



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 20, 2016
From: Rendall Nasset, Superintendent **File:** 09-5000-01/2016-Vol
Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment 01
Re: 2015-2016 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan Fourth
Quarter Results (January 1 to March 31, 2016).

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "2015-2016 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan Fourth Quarter Results (January 1 to March 31, 2016)", dated April 20, 2016 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be received for information.

Rendall Nasset, Superintendent
Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment
(604-278-1212)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

On February 23, 2015, Richmond City Council adopted the priorities as listed in the report “2015 -2016 RCMP Annual Performance Plan – Community Priorities” dated January 19, 2015.

The priorities selected were:

1. Pedestrian Safety;
2. Break and Enters & Theft from Automobile; and
3. Mental Health.

At the request of the Community Safety Committee, the Officer in Charge will keep Council informed on matters pertaining to policing in the Richmond community.

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

- 1.2. Program and service enhancements that improve community safety services in the City.*
- 1.3. Improved perception of Richmond as a safe community.*
- 1.4. Effective interagency relationships and partnerships.*

Analysis

Community Priority 1 - Pedestrian Safety

Objective

This priority has two targets, the first is a ten percent reduction in pedestrian-related injuries and the second is a 25 percent reduction in pedestrian fatalities.

Action

In the fourth quarter of 2015-2016, the Detachment’s Road Safety Unit (RSU) along with volunteers conducted several public awareness campaigns. The “Active and Safe Routes to School Program” was held during the month of January 2016 and Road Safety Unit participated in this initiative through school “walk-about” and workshops. The program, hosted by City of Richmond partners, is designed to promote and encourage parents and children to either walk or bicycle to school for a wide variety of benefits. Benefits include making it safer for children in and around school areas, promoting healthier lifestyles and enhancing the spirit of community living.

February 2016 was high occupancy vehicle lane (HOV) and distracted driving education and enforcement month. As part of the Road Safety Unit's distracted driving program, a new Operation Hang-Up initiative was piloted in partnership with ICBC. Operation Hang-Up has proven very successful in the City of Surrey. In one operation Road Safety Unit apprehended a female driver who had 12 previous distracted driving offences involving the use of an electronic device. After referral to RoadSafetyBC the woman was finally banned from driving upon her 14th incident. On March 29, 2016, another distracted driving campaign in partnership with ICBC was held at Matthew McNair Secondary School with approximately 300 students in attendance.

On January 19, 2016, a vehicle driven by a 77-year old driver struck and killed a 69-year old pedestrian in the 6,000 block area of Dyke Road. On January 20, 2016, two pedestrians were injured after a 78-year old driver drove into the glass window of a restaurant on No. 3 Road. Fortunately the two pedestrians did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

On February 9, 2016, two Richmond drivers were ticketed and banned from the road after street-racing along one of the city's main roads. On February 12, 2016, it was found that a "30 KM on school days" sign had been deliberately sheered off just above its bolted-down base. This sign was designed to flex if hit by a vehicle and was supposed to act as a deterrent to speeding drivers.

On March 1, 2016, a 49-year old female pedestrian was struck while crossing at the No. 2 Road and Williams Road intersection. A second hit and run incident occurred on the same day at the intersection of Garden City Road and Cook Road when a 25-year old female was struck by a vehicle as she was crossing the street. On March 6, 2016, a 59-year-old female driver died after the car she was driving appeared to strike a hydro pole on Westminster Highway at Nelson Road before veering off the road. On March 9, 2016, two pedestrians were struck by a driver making a left turn from Park Road into Cooney Road. Another pedestrian was struck by a driver attempting a left turn as the pedestrian was crossing the intersection of Steveston Highway and Shell Rd on March 11, 2016. On March 14, 2016, a female driver crashed into the Chevron Town Pantry and White Spot drive-thru. A Richmond Performance school reported on March 22, 2016 a possible hit and run resulting in apparent damage to the fence, exterior and interior school wall. On that same date, a Speed Watch education and awareness campaign was held in the Steveston area.

There were two violent incidents of road rage in March 2016. The first occurred on March 8, 2016, when a male threatened with a knife and an iron bar was chased to the City Centre Community Police Station. The second incident occurred on March 24, 2016, when the Detachment received a report of a fight in progress at the 12200 block of Horseshoe Way between three males associated to two vehicles. The Detachment's investigation later confirmed a road rage incident with all parties sharing fault.

