(Special)**

any failures at being bullies in their past, or ex-RCMP. I wish you well.

[Log in to Reply](#)



Johnny Brooks on *Aug 13, 2015 at 06:02 am* said:

Kelowna was told by Ottawa to build a new \$50 million dollar fortress to house the RCMP and by the way if the city doesn't build , told in no uncertain terms , that the feds would go ahead and build and just bill the city . The ratepayers have Zero Say on how there money is spent ! This fascist stranglehold on the ratepayers has to stop ! Take back your communities and own and control your own police force !

[Log in to Reply](#)



EbN on *Aug 13, 2015 at 07:18 am* said:

Well put, What did that big elephant over on Fraser Highway cost us? The RCMP even wanted a pub within it, as once an RCMP I guess they fined they don't meld well with the public. The days of Andy and Barney in Mayberry have gone, now it is like the 3rd Reich.

[Log in to Reply](#)



P. on *Aug 12, 2015 at 06:45 pm* said:

Sad but true

[Log in to Reply](#)



gordo on *Aug 13, 2015 at 10:34 am* said:

Let's just hope that this isn't just more political posturing and that Brodie follows through with this and maybe teach Surrey a lesson or two.

[Log in to Reply](#)



Major Tom on *Aug 13, 2015 at 01:24 pm* said:

Municipal police are accountable to the taxpayers that pay their wages. Federal police have their own master. Good luck, Richmond!

[Log in to Reply](#)



Doug on *Aug 14, 2015 at 04:05 pm* said:

That's true. So it would seem to make sense to make public the cost of the RCMP option and compare it to a local police force option. It is likely that local police forces would be compensated more generously than their counterparts in the RCMP. Taxpayers should know the cost of each before anyone goes beaking off about how much better a local force would be. IMHO

[Log in to Reply](#)



GHOC on *Aug 13, 2015 at 09:37 pm* said:

Doug you should speak to someone who lives in Delta, New Westminster, or Abbotsford about the level of policing their community receives. As a taxpayer in Surrey, I would gladly see my taxes increase in order to

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(Special)

have a municipal police force.

The RCMP run their municipal detachments in the way they think best suits the needs of the RCMP. These decisions are frequently detrimental to the interests of the municipal tax payers footing the bill.

[Log in to Reply](#)

Police services review

Media coverage in the Chinese daily newspapers

March 9, 2016

Legend:

MP - Ming Pao Daily; ST - Sing Tao Daily; WJ - World Journal

A2, B3, etc. are page number references

F/C photo – full color photo (black-and-white photo if not specified as F/C)

(1)	Public consultation on Richmond's police services
	<p>The public consultation of Richmond's police services is widely covered by the Chinese dailies.</p> <p>Feb 21, ST highlighted that community members including activist Richard Lee, a ginseng store operator Annie and a resident Mr. Zhao, appear to be supporting City to have its own law enforcement. Lee held Richmond should have consulted the community long ago on this issue. Annie complained crimes are prevalent in Richmond and not too many cases were resolved. She therefore supported a local force for better responses. Mr. Zhao believed RCMP is a larger organization with better resources and administrative experiences, as well as standardized services. He however pointed out RCMP could not satisfy the community and more supports for a local force are not objectionable or unsubstantiated. Both Councillors McNulty and McPhail reportedly indicated they would need to understand the community input before making a decision. ST also included a table comparing the differences between RCMP and a local force, in terms of areas such as decision making, leadership selection, day-to-day operational decision.</p> <p>MP prominently covered the open house at Thompson Community Centre on Feb 20, quoting City spokesperson Ted Townsend as indicating over 1,000 people have provided inputs through Open Houses, online or in writing. He encouraged the community to take part in the upcoming two open houses. Most of the participants indicated they are extremely concerned about police service discussion and some of them do not have a position yet.</p> <p>One of the participants at open house, Alfred, indicated he does not mind higher cost as long as community safety improves. He complains about lack of police presence and also purse snatching in City Centre. Neil Dubord of Delta Police reportedly commented RCMP is a better option in terms of financial consideration but not as stable as a local force, as the former have a higher turnover. A local force is more accountable and transparent.</p>
	<i>February 21, 2016 – ST (A5) with four photos including Councillors McPhail and McNulty, Richard Lee and a table & MP (A10) both with two F/C photos including City spokesperson Ted Townsend</i>

(2)	Chinese residents in favour of city police
	Many Chinese residents who attended the first police service open house at South Arm Community Centre said the current situation where the municipality having no direct

