

Report to Committee

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

February 19, 2019

From:

Will Ng, Superintendent

File:

09-5000-01/2019-Vol

Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment

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Re:

2018-2019 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan Third

Quarter Results (October 1 to December 31, 2018)

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "2018-2019 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan Third Quarter Results (October 1 to December 31, 2018)", dated February 19, 2019, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Will Ng

Superintendent, Officer in Charge

(604-278-1212)

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

Staff Report

Origin

On March 13, 2018, Richmond City Council adopted the priorities listed in the report "2018–2019 RCMP Richmond Detachment Annual Performance Plan – Community Priorities", dated February 14, 2018.

The priorities selected were:

- 1. Property Crime
- 2. Organized Crime Drug Offences
- 3. Vulnerable Persons Unit (Mental Health, High Risk Missing Persons, Domestic Violence)

Analysis

Community Priority 1: Property Crime

Objective

i. A two per cent reduction in the total property crime rate, using 2017-2018 as the baseline year. The target property crime rate is 34.00.

Actions

Richmond RCMP Detachment (the Detachment) continues to maintain a strong focus on prolific and priority offenders. As part of the Detachment's offender management strategy, targeted surveillance is conducted on known offenders in order to apprehend them while they are committing offences or breaching their probation/bail conditions. This quarter, eight prolific and priority offenders were arrested. The Prolific Offender Suppression Team (POST) collaborates with Crown Counsel, who accumulates charges and can propose more severe sentences.

In December 2018, the Property Crime Unit concluded a lengthy investigation, which included four search warrants. Over 1,000 items were recovered, which are suspected to have been stolen and destined for resale. The recovered items were located at a residence and multiple storage lockers and included tools, personal electronics and luxury goods, such as watches and designer handbags. A Richmond man is currently facing 15 charges, which includes ten counts of break and enter.

This year, Richmond Detachment has been working on developing a mentorship program between police officers in Plainclothes sections and General Duty officers. This initiative will provide training to General Duty officers with the specialized knowledge of plainclothes investigators and further develop their investigative skills and enhance call response times.

¹ Crime rate is calculated as crimes per 1,000. The property crime rate in 2017-2018 was 34.66.

In 2016, Richmond Detachment launched the Project 529 online bike registry. During this quarter, police officers in General Duty and support units received Project 529 training. Since its launch, Richmond has continued to promote this program, which has coincided with a 49 per cent decrease in bike theft.²

Volunteer engagement is an integral component of Richmond's crime reduction strategy. This quarter, there were 10 volunteer bike deployments and 89 volunteer foot/van deployments resulting in 799 volunteer suspicious activities patrol hours. In a joint partnership with ICBC, volunteers were deployed to distribute Lock Out Auto Crime prevention notices. A total of 9,994 notices were issued.

Results

The following table outlines the total property crime files for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019:

Table 1: Property Crime Files and Property Crime Rate

		Total	Total	Projected
		Property Crime	Property Crime	Yearly
		Files	Files	Property
Quarter	Date Range	2017-2018	2018-2019	Crime Rate
1	Apr. 1 - Jun. 30	1,868	1,846	33.29
2	Jul. 1 - Sept. 30	1,766	1,903	33.80
3	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	1,982	2,001	34.56
4	Jan. 1 - Mar.31	1,993		
Total		7,609	5,750	

Source: PRIME Statistics January 9, 2019

There were 2,001 property crime files in the third quarter of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This represents a one per cent increase from the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. The property crime rate is currently projected at 34.56. Although this current projection is higher than the identified target, it continues to represent a reduction from the previous year's property crime rate.

Community Priority 2: Organized Crime - Drug Offences

Objectives

i. A two per cent increase in charges laid for all Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) offences, using 2017-2018 as the baseline year. The target number of drug charges for the current fiscal year is 105.

² In 2015, there were 294 bicycle thefts. In 2018 there were 150.

Actions

Richmond Detachment continues to actively support and promote the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (DARE) in Richmond schools. This quarter, a total of 496 students in 19 classes across 13 schools participated in the program.

Richmond Detachment has recently received positive feedback on the new school year's "Adopta-School" program. Through regular visits, police officers engage in formal and informal interactions with youth, helping to build positive relationships. These interactions help promote crime prevention, while also enhancing police awareness of public safety issues affecting youth in the community.

