



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee  
**From:** Renny Nasset  
OIC  
**Date:** February 1, 2016  
**File:** 09-5000-01/2016-Vol  
01  
**Re:** 2015-2016 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan (APP)  
Third Quarter Results (October 1 to December 31, 2015).

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### Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "2015-2016 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan (APP) Third Quarter Results (October 1 to December 31, 2015) dated February 1, 2016, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be received for information.

Renny Nasset  
OIC  
(604-278-1212)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
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:

*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.*
- 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: one being a ten percent reduction in Pedestrian-related Injuries and the other a twenty-five percent reduction in Pedestrian Fatalities.

##### *Action*

In the third quarter of 2015-2016, the Detachment's Road Safety Unit (RSU) along with volunteers conducted several public awareness campaigns. On October 16, 2015, the Detachment, at the request of the School Principal of Jessie Wowk Elementary School, greeted parents and students as they arrived to start the school day and spoke with parents who were observed violating the drop-off lane only and/or parking in the handicap stalls. On October 29, 2015, RSU, Youth Section and volunteers conducted pedestrian awareness education campaigns at General Currie Elementary School, Kingswood Elementary School, William Cook Elementary

School, James Whiteside Elementary School, and Thomas Kidd Elementary School. Over the Halloween weekend (October 29 to 31, 2015), the Detachment patrols (Bicycle, Van and Foot) made a concentrated effort to promote “*Be a safe pedestrian. Wear the reflector to be seen in the dark!*” As a result the Detachment handed out 1,050 reflectors to students and the public.

In November 2015, the Detachment presented two Road Safety for Pedestrians seminars at James Thompson Elementary School (November 3, 2015) and William Cook Elementary School (November 5, 2015). These two presentations were hosted by Touchstone Family Association Community Action Program for Children (CAP-C). The audience was made up of families, the elderly, and students. On November 30, 2015, the Detachment presented a Pedestrian Safety lecture to the South Asian Community Seniors at Nanak Niwas Gurdwara. December 1 to 7, 2015, was the 7th National Impaired Driving Awareness Week and Enforcement Day was on December 4, 2015.

The Detachment also observed more incidents of road rage. In one particular interaction, the Detachment received a report on October 2, 2015, of pedestrian road rage leading to a possible pedestrian hit and run incident. The pedestrian involved was crossing a major intersection when a vehicle tried to make an illegal left turn. At this location, there is a sign clearly stating no left turn. The pedestrian decided to purposefully stop in front of the vehicle and sit down on the pavement, preventing the driver from making the illegal left turn. Both the driver and the passenger exited their vehicle to confront the pedestrian, and a heated argument ensued. Eventually both vehicle occupants returned to their vehicle and attempted to drive away. The pedestrian then voluntarily grabbed onto the passenger side of the vehicle and was dragged for about one hundred feet before he let go and fell onto the street suffering minor abrasions on his heels and a bump on his head. On October 23, 2015, a two and a half year old toddler wandered out onto the street and was hit by a passing vehicle at low impact. The driver was extremely cooperative and fortunately the child sustained non-life threatening minor injuries.

Unfortunately on November 21, 2015, there was a pedestrian fatality of a 68-year old female who was struck near Richmond City Hall.<sup>1</sup> On December 14, 2015, a 47-year old man died after he drove into the support pillars of a train bridge.<sup>2</sup> December 2015, was also RCMP Lower Mainland District HOV lane month.

### *Results*

In the third quarter of 2015-2016, there were 28 pedestrian-related injuries. This represents a 28 percent reduction in pedestrian-related injuries this quarter over the same period last year. Year over year, there were 57 versus 76 pedestrian-related injuries, reflecting an overall 25 percent reduction. Unfortunately, there was one pedestrian fatality this quarter. However, year to date totals still show a 50 percent reduction in comparison with 2014-2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond News – “Pedestrian struck, not expected to survive” - November 23, 2015 and update - November 25, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Richmond News – “Richmond RCMP probing early morning fatal car crash” - December 14, 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		1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics January 6, 2016.

### Community Priority 2 - Break and Enters & Theft from Automobile

#### *Objective*

This priority has two targets: one being a ten percent reduction in Commercial Break and Enters and a ten percent reduction in Residential Break and Enters and the other being a ten percent reduction in Theft from Automobile.