	<p>authority over RCMP is unacceptable, and they are prone to a city police force. However, attending residents also expressed a concern over whether a city police means an increase in property tax. City spokesperson Ted Townsend said more than 1,000 questionnaires have been received, and he encourages residents to seize the opportunity to express their opinions about this important issue. ST also carried interviews with four residents, with two in support, one neutral and one against a city police force.</p> <p>An earlier news clip carried by MP said City is holding five open houses to collect resident opinions about police service. Full details including the dates, the time and the locations are included.</p>
	<p><i>February 18, 2016 – ST (A4) with 6 F/C photos;</i> <i>February 16, 2016 – MP (A8)</i></p>

(3)	Over 1,200 forms received for police service consultations
	<p>After the last open house police services on Feb 24, City indicated 1,200 forms of public input have so far been received and a report is to be submitted to Council by April at the earliest. Staff reminded online feedback will run up the end of February. ST quoted a couple at the last open house at City Hall, by the family Liu and have lived in Richmond over 20 years, as indicating if a local force is rooted in Richmond and could improve law enforcement, they believe it is worthy of paying more taxes. City spokesperson Ted Townsend indicated even if a local force was chosen at the end of the day, it would not be implemented until 2019 according to the current arrangements.</p>
	<i>February 25, 2016 – ST (A5) with three F/C photos</i>

(4)	Heed: local force more appropriate for Richmond
	<p>Former West Vancouver Police Chief, and a former BC cabinet member, who is also a Richmond resident for 45 years, Kash Heed reportedly indicated a local force is more appropriate for Richmond. He also pointed out the transition cost could be much less than the anticipated \$19.60 million. He believed a local force could draw local talents and supports local administration and decision making, understanding and committed to providing services to Richmond community. It is also more economically effective as cost control is more feasible. Heed however pointed out the drawback is the loss of federal subsidies. He also pointed out Richmond city police could choose specialized police services from Vancouver or Delta forces, and is not restricted to RCMP only. However he emphasized those specialized services are still paid by public fund. He believed the decision must be based on whether or not the police services are responsible, efficient, transparent and accountable. Heed also has been advocating for a regional force in Greater Vancouver district for the last couple of years.</p>
	<i>February 23, 2016 – ST (A2) with a F/C photo of Kash Heed</i>

(5)	Public opinions sought on police services
	<p>City starts the public consultation process of collecting community opinions about police services, to determine if Richmond should have its own police force. Residents may express their opinions online or on a printed questionnaire during the first phase of consultation, or attend any of the five open houses to be held starting Feb. 17. Mayor Malcolm Brodie said this is a big decision for Richmond, and he urges residents to voice out their opinions.</p>

	<i>January 22, 2016 – ST (A10) with a F/C photo of Mayor Malcolm Brodie; Jan. 21 – MP (A4)</i>
--	--

(6)	Richmond to review police service options
	<p>ST carried a prominent story, headlining Mayor Malcolm Brodie to say that whether Richmond will have its own police force depends on resident opinion. Mayor Brodie, in an interview with ST, said he is generally satisfied with Richmond RCMP's performance but those in the senior management of RCMP in Ottawa do not perform well. He pointed out that which way to go with police service is an important but complicated decision that involves extra costs, and residents should question themselves as whether such money could be better spent elsewhere.</p> <p>Both dailies quoted an interview of CBC with the retired Vancouver officer police Andy Hobbs to comment on the issue. While Richmond Mounties has been doing a fairly good job, Hobbs believes having a municipal police force allows the Council to have more control over the direction and policy of police service, and also officers will be retained in Richmond.</p>
	<i>January 12, 2016 – ST (A4) with a F/C photo; MP (A8)</i>

(7)	Residents and businesses in support of a city police force
	<p>Numerous residents and business operators in the local Chinese community indicated they support local police force in Richmond, ST prominently reported in a front page story. In a forum meeting held Dec. 19 between Councillor Chak Au and numerous community representatives, attendees quoted the crime statistics recently released by Richmond RCMP to show that property crimes in 2015 not only has increased by 40% compared to the previous year but also the most problematic areas are densely populated by Chinese residents. ST interviewed several attendees, who all showed support to a local force. Richard Lee, who had ran for the mayoral office, said City should have held public consultations to address issue years ago, and a decision should be made based on comprehensive statistics and studies. The daily also carried a separate story about Councillor Au, giving detailed information to the attending community representatives. Despite City's contract renewal with RCMP, Au said Richmond may terminate the relationship earlier by giving a 2-years' notice. He also compared the crime rate of Richmond with those of Abbotsford and Delta, which have their own police force, and said the cost difference between RCMP and municipal police is not significant.</p> <p>The forum meeting story in MP was moderate, and it was focused mainly on the cost figures and the police/resident ratios as provided by Councillor Au. Richmond will be looking at an extra \$2 to \$3 million in policing cost should it decide to have its own police force, and this cost is converted to a 1.08% to 1.9% increase in property tax for 2018.</p> <p>A brief coverage earlier in ST said public consultation will be held from January 11 to February 29, to collect residents' opinions about the two policing options. Residents are encouraged to express their views online, or attend one of the public meetings to be held in January and February with details to be posted on the city website.</p>
	<p><i>December 20, 2015 – ST (A1- front page headline) with two F/C photos (one of which shows Councillor Au in a meeting with community representatives) and three F/C maps/tables & MP (A5);</i></p> <p><i>December 18, 2015 – ST (A8) with a photo</i></p>

