



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 9, 2023

From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

Re: **2022-2023 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan Third
Quarter Update (October 1 to December 31, 2022)**

Recommendation from Officer in Charge

That the report titled “2022-2023 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan Third Quarter Update (October 1 to December 31, 2022)”, dated March 9, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Dave Chauhan
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge
(604-278-1212)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

Report

Origin

On April 25, 2022, Council endorsed the following community priorities: Organized Crime, Property Crime, Road Safety, Vulnerable Persons and Hate Crime/Incidents for inclusion in the 2022-2023 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan (APP).

This report provides an update on the plan's progress.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services.

Findings of Fact

All RCMP units, including the Richmond RCMP Detachment, launch a new APP every fiscal year as part of the mandate of the Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate. This process is designed to facilitate the best management and administrative practices across the organization and allows for enhanced strategic planning activities and performance management tracking. Local APPs are informed by organizational priorities, crime trends and discussions with stakeholders to identify areas for continuous improvement.

A variety of initiatives are implemented in support of each priority, including the creation of new programs or continued enhancements to existing ones. These measures are developed through internal engagement strategies and collaborative discussions with community stakeholders and partner agencies. The APP allows for the effective tracking of these initiatives, in addition to providing a robust framework for collecting data and evaluating the desired effects of these measures.

Analysis

Organized Crime - Disrupting organized criminal activities

The Richmond RCMP Mobile Enforcement Team (RMET) targets gang suppression as part of its unit mandate, including conducting targeted patrols of hot spots and walkthroughs of licenced premises. These patrols serve as both an enforcement initiative and a deterrent to criminal activity. Throughout this quarter, RMET conducted the following number of seizures: 11 drugs, eight vehicles and six weapons.

Additional investigative efforts include ongoing surveillance of suspected gaming houses and illegal nightclubs, which are believed to have connections to the trafficking of controlled substances. The

complex nature of these investigations means they can extend for several months or even years. On December 1, 2022, the Richmond RCMP Organized Crime Unit obtained a search warrant for a suspected illegal gaming house in the 6000 block of Skaha Crescent. Multiple partner law enforcement agencies participated in the investigation, which resulted in the arrest of 16 individuals, two of whom are subject to deportation.

Investigators in the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) continued efforts to combat emerging fraud trends and supported frontline officers with investigations relating to various frauds and cryptocurrency scams. While these incidents are classified as a property crime type, some frauds have a nexus to organized crime due to their sophisticated and organized nature. In addition, this quarter, the Richmond RCMP launched a new fraud awareness initiative involving a custom banner and postcards as educational tools to inform the public of cyber fraud, including cryptocurrency scams. These fraud awareness resources are available in English, French and Traditional Chinese and will be promoted at upcoming public engagement events.

This quarter, police officers in the ECU and Drug Target Team executed a search warrant on a sophisticated forged identification lab. Police seized multiple high-end printers, laminators, thousands of blank identification cards, numerous electronic devices and computers and stolen mail and documents from third parties. A suspect was arrested and released with conditions and the investigation is ongoing.

Property Crime - Preventing and reducing property crimes

Various crime reduction initiatives continued this quarter, including Bait Car deployments to deter auto theft and capture offenders and monthly Crime Reduction meetings, where policing units commit to various evidence-led enforcement initiatives.¹ This quarter, the Richmond RCMP launched an updated Crime Reduction model, which enhances collaborative engagement opportunities and measures across all detachment policing units. There will be an ongoing review of the model to identify and continuously improve strategies.

This quarter, investigators in the Property Crime Unit (PCU) provided trend updates during morning briefings to frontline officers, in addition to providing a training session to recruits. The team also conducted enhanced enforcement activities, including two loss-prevention operations. One of these activities was on December 13, 2022, where PCU officers, Metro Vancouver Transit Police and a group of local businesses conducted a joint enforcement project targeting property crime and shoplifting. The joint operation yielded 11 arrests, including a man and woman who were arrested for attempting to use a fraudulently obtained gift card.

Volunteer engagement is another integral component of the Richmond RCMP Detachment's crime reduction strategy. There were 21 foot/van patrols resulting in 79 volunteer patrol activities and two Crime Watch deployments totalling 40 hours. In partnership with ICBC, the Community Engagement Team (CET) and volunteers participated in 53 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, where 767 information letters were issued and 16,118 vehicles were scanned through the Stolen Auto Recovery program.

¹ Due to investigational considerations, the number of bait car deployments and curfew checks is not provided.

There were also a variety of community engagement events to increase awareness of property crimes. These included a Home and Personal Safety presentation for seniors, which was held at the Richmond Pentecostal Church and included 20 participants. The CET also hosted a Coffee with a Cop event on December 7, 2022, at the Japanese Cultural Centre, where home safety and vehicle theft topics were discussed.

