



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 16, 2014
From: Phyllis Carlyle **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
General Manager, Law and Community Safety 01 (14.30)
Re: **Auxiliary Constable Policy Changes**

Staff Recommendation

That:

1. the Commissioner of the RCMP be requested to reconsider the recent policy change in relation to the level of supervision of the auxiliary constables;
2. the Federal Minister of Justice be advised of the City's request for such reconsideration;
3. the Local Government Contract Management Committee be requested to address the policy change; and
4. staff continue to report on the impact of the policy change in relation to the auxiliary program.

Phyllis Carlyle
General Manager, Law and Community Safety
(604-276-4104)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Auxiliary Constable Policy Changes

Origin

This report is in response to the referral from the Community Safety Committee meeting of December 9, 2014:

“That the correspondence from the City of Coquitlam (Attachment 1) regarding Auxiliary Constables dated November 14, 2014 be referred to staff to report back to Committee on potential impacts to policing services.”

This report supports Council’s Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.

1.5. Improved perception of Community Safety by the community.

Background

Richmond’s Auxiliary Constable Program

Richmond’s RCMP auxiliary constables are sworn, uniformed volunteers under the command of the Officer-in-Charge, Superintendent Rendall Nessel. Auxiliary constables have Peace Officer status when on duty, although do not carry firearms.

The mandate of Richmond's auxiliary constable program is to support community policing activities relating to public safety; primarily by working at community and special events and participating in various crime prevention programs.

Additionally, auxiliary constables are also authorized to accompany regular members on patrol and perform other police functions such as missing persons’ searches, traffic and crowd control, gathering information, assisting with minor reports, and assisting regular members at emergency call-out and disaster response situations.

National RCMP Policy Change

After the October 22, 2014, attack in Ottawa on the National War Memorial and Parliament Hill, the RCMP National Crime Prevention Services stated:

“Aux/Cst’s (auxiliary constables) in uniform should be the direct supervision of an RM (regular member) ...”

The following section from RCMP Operations Manual 38.3 - Auxiliary Constables is to be removed:

7. 3. 1. General Supervision means an auxiliary constable may perform specific duties without being under the direct supervision of an RM (regular member), e.g. community policing programs.

The following sections will remain in policy under 38.3.7 - Supervision:

7. 3. 2. Direct Supervision means an auxiliary constable will be accompanied and supervised by an RM (regular member).

7. 3. 3. Emergency Supervision means an auxiliary constable, in circumstances of civil emergencies, may be engaged in specific activities without direct supervision.

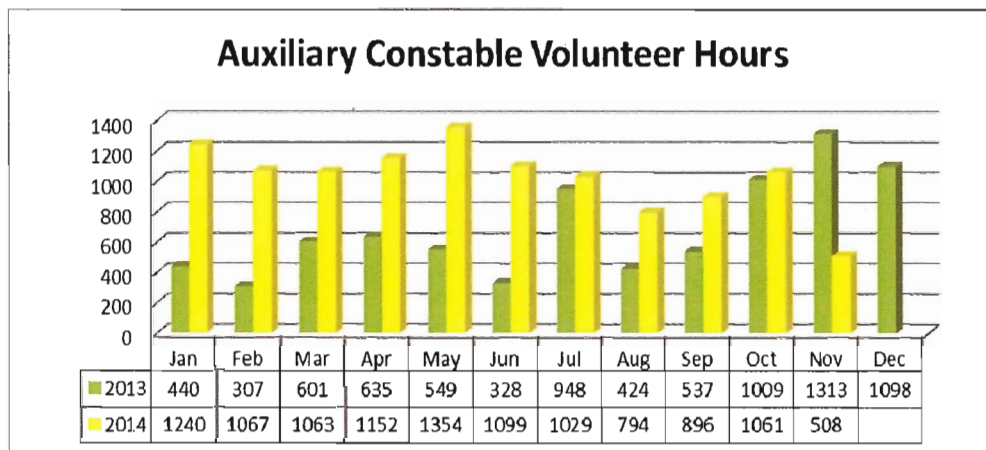
Analysis

In Richmond, the auxiliary constables have been striving towards a target of 70% of overall hours committed to community policing duties. In 2009, community events and crime prevention programs accounted for 31% of the on-duty time of Richmond’s auxiliary constables. By the end of 2013, this percentage increased to 71%. In 2013 the auxiliary constable provided 8,189 hours of service.

The policy change does not affect auxiliary constable participation in ride-along duties with general duty or traffic sections, as these activities were already under the “Direct Supervision” requirement.

However, many community policing and crime prevention duties that were previously permitted under indirect "General Supervision" now require the direct supervision of RCMP regular members.

In November 2014, the first month after the policy change, auxiliary constable volunteer hours reduced by over 50% from the previous month. It is expected that this reduction in hours will continue, especially insofar as duties involving crime prevention programs and community events.



Effect on Community Policing Duties:

Auxiliary constable participation in the following programs is currently suspended, unless a RCMP regular member is available to provide “Direct Supervision” for each duty:

- Block Watch: neighbourhood meetings, home safety presentations and events;
- Coastal Watch: “Dock Walk” patrols, marine community presentations, and boat safety checks;
- Community Safety Patrols: uniformed presence on foot, bike, and all terrain vehicles in designated areas; including Steveston, Hamilton, City Centre, Night Markets and various parks, school grounds, trails and dykes throughout Richmond; including support of Bylaws Officers conducting dog enforcement;
- Crime Watch: providing operational support to non-uniformed citizen volunteers on “observe and report” patrols;
- Home Security Checks: home and property theft prevention education for individual residents;
- Lock-Out Auto Crime: theft reduction audits of vehicles in parking lots;
- Pedestrian Safety Initiative: education in high-traffic areas;
- Safety Talks: various topics as requested by schools, various community groups, Cadets, Scouts, Guides, etc, and;
- Speed Watch: roadside education and monitoring program targeting speed reduction and distracted driving.