(8)	Controversy over municipal police force
	<p>City will be conducting public consultation early next year to collect resident opinions on a municipal police force for Richmond, reported MP and ST in moderate coverage. Mayor Malcolm Brodie said according to a staff report, having Richmond's own police force requires \$3 million extra cost each year, which is equivalent to 1.5% increase in property tax. This cost is in addition to the loss of \$4.2 million of federal subsidy support Richmond continue with RCMP. Brodie emphasized that residents should weigh the benefits of having a greater control over police force against the higher cost.</p> <p>Both dailies also reported in detailed coverage about the campaign launched by Yihong Wu, chair of China Hubei Association of Vancouver who was a recent victim of handbag snatching. Wu is calling for support to the setting up of a municipal police force, and in just two days, about 200 people join the social group. She said many of the supporters represent different community groups, and her plan is to discuss with Councillor Chak Au about their next step.</p> <p>Another ST detailed report presented the diverse community views over the setting up of a municipal police force. Mr. Zhu, owner of a Chinese herbal shop that was twice victimized by break-ins, said the crux lies with the lenient Canadian legal system. On the other hand chair of Sichuan Chamber of Commerce of Canada, Zujun Liu, supported Yihong Liu and calls for a municipal police force. He said community safety has deteriorated significantly over the recent years, and Richmond should have its own police force even for a higher cost. The daily also interviewed four other residents, with one supporting municipal police on condition of no tax increase, and three either against or unsure.</p>
	<p><i>December 5, 2015 – ST (A5) with two photos;</i> <i>December 4, 2015 – MP (A8) with two F/C photos;</i> <i>December 2, 2015 – ST (A11);</i></p>

(9)	Policing report
	<p>City announcement of the policing report on Nov. 26 was reported moderately or extensively by the local dailies Nov. 27. The coverage generally provided a gist of the option of a municipal police force, the one-time cost to be around \$20 million, and probable impact on property tax in terms of operational expenditure. Other details such as when and how to terminate the current contract, the percentage of policing budget in overall City budget, items where the costs would be increased, and the impact on federal and provincial policing subsidies. MP quoted Councillor Au as indicating Council has not come to a conclusion on the issue, and the public consultation will commence early next year.</p>
	<i>November 27, 2015 – MP (A2) with a F/C photo & WJ (B2)</i>

(10)	City studies municipal policing
	<p>City continues the studies on municipal police force, and a report is expected to be submitted to Council in this fall. Subsequent to the following public consultations, if it were decided that the RCMP contract with Ottawa is to be terminated, a municipal police could be established in two years. Mayor Brodie reportedly indicated the cost and management relating to the RCMP service, as well as the difficulties in coordination with its headquarters in Ottawa, are the issues that need to be addressed. It also appears that more municipal</p>

	<p>participation, which is a condition when the latest contract was renewed, does not work out. He also commented that it is not necessary for RCMP to build its \$1 billion headquarters in Surrey, and municipal governments are not extensively consulted. Policing is the largest single item for Richmond's expenditures, about 20% of the total budget.</p>
	<i>August 14, 2015 – MP (A11)</i>

Police service review Radio interview transcripts

**Sher-E-Punjab Radio
(AM1550 KRPI South Asian Newstalk Radio)
August 13, 2015**

On the morning of Thursday, August 13, 2015, the talk show held a three part segment on Richmond's police services review. First, Kashmir Heed was interviewed, then the host heard from callers, then Jim Cessford, Delta Police, was interviewed.

Kash Heed interview segment:

(We missed the beginning of the interview)

KH: ... in management of this particular type of service, compared to the independent municipal police services, the 12 that we have operating in British Columbia.

Host: Basically, the City—they hire them, they pay them but they don't control them?

KH: They don't control them, you know, to any great length at all. And they are not really accountable back to them. They will say they are accountable but if you look at the actual structure, if you look at the actual practices, you will see that the accountability doesn't come back to the local government or to the citizens of that area.

The comparison I use is with municipal policing. For example when I was the chief in West Vancouver, we were accountable to the police board. The police board was made up of a Chair person – which was the Mayor of that city, one other individual appointed by the City and then provincial appointees. But they were at arm's length away from the political branch. They were at arm's length away from the police themselves. But they ensured the accountability came to them and they were somewhat responsible for financial aspects of policing, their policy of procedures, the hiring and firing of the Chief of Police and making sure they were addressing the needs of the community that the police are serving.