Results

In the fourth quarter of 2015-2016, there were 25 pedestrian-related injuries. This represents a 31 percent reduction in pedestrian-related injuries this quarter versus the same period last year. Year over year there were 82 versus 112 pedestrian-related injuries, reflecting an overall 27

percent reduction. Unfortunately, there was one pedestrian fatality this quarter. However, year to date totals still show a 33 percent reduction in comparison with 2014-2015.

The table below outlines the pedestrian-related injuries and fatalities for the years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016:

Quarter	Date Range	Pedestrian Injuries 2014-2015	Pedestrian Injuries 2015-2016	Pedestrian Fatalities 2014-2015	Pedestrian Fatalities 2015-2016
1	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30	15	19	0	0
2	Jul. 1 – Sept. 30	22	10	0	0
3	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	39	28	2	1
4	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31	36	25	1	1
Total		112	82	3	2

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics April 5, 2016.

Community Priority 2 - Break and Enters & Theft from Automobile

Objective

This priority has two targets, the first is a ten percent reduction in both commercial break and enters and in residential break and enters and the second is a ten percent reduction in theft from automobile.

Action

In an effort to support Richmond Detachment's crime reduction efforts and to further educate Richmond citizens, the Detachment announced the formation of a dedicated Community Response Team (CRT). The Community Response Team engages in community outreach and education working alongside Auxiliary Constables and Detachment members. The outreach is specifically tailored to the issue and/or event afflicting the targeted neighbourhood and also to recruit new members to Block Watch, Business Link and other such crime prevention and reduction programs.

On March 1, 2016, Detachment general duty patrol arrested a male matching the description of a male who had made an earlier attempt to break and enter into a Richmond restaurant. On March 13, 2016, a second prolific auto theft and property crime offender was arrested during a traffic stop enforcement. The Detachment's Property Crime unit (PCU) arrested a third Richmond priority offender as he was driving a stolen vehicle on March 22, 2016.

An emerging crime trend in recent commercial break and enters has been the targeting of several pharmacies and herbal stores. In one such incident, a stolen pharmacy safe was recovered. This trend has also been observed in the City of Surrey where they have experienced 11 such targeted commercial break and enters since November 2015. As a result, the Detachment Community Policing Unit (CPU) contacted the College of Pharmacists who were already aware of the trend, but were encouraged to warn all pharmacies through their network to be alert. In the meantime,

Community Policing Unit continues to conduct outreach visits to smaller pharmacies and herbalists.

On January 19, 2016, the Vancouver 24 Hours newspaper, featured an article on Richmond Detachment's plan to seek City of Richmond approval to pilot an invisible property marking technology project. The pilot will aim to hand out property tagging kits to residents in break-in hotspots. Transparent markers are tagged onto valuables and logged with a serial number. The new micro-etching technology uses a glue-pen tool and the serial numbers are captured into the supplier's database which Richmond Detachment would have access to. The product is endorsed by the Ontario Chief of Police Association and has been adopted by 20 Police jurisdictions in Ontario and Alberta as well as Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

On January 25, 2016, Richmond Detachment laid 12 additional charges against a prolific offender who has been in custody since July 2015. This brings the total to 20 counts in relation to residential break and enters for this individual. On February 5, 2016, Richmond Detachment announced that a 32-year old driver in a multi-city investigation was facing 12 charges which included using stolen identification and credit cards, renting vehicles using the said stolen identification, theft of gasoline and causing damage to a hotel room. His criminal activities generated arrest warrants from Richmond, Chilliwack, Whistler and Squamish.

Analysis of recent residential break and enters crime statistics indicate that in approximately 28 percent of such incidents a garage was the first point of entry into the home. This means that the perpetrators are often using stolen garage door openers and/or address information obtained from a prior theft from automobile incident. A secondary modus operandi observed in recent residential break and enters is that through the second floor of the home.

Theft from automobile "Lock Out Auto Crime" education and awareness campaigns continue to be held. The March 1, 2016 campaign was the Community Response Team's first "Pop-Up Detachment" in the Colonial Drive/Andres Road area. This inaugural launch received a very good response however, it was noted through initial observations, that some members of the public were initially reluctant to approach the mobile command post. The Detachment suspects that the vehicle was mistaken as a crime scene investigation command post and have made visual adjustments to the Community Response Team's "Pop-Up Detachment" displays. A second Community Response Team "Pop-Up Detachment" was set-up March 18, 2016 in the Steveston area and a third on March 24, 2016 at the Lansdowne Mall station area. The Community Response Team and auxiliary volunteers, Youth Section and patrol members interacted with the public tossing soft balls and distributing crime reduction materials.