Effect on Community Events:

Last year, auxiliary constables were present at 50 events throughout the City. At 29 of these events, uniformed participation of auxiliary constables was provided under “General Supervision” as the auxiliaries were without the on-site presence of a regular member.

Auxiliary constable participation at all future events will now require the presence of one or more RCMP regular members to provide “Direct Supervision”.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated to this report.

The annual operating expenses for the operation of the Auxiliary Constable program include:

Annual operating budget	\$25,000	
Salary (program coordinator)	\$71,708	
Benefits	<u>\$17,210</u>	
Total expenses		<u>\$113,918</u>

Conclusion

As a result, of the policy change requiring “Direct Supervision” of auxiliary constables for all duties, there is expected to be a significant impact to crime prevention programs, many community events, and the number of volunteer hours contributed overall.

The policy change does not affect auxiliary constable participation in ride-along duties with general duty or traffic sections, as these activities were already under the “Direct Supervision” requirement.

Provincially, RCMP Detachments are currently awaiting further clarification from "E" Division as to the final wording and impact of this policy change to the auxiliary constable program.



Steve Ilott
Coordinator, Auxiliary Constable Program
(604-207-4852)

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November 4, 2014
Our File: 01-0125-30/000/2014-1
Doc #: 1817198.v2

Superintendent Tyler Bates
Director of the National Crime Prevention/
Aboriginal Policing Services
RCMP National Headquarters
73 Leikin Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2

Dear Superintendent Bates:

RE: Auxiliary Constables

Please be advised that at the November 3, 2014 Regular Meeting of Council for the City of Coquitlam, the following resolution was approved:

“Whereas the Director of the National Crime Prevention/Aboriginal Policing Services (Ottawa) has, as of the 24th of October 2014, changed the policy with respect to the deployment and engagement of Auxiliary Constables within Detachments across Canada; and

Whereas the policy change identifies a move from 'General Supervision' to 'Direct Supervision' with regard to the deployment of Auxiliary Constables, with 'General Supervision' meaning the Auxiliary Constable(s) may perform specific duties without being under the direct supervision of a Regular Member, and 'Direct Supervision' meaning the Auxiliary Constable must be accompanied and supervised by a Regular Member; and

Whereas the Coquitlam Detachment's Auxiliary Constable Program is responsible for: Crime Reduction Patrols; School Presentations at elementary schools; visits to programs with City Parks and Recreation Departments; presentations to Community Youth groups (Girl Guides and Boy Scouts); and providing police presence at Community Events; and

Whereas the announced changes of October 24th appear to have a detrimental effect on the ability of Coquitlam Detachment's Auxiliary Constables to perform the above-stated duties;

Therefore be it resolved that Coquitlam Council send a letter to the Director of the National Crime Prevention/Aboriginal Policing Services (Ottawa), outlining the impact the policy

change has on the safety and well-being of the City of Coquitlam and asking that the policy change be reconsidered.”

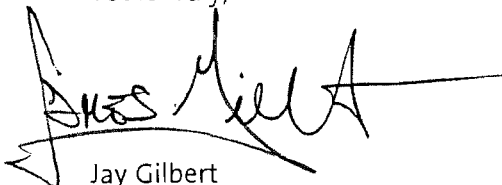
The City of Coquitlam currently has 49 auxiliary constables who collectively provide over 7500 hours of service in our community on an annual basis. As noted in the above resolution, the announced policy change will impact a broad range of programs currently performed by our auxiliary members – the benefits of which are greatly valued by our residents and our local detachment. Further, such a change will also have a significant financial impact if sworn officers are required to provide direct supervision of all activities performed by our auxiliary constables, as our existing complement of regular members will no longer be freed up to attend to other scheduled duties.

In addition, Council for the City of Coquitlam would like to express its disappointment that, once again, senior management at the RCMP has acted unilaterally and without consulting with affected municipalities. There has been significant dialogue over the recent past concerning the need for the RCMP to consult on matters such as this type of policy decision and a public undertaking by the RCMP to improve how it communicates with, and ultimately serves, contracted municipalities. Unfortunately, the policy change announced on October 24, 2014 adds to the frustration expressed by member municipalities, namely that the RCMP seems unable, or worse unwilling (given the commitments made as part of the last round of contract negotiations), to meet its obligations in this regard.

With all of the above in mind, Council for the City of Coquitlam respectfully requests that the RCMP reconsider its directive of October 24, 2014 and allow auxiliary constables to continue to provide important, cost-effective police services in all jurisdictions where they may be deployed.

If you require any further information regarding the City's position on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 604-927-3013 or by email at jgilbert@coquitlam.ca.

Yours truly,



Jay Gilbert
City Clerk

Cc: The Honourable Suzanne Anton, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
The Union of British Columbia Municipalities
The Lower Mainland Local Government Association

All Metro Vancouver Municipalities with RCMP Detachments
RCMP National Contract Management Committee
RCMP ("E" Division - British Columbia)
Members of Coquitlam Council
Peter Steblin, City Manager
John DuMont, Deputy City Manager
Supt. Claude Wilcott, Coquitlam RCMP