Host: So it is technically possible, if you can quickly answer that, is it technically possible after signing a contract, if the municipality decides that we still think that the RCMP isn't the better choice so we want to have our own police?

KH: Absolutely, but whether there is a local political will to do it? There is lot of sabre-rattling in saying that we're not happy with it. But at the end of the day if the citizens want it, will those local politicians do it? Because in my opinion, I don't think they will at the end of the day. I think there is a lot of talk that is going on, which is usual. But there is possibility with the contract that they signed, on April Fool's Day

in 2012—the 20 year contract—of getting out of that contract with two years notice. And two years would be ample time to transition to a new policing model for the City.

Host: In the news now, Richmond Mayor Mr. Malcolm Brodie is saying that even though RCMP did wonderful work, but still, it's not easy dealing with the federally controlled RCMP. It's time wasting, it's cost effect as well. Do you think it could be a possibility or that it just stays in the talk-shows as a subject of debate?

KH: I think it's a subject of debate, but I think if they really want it, it's possible for them to change over to a different policing model - one that addresses the needs here in citizen and certainly satisfies the accountability effectiveness of the police services.

But again Dr. Romana, unfortunately we have politicians that are doing a lot of talking. But at the end of the day, will they make the change? I don't think we're quite there yet. I'm hoping that there's some public opinion that supports looking at different models and the politicians have to listen to that public opinion in the direction that they are going and they cannot use this fear-mongering. And that's the problem, is that it's going to be so costly to change, because those financial numbers are not accurate that they are advocating at this particular time.

Host: So historically, and we have enough data, that police forces in Delta, Vancouver and all other cities have been doing really good comparatively.

KH: Oh, incredible, incredible. And they are accountable back to the Mayor of that particular region, they are accountable back to the citizens of that particular region and that is the most important aspect of this – that accountability. If they know they are accountable to someone, if they know they are accountable to local government, in my opinion and in my experience, they will be more effective in their role as a police agency and more efficient in their role as a police agency.

And Dr. Romana, I just want to make one point here. When the RCMP were pushing for this 20 year contract and the government was looking at it, they assured the people of British Columbia that they would create this management agency that would look after some of the aspects, some of the problems related to policing. That hasn't taken place. We are three years later into the contract and that hasn't taken place.

Host: Hmmm. Mr. Heed, thank you very much.

KH: My pleasure Dr. Romana.

Jim Cessford (Delta Police) interview segment:

(We missed the beginning of the interview)

Host: You have lots and lots of experience in the field. How is a municipal police force better than RCMP?

JC: Well, I think that uh...I'm not sure it's fair to say that a municipal police force is better than RCMP. I think it depends on what it is that you want. And I guess that the best example I can give you is that if you're paying for a police service, whether it be the municipal police or whether it be the RCMP police, if you're paying for that and you're paying a contractor or your agency to provide policing service, that agency is accountable to you, is accountable to that municipality. So, then you expect that they're accountable, that they're transparent and that they provide the policing service that meets the needs of your community. I think that's the big issue and the big discussion with municipal policing and the RCMP in that a lot of people see that municipal policing are governed by a police board that's representative of the community and then they work towards doing the policing and they develop a policing model that fits independent needs, the respective needs, of that community. A lot of people suggest that the RCMP are then accountable to Ottawa and that they then police according to the Ottawa model and the Ottawa administration and direction and that they're maybe perhaps not as close to the community as your own municipal police department would be. I think that's probably the safest way to put it and the clearest way to put it that the municipal forces are very much accountable to their respective communities.

Host: Yes, we do agree with that accountability is very important. But Mr. Cessford, don't you think that would lead to compartmentalized policing, which is a little bit of a problem, right?

JC: No I don't see that as being a problem at all. I'm a strong proponent of community-based policing. I came from Edmonton police. We were strong community-based policing organization. Delta police is a strong community-based policing organization. We, the police agencies who police in communities, need to police to the needs of that community. The needs for the citizens of Delta are not the same as the needs of those for citizens in Surrey or Vancouver or any other community. So when we're providing community policing service and we're providing basic level policing to the community, you police according to the needs of that community. When we need specialized policing in British Columbia and this specialized policing would be a specialized policing agency that would deal with the gangs, the organized crime and the higher levels of policing. But we need to have our own municipal community-based department that police according to the respective needs of their communities. It's proven that bigger is not better. And there are all kinds of examples of regionalization across Canada that have not worked. The bigger centres will say, "This is ideal and this is how it should be." The smaller communities who are absorbed by that larger department are saying, "We're not getting the same service any longer." With all respect to Vancouver as an example, if something happened in Vancouver, a major incident happened in Vancouver, I can almost assure you that the resources of Delta would be moved to downtown to Vancouver. At least this way, I can determine what resources, if any, would go to Vancouver. The Stanley Cup rioting was a fantastic example of that, in that I determined how many

resources I would send to Vancouver. And I also looked after the needs of Delta in partnership with the Surrey RCMP.