Over the last two quarters, there has been an increasing trend in theft of automobiles in all lower mainland jurisdictions except Surrey. The theory is that as Surrey-based prolific offenders are being deterred out of the City of Surrey, and are venturing into other cities to commit crimes. Richmond Detachment street check patrols have also noticed that non-resident prolific offenders have been found in Richmond. Street checks are an effective policing strategy as the Detachment is able to gather and develop intelligence, nurture informants and the street checks can also act as a crime deterrent.

The Detachment, working together with City of Richmond Bylaws, removed several abandoned vehicles from empty properties near a known problem residence. Detachment crime statistics often show large cluster areas of theft from automobile and bicycle thefts around known “problem residences”. In addition a March 31, 2016 City Eviction Notice was also served on a Springfield Drive problem residence whose three occupants and three pit bull dogs generated more than 30 calls for service in the area since September 2015.

On February 27, 2016, Air Canada reported that they commenced their own “Bait Bag” program and that one of their “Bait Bags” had been stolen. The Detachment recovered a disposed global positioning system device (GPS) in a Richmond parking lot. On March 7, 2016, another “Bait Bag” was activated and the suspects were tracked and apprehended in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside area near the Terminal Street Vancouver Flea market location. The Detachment’s investigation has revealed that opportunistic offenders are selling the contents of the suitcases (clothes, personal items etc.) in the area near the Terminal Flea market. Toothbrushes, tooth paste, socks and make-up are popular barter/sale items. Detachment statistics reflected an immediate drop following the March 7, 2016 arrest. Luggage theft is a crime of opportunity and environmental design modifications at YVR Vancouver Airport may be required as a deterrent.

The Detachment is also utilizing the Mental Health Coordinator’s working group contacts to try to provide focused support to some mental health and/or addiction challenged prolific offenders. In one particular prolific offender’s case, the Detachment has been focusing on encouraging the offender to seek treatment for his addictions. This offender indicated that he is on a wait-list for drug rehabilitation but upon Detachment verification, this was found to be untrue. The Detachment is continuing to try to encourage the offender to seek treatment.

Detachment Crime Analysts have been identifying property crime hot spots for enhanced patrol operations. The goal is to increase police presence (Property Crime Unit, Bicycle and General Duty patrols, Community Policing Unit, Road Safety Unit, etc.) in the areas which are trending increased property crime. Each unit spearheads their own mandate to meet the Crime Reduction Strategies established for the 28 day cycle moving forward (this 28 day cycle ensures a controlled data comparison). These multi-pronged targeted activities enhance traffic enforcement, street checks, public awareness and education campaigns, etc. with an aim to identify potential offenders and deter them.

Result

In the fourth quarter of 2015-2016, there were 86 commercial break and enters. This represents a nine percent decrease compared to the same period last fiscal year and a 23% reduction from the previous quarter (October 1 to December 31, 2016). Year over year totals reflect a nine percent reduction.

There were 170 residential break and enters in the fourth quarter of 2015-2016, reflecting a 23 percent decrease compared to the same period last fiscal year. Year to date comparisons indicate a 32 percent decrease in residential break and enters overall.

The table below outlines commercial and residential break and enters for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016:

Quarter	Date Range	Commercial Break & Enters 2014-2015	Commercial Break & Enters 2015-2016	Residential Break & Enters 2014-2015	Residential Break & Enters 2015-2016
1	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30	85	81	160	181
2	Jul. 1 – Sept. 30	106	87	238	179
3	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	117	112	351	130
4	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31	94	86	222	170
Total		402	366	971	660

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics April 5, 2016.

In the fourth quarter of 2015-2016, there were 717 theft from automobiles. This represents a 32 percent increase compared to the fourth quarter of 2014-2015. However, year over year totals show an eight percent increase overall.

The table below outlines theft from automobile statistics for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016:

Quarter	Date Range	Theft from Automobile 2014-2015	Theft from Automobile 2015-2016
1	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30	723	585
2	Jul. 1 – Sept. 30	548	628
3	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	554	618
4	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31	542	717
Total		2367	2548

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics April 5, 2016.

Community Priority 3 –Mental Health

Objective

This priority's target is to reduce the number of negative police interactions with mentally ill clients.