#### *Action*

In the third quarter of 2015-2016, the Detachment made several successful arrests of prolific property crime offenders. The Detachment believes that this is due to a renewed focus on specific crime reduction priorities in order to best allocate the limited resources available. Crime Reduction Priorities were as follows:

1. Theft from Automobiles
  - Strategy – Surveillance, Street Checks, Bait Car program, Crime Prevention education, and Mental Health Crisis De-escalation (new angle).
2. Mail Theft
  - Strategy - Surveillance, Street Checks, Mental Health Crisis De-escalation, Crime Prevention education.
3. Commercial Break and Enters
  - Strategy - Surveillance, Visible Patrols, Street Checks.
4. Bicycle Thefts (December)
  - Strategy – Location/Area crime analytics.

On October 6, 2015, a Theft from Automobile/Lock Out Auto Crime awareness campaign was held in the Minoru Library complex. In the same month, the Detachment conducted a case study in the South Arm area focusing on surveillance of targeted Theft from Automobile offenders rather than the area of crime incident statistics. Street Checks were intensified to deter loitering and the Bait Car Program was deployed. Crime statistics for November 2015, reflected an immediate reduction from thirteen Theft from Automobile incidents to four.

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. It is hoped that by endeavouring to provide such community support, the prolific offender may be able to avoid their personal situation to escalate, causing them to feel the need to commit a crime. In addition, education through the Crime Prevention Unit will ensure that the public avoid leaving valuables or items of "interest" in their vehicles that can tempt the offenders.

Bicycle Thefts are crimes that are often difficult to prove. Property crime suspects are seen by Detachment members on "suspected stolen" bicycles, which are bicycles observed by Detachment members conducting street checks to be too expensive or unique etc. to belong to the known property offender. However, upon questioning, the riders of these bicycles imply that the bicycles were gifts, making proof of either ownership and/or any crime to be difficult. To combat this, owner education and crime deterrent tactics are being researched. One possible solution is the promotion of a bicycle registration program. The Detachment met with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) to explore their Project 529 bicycle registration program commenced in October 2015. Currently, in Vancouver there are 5,000 registered in this program. Project 529 originated from Portland, Oregon and markets itself as a 529 electronic "Garage". This network allows for a community-based bicycle registration and recovery service. The Detachment is hoping to run a pilot project in the near future as a result of these consultations.

On October 2, 2015, the Detachment Quick Response Team (QRT) was unable to apprehend a male was reported for committing a Theft in Progress. The suspect was able to flee on his bicycle. However, the QRT was able to assist another victim of an unrelated second Theft in Progress who requested assistance in person. QRT successfully apprehended the second Theft in Progress suspect. On October 29, 2015, whilst conducting bicycle patrols, the Detachment Bicycle Squadron recovered a stolen vehicle and the two occupants were taken into custody. In a third incident, a stolen Tesla<sup>3</sup> was recovered with the help of the vehicle's mobile satellite high tech telemetry application.

Two separate Purse Theft incidents over November 2 to 3, 2015, prompted a Richmond Detachment warning to the public to be aware of their surroundings when walking alone.<sup>4</sup> This was followed by the November 20, 2015, media release of CCTV images of three persons of interest.<sup>5</sup> On November 27, 2015, Richmond Detachment with the help of Lower Mainland Dog Services and the Steveston Harbour Authority, set up a containment perimeter area for an apartment Theft in Progress. The offender, in a bid to escape the hands of law, had taken a frigid swim into the waters. As a result of the investigation, several stolen bicycles were recovered.<sup>6</sup>

On December 1, 2015, Detachment QRT was conducting an enhanced safety initiative when they noticed a male knocking on the front and rear doors of homes in the Spires Gate and Cooney Road area. QRT lay in wait and arrested an extremely surprised 23-year old male as he

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<sup>3</sup> Richmond News – "Richmond Mounties intercept stolen Tesla with mobile app" - November 3, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Richmond RCMP News Release, November 5, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Richmond RCMP News Release, November 20, 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Richmond RCMP News Release, November 27, 2015.

descended a ladder from the second floor window of a home.<sup>7</sup> The Detachment is currently also investigating the case of a shoplifter who displayed and activated a Taser when confronted by the store employee.

In an effort to highlight the vulnerability of mailboxes in older strata complexes, the Executive Director of the Condominium Home Owners' Association (CHOA) and Detachment Crime Prevention Unit leveraged the Vancouver 24 Hours Opinion Column to bring attention to this issue.<sup>8</sup> Focusing on such specific crime problems and partnerships are some of the principles for an effective crime reduction effort.

### *Result*

In the third quarter of 2015-2016, there were 112 Commercial Break and Enters. This represents a 4 percent decrease compared to the second quarter of 2014-2015. Year over year, this reflects a 9 percent reduction. There were 130 Residential Break and Enters in the second quarter of 2015-2016, reflecting a 63 percent decrease compared to the same period last year. Year to date comparisons indicate a 35 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		222	
<b>Total</b>		<b>402</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>490</b>

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics January 6, 2016.