Host: Hmm...That particular day, Stanley Cup rioting day, we were sitting in our Richmond studio and we could see the cars going from this side towards downtown. So in that case, do you suggest that RCMP may not be a good team player in a situation like that?

JC: I'm sorry the RCMP would be what?

Host: May not be a good team player to deal with a situation like that, Stanley cup riot?

JC: Yea, no, no, the RCMP did—they were a good team player. They sent resources to Vancouver. We and the Surrey RCMP, Delta police and Surrey RCMP, also partnered up and we did our policing here on Scott Road in Delta to make sure we had the situation under control. But it goes back to what I said initially in that it depends on what you want in your community. I hear Mayor Brodie saying that they want more accountability from the RCMP in Richmond and he believes, and the sense I get is, that he doesn't think that he's getting that. If you want your own force and you want that force accountable directly to the City of Richmond or Delta or whatever, then perhaps the municipal model is better for you.

Host: And Mr. Cessford lastly, what went wrong at that time when many municipalities were saying we were going to have our own police at that time of signing a contract, but then all of them edict ...what was the main hitch at that point?

JC: Well all of the RCMP municipalities signed off on that 20 year agreement. As Delta, of course, we have our own independent municipal police department so we didn't sign any agreement with the RCMP.

Host: No, Mr. Brodie was saying they're not going to sign the contract and the Burnaby Mayor was saying they're not going to sign the contract, then what happened? Why did they sign then?

JC: I'm not sure. I think there was an opt-out clause and at the time they signed off, I believe those municipalities thought that they needed more time to think about whether, in fact, they wanted to continue with the expended policing model with the RCMP. And I think some of those municipalities, and certainly Richmond would be one, are saying, "You know what? We have the two year opt-out clause. We're now thinking that maybe we should opt out, that we're not going to continue on with the 20-years." I think that when they signed on, it bought them some time that they could actually make an informed and make the best decision for moving forward. I think that was fair. And it was fair to the RCMP and it was fair to each of the respective cities that signed on. Now...

Host: ...And if that happens, this uh, moving away from RCMP and having own police; is it a smooth process? Is it possible within the given period of time or is it a long process and tedious one to train our own police officers?

JC: No, you know a lot of people will hold out that it's more expensive. They'll hold out that it's really difficult to do. I've looked at this several times with discussions from my time here in British Columbia. It's not a difficult process. It's quite manageable and it's like anything—if you want to make something happen, you make it happen and it can be done relatively easily. There will be some hiccups and there will be some difficulties with it, but it can certainly be done, not a problem. The other thing is that Richmond could look at doing an integrated model or a partnership model with Delta, or Vancouver or New Westminster and they could have a Delta-Richmond policing service that would be an independent municipal police department. So there's lots of options for them. And I think that Mayor Brodie is being a visionary and he's providing leadership in saying we need to open up our minds here and think about what would be the best for the citizens of Richmond.

Host: Mr. Cessford, thank you very much for your time sir, shukria (thank you), thank you.

JC: Thank you

- End -

CKNW AM980

Simi Sara Show

August 14, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.

Richmond Police Service Review

On the morning of Friday, August 14, 2015, the Simi Sara talk show interviewed Wally Oppal.

Wally Oppal interview:

Host: We're talking about the idea of a different kind of police force, particularly in Richmond. We've been asking all sorts of people this question – different people who have been involved in law enforcement. Today we thought we would ask Wally Oppal that question, former Attorney General here in BC, now lawyer with Boughton Law. This something I know that you, probably behind the scenes, have many discussions all over the years.

Oppal: Well, this formed a major part of our report in 1994, that is the future of the RCMP—should the RCMP continue to be the BC police force, the provincial police force? The RCMP have a long history in British Columbia – became the provincial police force in 1950. Since that time, many cities have opted to have the RCMP as their city police force – Richmond, Burnaby and Surrey are three such cities. So the Mayor is absolutely right, it's a question of governance and cost, and all of those things. And at the end of the day, the City of Richmond will have to decide what's best for them when it comes to policing.

The Mayor is quite right, there are no police boards, which really are the voice of the communities, and the RCMP jurisdictions don't have those, and there are no police committees as such. So you know, the RCMP have an excellent reputation worldwide, nationally and internationally, and they do a very, very good job in many ways of looking after community needs. But the cities that have the RCMP need to know that the major decisions with respect to policy are made in Ottawa, and a complaint process is in Ottawa. They are not part of the provincial police force, so they are not a part of our accountability process. So having said that, there are many, many officers of the RCMP who do a very good job of looking after local needs and local priorities. So it all depends on what a particular city wants and what their priorities are. But I think the Mayor hit the nail right on the head when he said that it all involves governance, and that is an area of policing that's often neglected by the committees.