This quarter, there were four media releases and seven social media tweets on Twitter relating to property crime, including bike theft prevention and increasing awareness of holiday-related crime trends. Prevention information included proactive measures to keep homes secure as well as tips to prevent thefts from automobiles.

This quarter, Richmond RCMP officers conducted curfew checks of known offenders. Curfew checks are an important part of the Richmond RCMP's offender management strategy. Investigators liaise with Richmond Community Corrections on a regular basis and collaboratively identify individuals who are at risk of being non-compliant with their conditions, which originally stemmed from a variety of court-ordered releases. If known offenders are found breaching their conditions, they can face additional charges and longer sentences.

Road Safety - Enhancing safety on Richmond's roads

This quarter, the CET promoted a number of road safety initiatives with the collaboration of volunteers, the Road Safety Unit (RSU) and ICBC. There were 13 Speed Watch deployments this quarter and 14 Fail to Stop deployments, which resulted in a combined 558 information letters being mailed to registered vehicle owners. In addition, police officers and volunteers participated in a variety of events promoting pedestrian safety, including a Pedestrian Safety Blitz at Brighthouse Station on October 27, 2022. In partnership with Metro Vancouver Transit Police, volunteers and police distributed over 1,500 safety reflectors to pedestrians. In total, approximately 3,000 safety reflectors were distributed during this quarter.

Public awareness of road safety topics was also promoted through road safety media communications, including seven media releases and 27 social media tweets on Twitter. Posts included reminders about winter driving conditions and an impaired driving awareness video featuring the Richmond RCMP's Officer in Charge.

The CET promoted road safety with presentations to various community groups, including the Richmond Centre for Disability, on October 28, 2022. The RSU and CET, in collaboration with ICBC, also conducted a road safety presentation on November 30, 2022, to students at High Boyd Secondary School. The topics covered included what to expect when obtaining a driver's licence and safe driving practices on the road.

The Richmond RCMP, in collaboration with Passenger Transportation Enforcement Officers and Community Bylaws, conducted three illegal ride-share enforcement projects this quarter.² This included one project on December 8, 2022, which resulted in six vehicle stops. All six drivers were

² Passenger Transportation Enforcement Officers are Peace Officers who work for the Passenger Transportation Branch and specialize in ensuring the commercial passenger transportation industry is in compliance with the *Passenger Transportation Act*.

fined a combined \$13,422, issued under the *Passenger Transport Act*, *Motor Vehicle Act*, *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* and City Bylaws.

This quarter, 114 stationary, targeted enforcement projects were conducted by the RSU. A total of 2,125 violation tickets were issued by the RSU and General Duty police officers; 13 per cent of these tickets were for speeding, and 12 per cent were for distracted driving. The RSU also conducted several enforcement projects targeting impaired driving during the holiday season, including the Light Up the Highway event on December 3, 2022, where more than 180 police officers participated from across the Lower Mainland.

This quarter, the RSU conducted six Commercial Vehicle Enforcement projects with partner agencies. This included an operation on the Knight Street Bridge on October 13, 2022, coordinated by the Vancouver Police Department's Commercial Vehicle Unit. RSU officers inspected nine commercial vehicles, eight of which were placed Out of Service. Out of Service criteria means that a significant safety deficiency has been identified, and the defect could cause serious injury or fatality to the motoring public. A vehicle deemed as such cannot be moved until the deficiencies are corrected. In total, the RSU identified 50 defects on the vehicles inspected and laid 25 charges for contraventions under various statutes and regulations, including the *Motor Vehicle Act*, *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* and *Commercial Transport Act*.

Vulnerable Persons - Enhancing collaborative responses to complex social issues

The Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) regularly meets with partner agencies to support and respond to vulnerable persons in the community. This quarter, the VPU had 17 formal meetings with their partners, including two Joint Operation Team (JOT) meetings. The JOT includes City partners in Community Bylaws, Community Social Development, Richmond Fire-Rescue and Parks Operations, in addition to the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR), Vancouver Coastal Health and BC Emergency Health Services. Participants share information on homeless encampments in order to address and manage issues relating to safety, environmental concerns and criminality connected to drug dealing and property crimes. This quarter, joint inspections identified two homeless encampments for outreach purposes

The VPU also continued to liaise with the MSDPR to conduct homeless outreach. During an outreach initiative, a VPU officer and MSDPR staff check on the well-being of homeless individuals and provide information on different support services available. There were eight homeless outreach initiatives as the VPU continued efforts to provide vulnerable persons with specialized response and support measures.

In addition, VPU officers also worked to provide assistance to vulnerable persons during periods of extreme winter weather. This included sharing information with front-line officers related to City initiatives, such as warming shelters, to enhance safety measures for people experiencing homelessness.

