



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 20, 2023

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

Re: **2023-2024 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan
Community Priorities**

Recommendation from Officer in Charge

That the priorities, Property Crime, Organized Crime, Road Safety and Vulnerable Persons, listed in the report titled “2023-2024 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan – Community Priorities”, dated March 20, 2023 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be endorsed for inclusion in the Richmond RCMP Detachment’s fiscal year 2023-2024 (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) Annual Performance Plan.

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

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

Report

Origin

The Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Richmond RCMP Detachment (Richmond Detachment) is committed to aligning the Richmond Detachment's strategic goals with the City of Richmond's vision "to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada" and the RCMP's vision to promote safe communities. As such, the Richmond Detachment requests the Council's endorsement of its Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024).

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

Background

As part of the mandate of the Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate, all RCMP units, including the Richmond Detachment, launch a new APP every fiscal year. This process facilitates the 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.

The priorities recommended for the APP are not intended as an exhaustive list of the Richmond Detachment's policing objectives and are specifically guided by internal RCMP strategic plans noted below. The priorities for Richmond are selected in alignment with the strategic pillars identified in the 2021-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Strategic Plan noted below:

- People
- Promoting Public Safety
- Targeted Enforcement

These pillars provide the foundation for the majority of operational and administrative initiatives undertaken by the Richmond Detachment, including the priorities identified in the APP. Furthermore, the priorities are guided by goals and objectives for the RCMP nationwide outlined in the RCMP's Vision 150 Plan¹. The Vision 150 Plan marks the 150th anniversary of the RCMP in 2023 and is intended to guide the modernization of the RCMP as an organization. Considering

¹ Vision 150 and beyond is the RCMP's Strategic Plan, <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/vision150/strategic-plan-strategique/index-eng.htm>

these guiding documents together allows for a tailored and measured approach to strategic planning and performance management activities at the Richmond Detachment.

The APP ensures policing initiatives are aligned with the City of Richmond and RCMP strategic priorities and allows the OIC to evaluate and manage police resources, programs and operations systematically. It also provides a valuable consultation and reporting mechanism for the City, the Commanding Officer of RCMP “E” Division and Richmond Detachment staff.

Planning

The OIC regularly engages with Council and City staff to identify opportunities for improved service delivery in the community. The Richmond Detachment also promotes community and stakeholder engagement in developing responses to policing priorities. This process contributes to a robust framework for strategic planning activities. It allows for the coordination of policing objectives with the City’s unique needs, as well as the RCMP’s national, provincial and district initiatives. Measurements, targets and integrated risk assessments for policing initiatives are also created annually to monitor performance and manage opportunities and risks.

Quarterly Performance Updates

Every quarter, Council receives an update on the status of the APP, which highlights the progress of objectives and policing initiatives. The quarterly update includes a summary of actions supporting each priority and outlines any opportunities or challenges that may have emerged.

Annual Performance Plan Features

The APP is designed to enhance planning, management and administrative practices for RCMP Units and Detachments and provides the foundation for the following five organizational initiatives:³

- Contract and Aboriginal Policing Community Plans;
- Integrated Risk Management;
- Unit Level Quality Assurance;
- Performance Management; and
- Performance Improvement.

Analysis

Community Priorities

The Community Priorities outlined in the APP are selected through an ongoing strategic planning process, which includes the analysis of police statistics and emerging public safety issues, reviewing existing programs and initiatives and the contributions of regular discussions with stakeholders, including interviews conducted to support the Richmond RCMP Detachment Strategic Plan. As part of this process, the Richmond RCMP conducts extensive community

³ As per RCMP Administrative Manual Chapter 18.2 Annual Performance Plan

engagement, which aligns with the launch of a new plan approximately every five years, to ensure that the priorities are current and relevant to the community. The most recent extensive community engagement was conducted through the Let's Talk Richmond platform in March 2020. The findings have informed ongoing stakeholder discussions, which have led to new programs and initiative implementations.

The selected priorities are comprehensively reviewed to identify possible opportunities and risks. Initiatives supporting each priority are then developed through a collaborative planning process, where performance measures are identified for each priority to assist with evaluating the success and impacts of the initiatives. This process facilitates an effective response to the identified objectives and provides an opportunity to demonstrate accountability to stakeholders and the broader community.