Action

As mentioned above, the Detachment is utilizing the Mental Health Coordinator's two working group partnerships to try to provide focused support to mental health and/or addiction challenged offenders in order to avoid their personal situation escalating, causing them to feel the need to commit a crime.

On February 5, 2016, the Detachment Mental Health Coordinator visited an offender at Surrey Pretrial Centre to encourage the offender to be agreeable to treatment at The Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction (BCMHA) should he be released. BCMHA is a provincial

resource providing specialized inpatient treatment services for British Columbia adults (over 19 years) with severe and complex concurrent substance addiction and mental health disorders. In addition, the BCMHA fills a gap in service, meeting the complex needs of people who are homeless or living in unstable housing, who are vulnerable and who are affected by significant physical and mental health issues.

The Detachment continues with its weekly homeless outreach in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development Integration. The purpose of the outreach is to actively seek out where homeless Richmond residents are living, provide the client with food, warm clothing or blankets, if needed and determine if they qualify for social assistance so that their living conditions can potentially improve.

On February 18, 2016, an emergency Community Care Plan meeting was held for a female who was receptive to receiving support. The purpose of the Community Care Plan is to improve the living conditions and decrease the calls for service to the Detachment, Richmond Fire-Rescue and Emergency Health Services. This Community Care Plan was established in partnership with BC Housing, Home Healthcare, Richmond Addictions and Richmond Fire-Rescue.

In May 2015, the Lower Mainland District implemented a PRIME Study Flag Code to indicate case files where mental health issues were a significant component and contributed to a call for service. This code is applied to all investigative files whether they are an assault case, a break and enter or “causing a disturbance” call. This enables the Detachment Mental Health Coordinator to work with community partners to look for alternative solutions to help reduce the multiple calls for service the individual is causing. As a result of this new recording method there is an increase in mental health calls for service for the fiscal year 2015-2016 (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016) and the Detachment will be using the fiscal year 2016-2017 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017) as the base line year to track mental health related calls for service.

Result

In the fourth quarter of 2015-2016, there were 327 Mental Health Act (MHA) related calls for service. This represents a 31 percent increase compared to the fourth quarter of 2014-2015. Year over year totals also reflect an 18 percent increase.

The table below outlines Mental Health Act Related Calls statistics for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016:

Quarter	Date Range	MHA Related Calls for Service 2014-2015	MHA Related Calls for Service 2015-2016
1	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30	311	283
2	Jul. 1 – Sept. 30	279	344
3	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	260	346
4	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31	249	327
Total		1099	1300

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics, April 5, 2016.

As a result of the meetings with the aforementioned mental health stakeholders and the development of the two mental health databases Richmond Detachment is continuing to enhance its understanding of the needs of clients with mental health issues which will in turn empower its ability to assist clients, mitigate public risk and reduce repeat calls for service.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The priorities established in the 2015-2016 Annual Performance Plan continue to be pursued. In the fourth quarter, there has been a 31 percent reduction in the amount of pedestrian-related injuries versus the same quarter last fiscal year (January 1 to March 31, 2015). Year over year, there was a 27 percent reduction of pedestrian-related injuries.

There was one pedestrian fatality this quarter, which is on par with the same quarter last fiscal year. Year over year, pedestrian fatalities reflect a 33 percent reduction versus fiscal year 2014-2015 statistics.

There has been a 9 percent decrease in commercial break and enters versus the same quarter last fiscal year. Year over year totals reflect a 9 percent decrease overall.

There has been a 23 percent decrease in residential break and enters versus the same quarter period last fiscal year. Year over year totals indicate a 32 percent decrease.

Theft from automobile increased by 32 percent when compared to the same period in the 2014-2015 year. Year over year totals reflect an 8 percent increase overall. This will remain a focused priority due to the secondary downstream crimes that often occur as a result of the initial theft from automobile. Theft from automobile often facilitates the offender gaining access to residential garages (via garage door-openers) and homes. This further leads to downstream residential break and enters, and identity theft.

There has been a 31 percent increase in Mental Health Act related calls for service in comparison to the same period last fiscal year. Year over year totals reflect an 18 percent increase.

Richmond Detachment also prepares a quarterly web-based report on the RCMP Annual Performance Plan System (APPS) which aligns Provincial, District and Richmond Community Policing priorities. A printed copy can be provided upon request.

Council will continue to receive quarterly progress reports. The first quarter of fiscal year 2016-2017 will end on June 30, 2017.



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