Vulnerable Persons Unit officers continued to conduct regular meetings with Vancouver Coastal Health and its partners, including the Richmond Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACT). The Richmond ACT client base continues to grow and there are currently 47 clients. The VPU closely supports and monitors individuals in the community who suffer from the most severe forms of

mental illness. VPU officers also attended the new Aster Place Supportive Housing on regularly to foster relationships and liaise with staff regarding ACT clients being housed there. The Youth Mental Health Officer participated in four Integrated Case Management meetings with various partners regarding at-risk youth this quarter. Discussion topics included intervention, safety planning and support surrounding behaviour management.

The Fox 80 Mental Health Car (Fox 80) continues to respond daily to multiple mental-health-related calls as well as referrals and requests for assistance received from frontline officers.³ This quarter there were 261 related police files, which included instances where Fox 80 was called to conduct an assessment.

The VPU conducted training for all frontline officers this quarter, providing information on their mandate, homeless outreach and Fox 80 resources. One training session was provided for each General Duty Watch.

Hate Crimes/Incidents – Promoting diversity in the community

The Richmond RCMP Diversity and Inclusion Section (RRDIS) and CET conducted several public education and engagement events promoting diversity and inclusion. This included over 20 meetings with partners and community groups including Touchstone Family Services, Richmond Centre for Disability and various community centres. There were also enhanced training opportunities for police officers, including training on the RCMP Eagle Feather Protocol.⁴

On October 4, 2022, the RRDIS hosted an in-person presentation for seniors in both English and Cantonese at S.U.C.C.E.S.S.⁵ In addition, the RRDIS provided two presentations at the Richmond Family Place on December 7 and 8, 2022. One event was a Conversation Circle with new immigrants and refugees, and the other was a presentation for new immigrant settlement workers, which included an overview of the RCMP in Canada as well as what to expect when calling the police.

This quarter, Richmond held its eighth Annual Toy Drive to support the Richmond Christmas Fund. The large-scale fundraising event for families in need returned to an in-person format and raised over \$26,000 in cash donations and toys. The Richmond RCMP also promoted the Hate Has No Place campaign with educational resources distributed during community engagement events. This included providing posters and setting up information booths at Lansdowne Mall and MacArthur Glen Outlet Mall. The CET also conducted 65 patrols of places of worship.

Internal engagement initiatives were offered through newsletters, events and emails providing resources on related topics. This included hosting a Menorah lighting at the detachment on December 19, 2022, attended by the Rabbi from Chabad, Richmond. There were also seven

³ The Fox 80 program is a partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health, which consists of a mental health nurse and police officer providing a joint response to calls where mental health is a concern.

⁴ The Eagle Feather Protocol is part of the RCMP's commitment to create more inclusiveness in the justice system for Indigenous people. It is currently being used in other divisions and is being developed for local use.

⁵ S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is an intercultural, multi-service agency which provides assistance to immigrants.

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diversity-related social media posts on Twitter, including recognition of various religious observances including Diwali, Chanukah and Christmas.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Richmond RCMP Detachment has implemented various initiatives to support the community priorities and objectives endorsed by Council in the 2022-2023 Annual Performance Plan. Collaborations with stakeholders and partner agencies continue to be pursued, along with public education campaigns and the deployment of volunteer programs promoting community safety and crime prevention initiatives. Richmond Detachment continues to support the City of Richmond's public safety strategy using evidence-led approaches to target criminality.



Edward Warzel
Manager, Police Services
(604-207-4767)

EW:

Att. 1: Fraud Information Card

LOVE MONEY? THINK FRAUD



Guard your wallet as
well as your heart.



Slow down – talk to
someone you trust.
Don't let a scammer
rush you.



Never send money –
buy cryptocurrency,
or send money to an
online love interest.
You won't get it back.

Contact your bank
and exchange right
away if you think
you've sent money
to a scammer.



Report your experience
to: Local police,
Canadian Anti-Fraud
Centre



**SI L'AMOUR A UN PRIX,
C'EST PROBABLEMENT
UNE ESCROQUERIE.**



**Veillez sur votre
porte-monnaie et
sur votre cœur.**



 Richmond

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à une personne de
confiance. Ne vous
laissez pas brusquer
par un escroc.



N'envoyez jamais
d'argent! N'achetez
pas de cryptomonnaie
et n'envoyez pas
d'argent à un
amoureux en ligne.
Vous ne reverrez
jamais cet argent.



Communiquez
immédiatement avec
votre banque et votre
bureau de change
si vous pensez avoir
envoyé de l'argent à
un escroc.



Signalez votre
expérience à un service
de police local et au
Centre antifraude du
Canada.



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守護你的錢包
以及你的心。



 Richmond



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信任的人諮詢



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一去不返



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馬上通知你的銀行和貨
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