In the third quarter of 2015-2016, there were 618 Theft from Automobiles. This represents a 11.6 percent increase compared to the third quarter of 2014-2015. However, year over year totals show a slight 0.3 percent increase overall. The increasing trend in Theft from Automobiles is affecting all Lower Mainland jurisdictions. Theft from Automobiles often facilitates the offender gaining access to residential garages via garage door-openers. This further leads to downstream Residential Break and Enters, Identity Theft etc.

<sup>7</sup> Richmond News – “Richmond Mounties collar suspected burglar on his way down the ladder” - December 7, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> [Vancouver 24 hrs, December 9, 2015.](#)



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	
<b>Total</b>		<b>2367</b>	<b>1831</b>

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics January 6, 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 provide focused support to Mental Health and/or addiction challenged offenders in order to avoid their personal situation to escalate causing them to feel the need to commit a crime. On October 6, 2015, the Detachment attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Dinner "Building Pathways for Hope".

October 2015, was a busy month for Detachment members due to the numerous Mental Health related calls for service. One call for service was from a manager who called to report an employee not turning up for work for several shifts, which was completely out of character for the employee. Coworkers had also received an email from the employee advising that he was going to commit suicide after not obtaining a pay raise. The manager had even visited the employee's residence but no one answered the door. The employee's family also indicated that the employee could be depressed over the anniversary of a family death. With family in attendance, the Detachment gained entry into the home and unfortunately found the employee committed suicide.

Richmond Detachment's Domestic Violence unit (DVU) was featured November 20, 2015,<sup>9</sup> in a Richmond Interagency Case Assessment Team (RICAT) newspaper article. RICAT now has eighteen members from its partner services (Family Services of Greater Vancouver and Richmond Addiction Services) who meet once a month to discuss case files and plan to assist victims on their personal road to safety and recovery. In order to provide this support, there are often financial and source of income needs, daycare needs, housing needs, etc. to consider. At first glance, it can often be hard to see the correlation between Domestic Violence and Mental Health. However, domestic violence often leads to mental issues in the direct and in-direct victims due to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and long term issues from victims

<sup>9</sup> Richmond News – "Piecing the jigsaw of violence together" - November 20, 2015.

developing their own personal coping mechanisms such as turning to alcohol, drugs and other self-destructive behaviours. One successful result of RICAT this quarter was demonstrated in a high risk domestic violence situation which necessitated RICAT to hold two additional emergency case management meetings. The victim, children and family were provided safety and the offender received immediate active monitoring and avenues to community resources and rehabilitation. Although the immediate risk has been reduced and mitigated, RICAT continues to monitor the family and ensure that they receive community support.

In this quarter, DVU also worked on a multi-jurisdictional case where the victim was seriously assaulted in another country and moved back to Canada. The accused was breaching conditions and was contacting the victim. It was later learned that the accused was in the country. The victim was in potential danger due to the fact that the out of country protection order was not valid in Canada. DVU worked with Canada Border Services Agency and the accused was eventually deported.

### *Result*

In the third quarter of 2015-2016, there were 346 Mental Health Act (MHA) Related Calls for Service. This represents a 33 percent increase compared to the third quarter of 2014-2015. Year over year totals also reflect a 14.5 percent increase.

The table below outlines MHA 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	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1099</b>	<b>973</b>

Source: Richmond Detachment PRIME Statistics, January 6, 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**

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

### **Conclusion**

The priorities established in the 2015-2016 APP continue to be pursued. In the third quarter, there has been a 28 percent reduction in the amount of Pedestrian-related Injuries. Year over year, there was an overall 25 percent reduction of Pedestrian-related Injuries. Unfortunately,



there was one pedestrian fatality this quarter. Year over year, Pedestrian Fatalities reflect a 50 percent reduction versus 2014-2015 statistics.

There has been a 4 percent decrease in Commercial Break and Enters with year over year totals reflecting a 9 percent decrease overall. There has been a 63 percent decrease in Residential Break and Enters with year over year totals indicating a 35 percent decrease.

Theft from Automobile increased by 11.6 percent in comparison to the same period last year. Year over year totals show a slight 0.3 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.

There has been a 33 percent increase in MHA Related Calls for Service in comparison to the same period last year. Year over year totals also reflect a 14.5 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.

The Mayor and Council will continue to receive quarterly progress reports. The next quarter will end on March 31, 2016.



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