Host: You mentioned the report back in 1994 looking into this. What came of that report?

Oppal: Well, we said that it is up to the cities as to what they want. But the RCMP has to be more accountable to local priorities and they have done a lot better jobs since that time. But the fact that there are no police boards, which really are the voices of the communities, is something that really surprises me and the cities that have the RCMP seem to be quite happy with the fact, or aren't really concerned with the fact that there are no police boards. And I think that's a fundamental part of our democratic process that our police have some kind of community input as to what the communities really want. So, that's what I find somewhat concerning and we pointed that out in the 1994 report. And again, civilian oversight is a major part of policing. That is police have to be accountable to civilian authorities. So when a mistake is made by a police officer in this province, if it's a VPD officer, it's Stan Lowe's office, the provincial police commission/police office will investigate those complaints. But that won't happen with the RCMP. They have a different type of a process that's really centered in Ottawa. So those are some of the factors that communities have to think about as to which route they want to take.

HOST: Okay, let's talk about regional police force. We're talking about the idea of a different kind of police force, particularly in Richmond, where the Mayor there, Malcolm Brodie, has been kind of musing about this out loud over the last couple of days. Small window there for that city to opt out of the 20 year RCMP contract, and perhaps do things differently, perhaps go their own way. And another really popular subject seems to continually come up time after time is the idea of a regional police force for Metro Vancouver. Do you think that's something that could work?

Oppal: Well, we recommended that strongly in 1994, and again at the conclusion of the Pickton report. Now we know, quite conclusively, that had there been a regional police force and had information been shared, many lives would have been saved. We know that. Same thing with the Clifford Olsen years. If the information that the police had during the Olsen investigation had been shared, lives would have been saved. So it makes a lot of sense to have a regional police force with some kind of meaningful coordination, where there is a sharing of resources and knowledge. Having said that, sometimes when you have a regional police force, community based policing and the policing at local communities may

be compromised. For instance in Delta, they are very pleased and happy with the local police force that looks after local needs, and that's good. I would be hard-pressed to impose a system on Delta, Port Moody or any other community that wants their own police force. Having said that, it makes a lot of sense to have some kind of a regional structure instead of the patch-work that we have now, and where there is some kind of real information sharing. And we've come a long way since the Pickton years, where we have a real-time information sharing system now. And we're coordinating our resources now better than any time in the past. But this is something that the cities have to think about. And like I've said, in principal I've always favoured a regional police force and it makes a lot of sense. But again, people have to buy into it.

Host: Do you think the RCMP has responded well over the last 10 years, you know, the changing geography, changing demographics—obviously it's a different situation in Surrey than it might have been 10 years ago, and Richmond too. Do you think they are responding well to those changes?

Oppal: Absolutely, I think they've done a very good job in responding to local needs and the demographics and make-up of their forces have changed considerably. And there are many committed officers of the RCMP who take part in community priorities – spousal violence, violence against women, those types of issues that I know they get involved in at the community level. But again, the priorities or the policies are set in Ottawa. And if the city is happy with that, then maybe the city should stick with the RCMP. But it's up to what each individual city wants and I think that's really the route to go. And I think the Mayor's on the right track when he talks about the real issues that are involved in whether they should have their own police force or have the RCMP.

HOST: Is this the only area in Canada where this has become this kind of an issue?

Oppal: Well no one else in Canada has this patch-work that we have. I mean you get off the ferry at Horseshoe Bay and you have the West Vancouver police. Then you go a little further and you have the North Van police. And you come into Vancouver and you have the VPD. Go over to Burnaby, you have the RCMP. New Westminster has their own police force. Surrey has the RCMP. It really defies logic to think someone would set up a structure of that sort and it makes no sense in some ways. But in other ways, it depends on which each individual community wants.

Host: So Mr. Oppal, what would you tell Mayor Malcolm Brodie?

Oppal: Well, I think he's doing the right thing. I think he should do a careful study. Costing is important, because one advantage of having the RCMP is that you get a federal subsidy – they subsidize your police force. That's something you need to consider. But I think the City of Richmond may have reached that level where they may want to have their own police force and that's something that they have to think about. They have to consult with members of their community and find out whether the RCMP, the federal police force, is responsive to their needs. And if it is, then maybe they should keep the RCMP. But if it isn't, particularly the governance matter, in any democracy, the police have to be responsible to

local authority and that's what the Mayor has to think about. That's what the City Council has to think about.


Host: Right. Are they willing to take on this new and greater responsibility?