After assessing the impacts of the previous year's APP and analyzing recent crime trends and stakeholder feedback, the OIC is recommending that Council align this year's priorities with those of the last year to maintain the Richmond Detachment's commitment to these strategic priorities while also continuing to develop the responses and initiatives promoting these objectives. As such, the OIC is recommending continuing with the following four priorities for this year's APP (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024):

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime;
3. Road Safety; and
4. Vulnerable Persons.

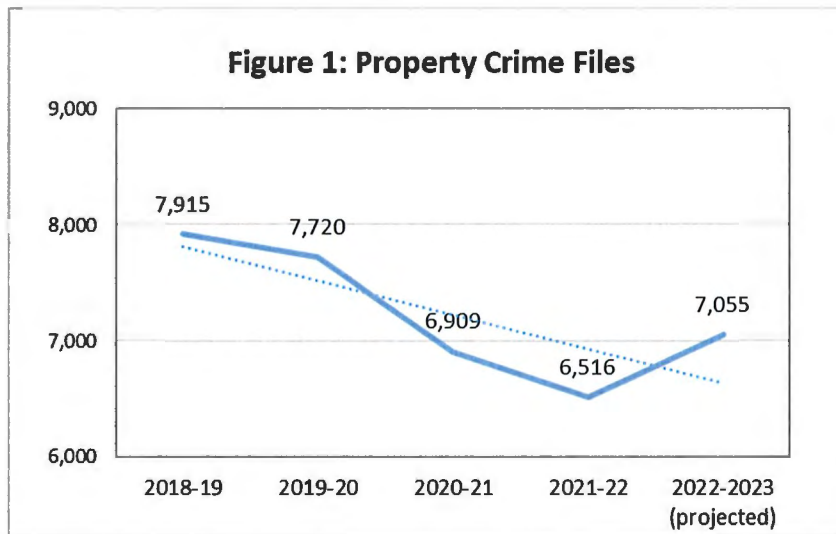
These four priorities are sufficiently broad in scope to cover emerging trends and concerns that are topical to our community.⁴

The remainder of the report provides the rationale for continuing with the established priorities.

Property Crime

Statistical analysis of property crime incidents for the last five years has identified a decreasing trend, with prominent reductions in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years, primarily attributed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as public behaviours return to pre-pandemic patterns, property crimes have also increased. Due to this observed trend, property crime remains a community priority.

⁴ Council added "Hate Crimes/Incidents-Promoting diversity in the community" as a fifth priority in the 2022-2023 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan. The OIC maintains this priority as part of the Strategic Plan but is not recommending it for inclusion as part of the APP. All initiatives and programs developed in support of promoting diversity will continue under the coordination of the Diversity and Inclusion Section.



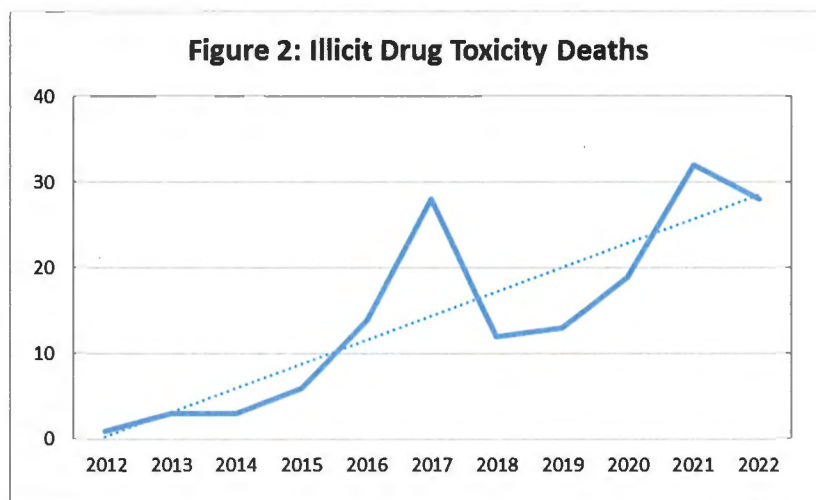
The Richmond Detachment has continued to deploy a robust crime reduction strategy built on intelligence-led crime analysis to target property crimes. This includes a recently updated crime reduction model, which enhances collaborative engagement strategies and opportunities across all detachment policing units. These responsive measures include the management of prolific offenders, proactive policing initiatives, collaborations with partner agencies and targeted enforcement projects, and increased training for police officers. Police will continue to deploy these measures while also working to develop enhanced public engagement and communication strategies, including raising community awareness of crime prevention resources and programs. This will include ongoing public messaging regarding emerging patterns and trends.