This quarter, proactive gang unit patrols resulted in 130 business checks. The locations attended by police included: restaurants, bars, licensed body rub studios, internet gaming locations, karaoke bars and the casino. These patrols have led to street checks of gang affiliated persons, Motor Vehicle Act enforcement, the disruption of an illegal gaming on a commercial property and two arrests related to breach of conditions.

The Organized Crime Unit (OCU) continues to investigate drug traffickers who have been targeting a segment of vulnerable persons in the community. This quarter, an arrest occurred as a result of this targeted enforcement. Currently, the OCU is investigating drug trafficking groups operating in Richmond and known to be distributing Fentanyl/Heroin. A number of charges are anticipated in the coming months.

Results

The following table outlines the total drug offences for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018:

Table 2: Drug Offences and Drug Charges

Quarter	Date Range	Total Drug Offences 2017-2018	Total Drug Offences 2018-2019	Drug Charges 2018-2019 ³
1	Apr. 1 - Jun. 30	218	195	21
2	Jul. 1 - Sept. 30	168	175	17
3	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	148	81	11
4	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	134		
Total		668	451	49

Source: PRIME Statistics January 9, 2019

This quarter, there was a 45 per cent decrease in the number of reported drug offences compared to the same period last fiscal year. Drug investigations during this period led to 11 charges. The number of drug charges can vary significantly from quarter to quarter due to the specialized nature of drug trafficking investigations, which on occasion can take months to lead to an arrest.

³ The number of drug charges per quarter may vary from previous reports due to the time required to investigate and lay charges.

Current statistical projections indicate that Richmond Detachment will likely not meet the 105 drug charges target. The reduced number of charges is correlated to the legalization of cannabis on October 17, 2018 and the decline in cannabis related offences.

Community Priority 3: Vulnerable Persons Unit (Mental Health, High Risk Missing Persons, Domestic Violence)

Objective

i. A 10 per cent reduction in mental health-related calls for service generated by high volume clients. The target is to remain below 246 calls for service.⁴

Actions

Richmond Detachment is continuing to work on a deployment model for the Richmond Mental Health Crisis Team. This shared initiative with Vancouver Coastal Health will facilitate a better response to mental health police calls in Richmond. The team will be comprised of a mental health nurse and an RCMP officer.

Richmond Detachment's Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) remains involved in the Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACTT).⁵ Since expanding to include Richmond in its service area, ACTT has been able to offer a true "wraparound" service delivery model to assist clients that require specialized ongoing support in the community.

In the third quarter, ACTT significantly increased the number of clients receiving support. A number of the additional clients were adopted through collaboration with the VPU. An example of the work being done with clients includes a male who had been involved in negative interactions in the community that subsequently received addiction and mental health treatment. This intervention helped this individual gain sobriety for over 6 months. Another female client who had been receiving support through ACTT, recently became stable enough to be discharged from the program.

The VPU has also conducts weekly Homeless Outreach with staff from the Ministry of Social Services and Poverty Reduction. A plainclothes police officer engages with vulnerable clients and offers referrals to different programs and support services in the community.

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⁴ High volume clients have been determined to be the top one per cent of individuals generating mental health-related calls for service. Last fiscal year 14 high volume clients generated 273 mental health-related calls for service.

⁵ Operated through Vancouver Coastal Health.

Results

The following table outlines the total mental health-related calls for service for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019:

Table 3: Mental Health-Related Calls for Service

Quarter	Date Range	Mental Health- Related Calls 2017-2018	Mental Health- Related Calls 2018-2019	Calls from High Volume Clients ⁶ 2018-2019
1	Apr. 1 - Jun. 30	370	403	72
2	Jul. 1 - Sept. 30	356	416	138
3	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	360	414	186
4	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	329		
Total		1,415	1,233	

Source: PRIME Statistics January 9, 2019

There were 414 mental health-related calls for service this quarter, which represents a 15 per cent increase when compared to the same quarter last fiscal year. High volume clients accounted for 186 of the 1,233 mental health files (15 per cent) in the first three quarters of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Current data indicates the Detachment is on pace to meet the target identified.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Detachment has implemented various initiatives to support the community priorities and objectives established in the 2018-2019 Annual Performance Plan. The Detachment is committed to achieving the identified targets and continues to support the City of Richmond's public safety strategy using evidence-led approaches to target criminality, offender management and crime prevention.

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⁶ Year to date totals have been presented in order to more accurately capture the proportion of high volume clients.