Oppal: Well I don't think it's as difficult as a lot of people think. The infrastructure is already there. They have the police stations, they have the cars, and so I don't think the transition would be quite as difficult as many people think it would be. So I think they could make that move. There would be a transitional period if they decide to do that, but I don't think it's quite as complicated as some of the naysayers think it would be.

Host: Thank you so much for your perspective on this.

-End-

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City of Richmond - local government

Published by Hootsuite [?]

February 18 at 2:55pm · 🌐

▼

* Have Your Say via Survey and Open House *

Learn about the options that are now under consideration for the future delivery of police services in Richmond. Then let us know how you feel.

More information and our survey is at <http://ow.ly/YuHbr>


And attend one of the 4 remaining public open houses:

• Thu, Feb 18, 5-8 p.m., East Richmond Community Hall, 12360 Cambie Rd

• Sat, Feb 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Thompson Community Centre, 5151 Granville Ave

• Tue, Feb 23, 5-8 p.m., Steveston Community Centre, 4111 Moncton St

• Wed, Feb 24, 5-8 p.m., Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Rd




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Aaron Davis

Done. Richmond residents have no idea what they will be missing out on if they stay with the RCMP model. Ask any Delta resident what they think of the Delta Police Department. They are hated by criminals and loved by residents with a 94% approval rating and they are a huge visible presence on Delta streets.

Richmond should have made the switch years ago.

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February 19 at 8:08am



City of Richmond - local government

Thanks for participating.

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February 19 at 4:19pm

4944800

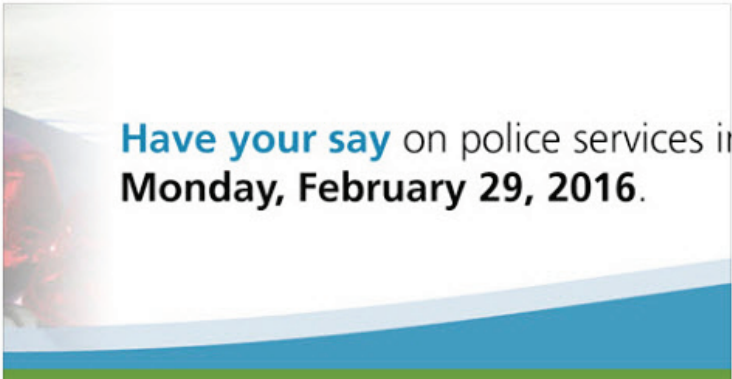
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(Special)



Drop by tomorrow's, Sat, Feb 20, police services open house from 10-1 p.m. at Thompson Community Centre, 5151 Granville Avenue. Learn about the options that are now under consideration for the delivery of police services in Richmond:

- continuation with the current service provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), or
- establishing an independent Richmond police force.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.letstalkrichmond.ca/policingconsult2016>



Have your say on police services in Richmond. Monday, February 29, 2016.

Police services in Richmond

As our community grows and plans for the future, Richmond City Council is looking to determine the best approach to ensuring police services meet...

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[Glen Kirkland, Diane Scott, Clara Chow K K and 20 others](#)

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Scott Stewart Municipal police will do an excellent job, the RCMP are doing an excellent job, municipal police will cost much more than municipal police. Simple choice. However, the city's questionnaire is ridiculous and terribly subjective I would have expected more from Richmond. It is clear to me that Council does not want our opinion they want us to embrace their opinion.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · February 20 at 7:21am

Stephen Ping Hi Cheung Stay close with RCMP nationwide. Only way to avoid local corruption and police force used by local powers for local gains.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · February 20 at 6:11am

Amber Lemon Keep the RCMP. The transitional costs (20 million) are too high; the new police force will cost 3 million more in the first year. But, most of all, the RCMP do a good job.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · February 19 at 11:27pm

Celeste Tony Caravetta Keep our R.C.M.P. They do a fantastic job for the community! We have needed them many times and were there for us.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · February 19 at 6:45pm · Edited

Gurmith Singh RCMP are doing an amazing Job,why spend more money where not needed,use the same money to upgrade our Hospital,which is much needed!!! salute the RCMP for their amazing services and protecting us and keeping Law & Order!!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · February 20 at 9:38am

Don Dunfee Judging by the survey, this is a done deal. We will get a local police force regardless of our wishes. Just more empire building at city hall.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · February 19 at 9:01pm

Susan Valera Bernardino More taxes will be implemented once there is a transitional change --- who wil bear the costs - of course it's going to be passed on to the taxpayers

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Patricia O'Shea Morgan I think leave well alone.

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Boboy Go More taxes.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · February 19 at 9:56pm

Les Bendo Keep the RCMP.

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City of Richmond - local government

Published by Kim Decker [?] · February 22 at 6:35pm · 🌐

* Have Your Say via Survey and Open House Feb 23 & 24*

Learn about the options that are under consideration for the future delivery of police services in Richmond. Then let us know how you feel.

