



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 3, 2016
From: John McGowan **File:** 03-1000-05-069/ Vol
 Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety 01
Re: Touchstone Family Services Restorative Justice Contract Renewal

Staff Recommendation

1. That the City enter into a three year contract (2017-2020) with Touchstone Family Association for the provision of the Restorative Justice Program, as outlined in the staff report titled, "Touchstone Family Services Restorative Justice Contract Renewal" dated October 3, 2016 from the Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety; and
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager of Law and Community Safety be authorized to execute the contract with Touchstone Family Association.

John McGowan
 Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety
 (604-276-4104)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The City of Richmond has entered into a three year contract with Touchstone Family Association for the delivery of the Restorative Justice Program. The Touchstone Family Association is required to report to Council annually on:

- a) the restorative justice annual budget for the upcoming year;
- b) restorative justice revenues and expenditures from the previous year;
- c) performance indicators including the number of referrals, forums and completed resolution agreements;
- d) milestones and achievements; and
- e) participants' satisfaction survey.

On March 15, 2016, the Community Safety Committee received a report entitled "Touchstone Family Association Restorative Justice Annual Performance Outcome Evaluation Report" providing a detailed review of the Restorative Justice Program in Richmond and addressing the above criteria.

As the term of the current agreement expires on December 31, 2016, Touchstone Family Association is requesting the continued financial support for a three year term beginning January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020 at a cost of \$95,000 per year. This will allow Touchstone to operate the Restorative Justice Program in the city.

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.

1.2. Program and service enhancements that improve community safety services in the City.

Analysis

In British Columbia, the estimated 2012 annual cost for youth justice is approximately \$92 million.¹ The number of completed youth court cases was 2,915² with a median length of 107 days. Should the youth be incarcerated, the cost would be approximately \$100,000 per year³, per youth.

¹ Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer, March 2013

² <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11803/tbl/tbl02-eng.htm>

³ <http://www.domesticviolenceinfo.ca/upload/documents/2007-youthcrime.pdf>

The Provincial Government does not fund restorative justice to a level that would provide comprehensive services to the community. The City has long advocated for increased funding for restorative justice services but the Province maintains it will not advance additional funding. The Province's position has resulted in the City funding the Restorative Justice Program.

The Richmond Restorative Justice Program provides an alternative approach to the courts that places an emphasis on accountability and problem solving as a way of addressing harm that takes place when a crime or incident occurs. All direct referrals come from the RCMP to Restorative Justice. Touchstone has also been working with retail stores to demonstrate the importance of the Restorative Justice function.

Between 2013 and 2015, there was an annual average of 1,069 youth files recorded by the Richmond RCMP and approximately 15% of these files were referred to either Restorative Justice or Youth Intervention. Between 2013 and 2015, there were approximately 53 referrals per year at an average cost to the City of \$1,793 per referral. In 2015 alone, there were 57 referrals⁴ were made to the Richmond Restorative Justice Program with an average cost to the City of \$1,667 per referral. According to RCMP Detachment statistics, only 14% of youth who completed the restorative justice program re-offended within three years. RCMP data further indicated that 10% of adults who completed the program re-offended within the same period of time.

RCMP and Touchstone continue to work together to ensure the best system is in place and youth crime continues to decline in Richmond.

Financial Impact

The annual cost of the contract is \$95,000 per year. This amount has remained unchanged since the inception of the program in 2008. The term requested is for three years from 2017-2020.

Conclusion

The contract with Touchstone Family Association to administer Richmond's Restorative Justice Program is a service delivery model that strengthens the social health and independence of families and children in the community through effective intervention and support services. This alternative service delivery model to the court system addresses the harm that takes place when a crime or incident occurs, and ensures accountability. The present contract expires in December 2016 and an additional three year agreement is recommended.



Dan McKenna
Acting Senior Manager, Community Safety Policy & Programs
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DM:dl

⁴ A referral can have more than one offender.