The Richmond Detachment is also looking to expand existing crime prevention initiatives by enhancing public outreach and police visibility with regular foot patrols and business outreach and hosting and attending various events. In addition to serving as crime prevention measures, these activities and the Block Watch program also help enhance public perceptions of community safety. Presentations to different community groups, including seniors and newcomers to Canada, are an additional educational tool that will continue to be promoted. Volunteer programs such as Lock Out Auto Crime, Crime Watch and bike patrols are further measures that support crime prevention initiatives and will continue to be pursued this fiscal year.

Organized Crime

The Richmond Detachment has maintained organized crime as a community priority. While the overall violent crime rate has been decreasing in Richmond, the OIC is committed to combatting organized criminal activities, which include drug trafficking, drug production, fraudulent activities and money laundering. These activities pose numerous public safety concerns, including the dangers of clandestine drug labs and gang violence.

Over the last 10 years, the number of deaths related to illicit drug toxicity in Richmond has been trending upwards.⁵ While there was a notable decrease in 2018, the numbers began to rise in subsequent years. Police recognize the danger that these illicit drugs pose to the community, and specialized investigators have worked to target drug trafficking and drug production. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, investigators conducted several significant organized crime-related investigations, including files which led to the dismantling an illegal gaming house and the seizure of various quantities of drugs, cash and weapons, in addition to resulting in notable arrests.



In addition, investigators continue to see emerging cybercrime trends, such as cryptocurrency fraud. These crimes often have a nexus to organized crime due to their sophisticated and organized nature and the potential for significant monetary gains for criminals. The Economic Crime Unit (ECU) has developed various investigative and awareness initiatives, including enhanced internal training sessions and the distribution of public information resources available in English, French and Traditional Chinese. The ECU will continue to expand these programs while exploring additional education and enforcement measures.

The Richmond Detachment continues to prioritize investigations and measures that target the disruption of organized crime. These initiatives include gang suppression patrols, projects targeting illicit gaming locations, fraud prevention awareness, and programs promoting youth education, intervention and engagement.

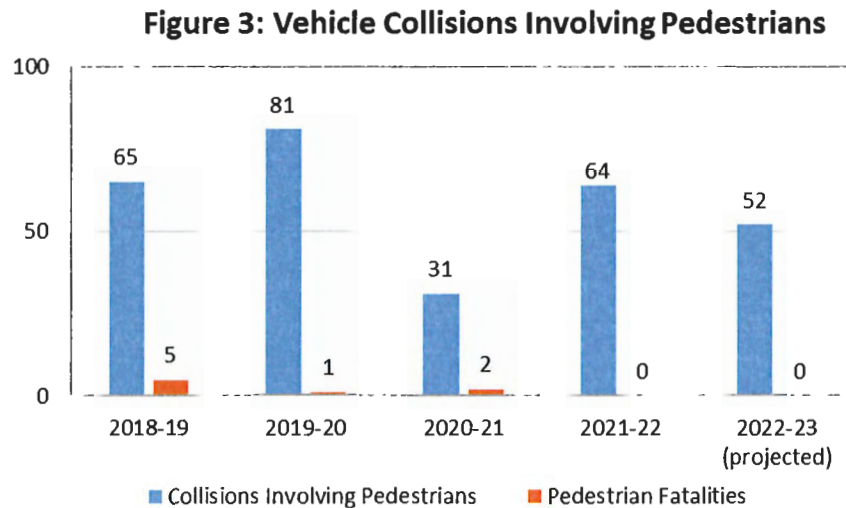
Road Safety

The Richmond Detachment continues to work on improving safety on Richmond’s roads and has maintained road safety as a community priority. This objective has been approached with a comprehensive road safety strategy built on intelligence-led analysis, the engagement of community policing volunteers, public education campaigns and ongoing proactive enforcement

⁵ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

efforts. Vehicle collisions involving pedestrians decreased in the 2022-23 fiscal year, and no pedestrian fatalities have occurred in the last two fiscal years.

2023 is seeing an emerging trend of traffic incidents with significant injuries or death in some incidents. The Detachment is closely monitoring this trend and continuing to prioritize road safety education and enforcement.