More information and our survey is at <http://ow.ly/YuHbr>

Also, attend one of the 2 remaining public open houses:

- Tue, Feb 23, 5-8 p.m., Steveston Community Centre, 4111 Moncton St
- Wed, Feb 24, 5-8 p.m., Richmond City Hall, 6911 No. 3 Rd



Police services in Richmond

As our community grows and plans for the future, Richmond City Council is looking to determine the best approach to ensuring police services meet local needs and priorities, and that Richmond continues to be a safe place to live,....

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Sylvia Gwozd Filled out survey and could not get it to submit and when I went back to check that I had missed anything it wiped out my entire feedback.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · February 23 at 7:43pm



City of Richmond - local government Good morning, thank you for letting us know and sorry you lost the content of your survey. We have tried to replicate what happened to you and we aren't able to (we would need more information to try to nail it down.) Please try again, as we really wan... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by Kim Decker [?] · February 24 at 10:11am



Roger Phillippe What Malcolm Brodie is not telling the residents of Richmond about a municipal police force

Staffing and training of new RCMP members is paid for by the federal government and when they arrive in Richmond they are boots on the ground ready to go.

Not all presently stationed RCMP members will convert to a municipal police so these positions will have to be advertised nationally, more cost. Municipal police staffing and training will be paid by Richmond taxpayers.

The concern about longevity of RCMP members stationed in Richmond has been raised. Recent statistics supplied by the RCMP advise that 39% have been stationed in Richmond under 5 years; 46% have 5-10 year; 11% 10-15 years and 4 % of members have 15-20 years.

Richmond will lose its 10% policing discount from the federal government if they implement a municipal police. New municipal police forces will be unionized and tied to Vancouver City Police pay scale which is one of the highest in Canada. Approval for a municipal police must be authorized by the Province of British Columbia, who has said they would rather create one lower mainland police force instead of having a many separate police forces. Municipal police have two man cars. The RCMP has one man per car, so will we have to double the number of police in Richmond?

Richmond City Council has already admitted that it will cost the taxpayers of Richmond more for a municipal police force. All of this is to what avail and at whose expense, the Richmond tax payer. Do you feel the mayor would be a suitable choice to head the police board? Complete the online survey at www.richmond.ca scroll to "Police Services Review", then click "www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca", then click the heading "Police Services in Richmond". Complete this survey before 29 February.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · [👍 2](#) · February 24 at 12:46pm



Amber Lemon Keep the RCMP!! With every respect, the Mayor is not at all suitable to head the police force. The additional transitional costs to switch to a municipal force are over 20 million dollars. The new municipal force has a budget of 3 million more than ou... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · February 24 at 1:28pm



Amber Lemon As well, keep in mind, the city has a mostly fixed budget. So, the extra 23 million needed to support this change (in the first year alone) will likely have to come from deep cuts to other city programs and services (and/or tax increases). All this, to give the Mayor control of the police force. It's too high a price to pay.

Like · Reply · Message · February 24 at 4:53pm



Write a reply...



Sherrie Costillas To train one new municipal police would cost us 100,000. 🙄 Let's keep the RCMP for now. Maybe when Richmond will be all condo high rise buildings, we will consider. 🤔 (last statement is a joke)

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · February 24 at 12:53pm



Wendy Coulter Get people out doing the survey. We all need to make our decision known loud and clear that we do not want a municipal police force or increased taxes year over year.

Like · Reply · Message · February 24 at 6:23pm



Wendy Coulter I agree let's keep the RCMP. No one is saying how much our taxes will be going up each year!

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · February 22 at 8:24pm



Gurmith Singh Our salute to the RCMP! we have to keep them

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · February 24 at 6:15am



Celeste Tony Caravetta Let's keep our R.C.M.P.

Like · Reply · Message · 3 · February 22 at 7:44pm



Susan Valera Bernardino Let's keep RCMP

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · February 22 at 8:14pm



Mary Ortega Keep and salute them

Like · Reply · Message · February 24 at 5:12am



Carolyn Chen Keep RCMP !!

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · February 23 at 1:57pm

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City of Richmond - local government

Published by Kim Decker (?) · February 25 at 11:04pm · 🌐

Have Your Say on this important topic by Monday, Feb 29
Learn about the options that are under consideration for the future delivery of police services in Richmond. Then complete the survey and let us know what is important to you. <http://ow.ly/YuHbr> Thank you.
#RichmondBC



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Mark Mahovich THE RCMP HAVE WORN OUT THEIR WELCOME IN THIS COUNTRY.NEGATE THEIR CONTRACT,I WILL DO THE SAME IN COQUITLAM.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · February 26 at 10:26am