The Richmond Detachment is continuously promoting public education campaigns and leveraging social media to increase awareness of road safety topics, including distracted driving, speeding, impaired driving and pedestrian safety. In addition, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers have conducted road safety outreach and deployments targeting these concerns. These actions have included Fail to Stop and Speed Watch deployments and pedestrian safety outreach events where thousands of safety reflectors were distributed throughout Richmond.

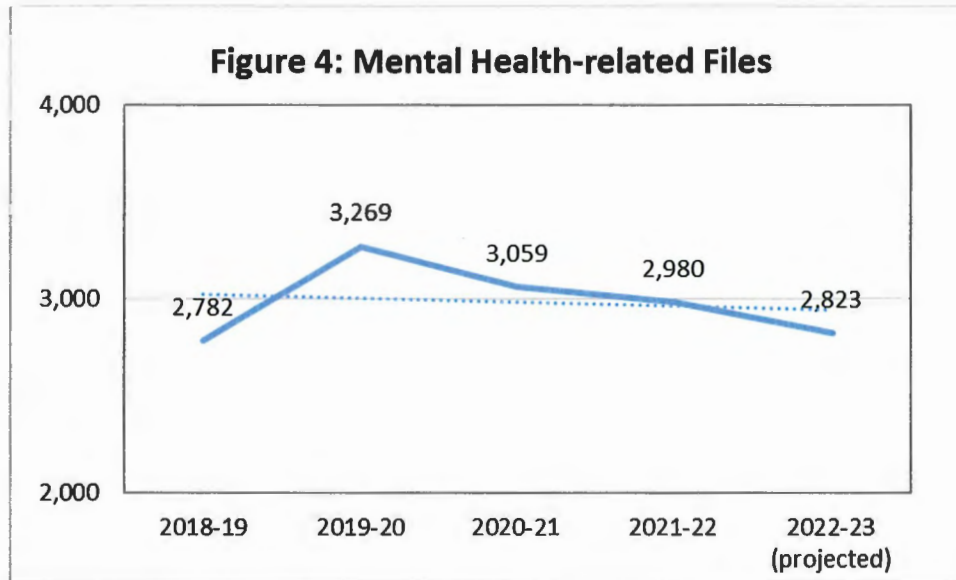
This consistent messaging and ongoing targeted enforcement efforts will remain a priority this fiscal year. Enforcement projects continue to be based on collision data and feedback received from the community. In addition, the Youth Section continues to conduct regular enforcement projects in school zones.

The Richmond Detachment has also engaged partner agencies for a variety of joint operations, including policing agencies from other jurisdictions, City Bylaws and Passenger Transportation Enforcement Officers to target a variety of safety issues. The 2022-2023 fiscal year included projects targeting illegal ride-hailing, e-bike/e-scooter safety and commercial vehicle enforcement.

Vulnerable Persons

The Richmond Detachment is maintaining vulnerable persons as a community priority. After several years of increases, mental health-related calls for service in Richmond began to decline in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This has been attributed to several factors, including launching the

Fox 80 Mental Health Car (Fox 80) in October 2019 in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. This program, which consists of a mental health nurse and police officer providing a joint response to calls where mental health is a concern, offers specialized support to clients in crisis.



While the number of files and police apprehensions has remained stable, the demand for police resources remains high. The average hospital wait time increased by five per cent in 2022. To address these challenges, the Vulnerable Persons Unit has promoted collaborative responses to complex social issues surrounding vulnerable persons, including mental health concerns, addiction and homelessness. Moreover, the Richmond Detachment has taken on a leadership role in enhancing partnerships and client support services by working with stakeholders to find viable solutions to assist vulnerable clients. Fox 80 is the most prominent of these programs; however, various ongoing initiatives exist, including collaboration with the Assertive Community Treatment team.

Homelessness remains an ongoing safety concern. To address the multi-faceted needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and develop sustained solutions to these complex social issues, the VPU collaborates with partners, including the Joint Operations Team. The VPU also conducts regular outreach with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and provides information on available support services.

This fiscal year, the Richmond Detachment will continue to focus on collaborative responses to issues surrounding vulnerable persons while also working on increasing member training and awareness covering these issues.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Detachment requests Council endorse the following as Community Priorities for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Annual Performance Plan (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024):

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime;
3. Road Safety; and
4. Vulnerable Persons.

The targeted activities, as described in the APP, will include a focus on intelligence-led policing, offender management, officer visibility and crime reduction initiatives through community education, engagement and partnerships, as well as intervention and prevention programs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Warzel". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

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