

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: NEW DIRECTIVE ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF AUXILIARY
CONSTABLES**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council request the RCMP Commissioner to reconsider the directive issued in October 2014 on changes to the deployment of auxiliary constables.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, Minister of Public Safety Canada, The Honourable Steven Blaney, and Provincial Minister of Justice, Honourable Suzanne Anton.
3. THAT Council request consultation be undertaken with municipal RCMP contract partners prior to instituting any further policy changes.

REPORT

The Public Safety Committee, at its meeting held on 2015 February 03, received and adopted the attached report advising on the new RCMP directive regarding auxiliary constable deployment and to recommend a course of action for consideration by Council.

Prior to adopting the report, the Committee AMENDED the recommendations to ask that Council also request consultation be undertaken with municipal RCMP contract partners prior to instituting any further policy changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor P. Calendino
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Deputy City Managers Director Engineering Director Planning and Building OIC RCMP
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2015 January 21

FROM: DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: NEW DIRECTIVE ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF AUXILIARY
CONSTABLES

PURPOSE: To advise the Committee and Council on the new RCMP directive on auxiliary constable deployment and to recommend a course of action for consideration by Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council request the RCMP Commissioner to reconsider the directive issued in October 2014 on changes to the deployment of auxiliary constables; and
2. **THAT** A copy of this report be forwarded to RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, Minister of Public Safety Canada, The Honourable Steven Blaney, and Provincial Minister of Justice, Honourable Suzanne Anton.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the Community Policing Committee meeting of November 24, 2014, the Committee received a correspondence item from the City of Coquitlam regarding changes to the RCMP policy on the deployment of auxiliary constables. Arising from the Committee's discussion, staff were requested to prepare a report and recommendation on this subject matter for consideration by the Committee and Council. This report is to provide the information requested by the Committee.

2.0 DISCUSSION

Many RCMP detachments and local communities across Canada rely on the use of auxiliary constables as support to general duty policing functions and special community events/ceremonies. Currently, there are over 60 auxiliary constables in the Burnaby program and they are engaged in many community policing and crime prevention activities providing thousands of volunteer hours every year. Auxiliary constables are

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sworn uniformed volunteers who do not carry firearms and have Peace Officer status when on duty.

Following the tragic shooting events in Ottawa in October, 2014, a new directive was issued by RCMP National Crime Prevention Services to direct all auxiliary constables and Community Safety Officers be provided direct supervision while on duty. According to RCMP Operations Manual, direct supervision means an auxiliary constable will be accompanied and supervised by an RM (regular member). Although direct supervision does not mean “one to one” supervision, the interpretation of this policy includes direct line of sight in order to provide armed over-watch. The new directive also means auxiliary constables are no longer permitted to perform duties on their own without being under the direct supervision of an RM. Although the new directive does not impact auxiliary constable participation in policing duties with RM, direct supervision is now required for auxiliary constables who typically work at many community events on traffic control and general information gathering duties and other crime prevention activities.

With the new policy changes, it is expected the use of auxiliary constables in the City will decrease while RCMP member hours and City staff deployment will increase. This will also have a long term adverse effect on the future of the auxiliary constable program. Staff have not assessed the financial implication of the new policy to the City but it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in cost to the City policing budget due to the restricted directive on auxiliary constable deployment. While the safety of auxiliary constables is important to all, the new directive on direct supervision irrespective of risk and threat level may not be warranted. To maintain a balance between safety and deployment, the evaluation of the direct supervision requirement should include the results of threat assessment and review of intelligence by the local Detachment Commander. The local Detachment Commander should be given the authority to decide what level of auxiliary constable oversight is appropriate to ensure the safety of the auxiliary is not compromised while providing valuable opportunities for the auxiliary constables to be engaged in community and crime prevention activities.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

Auxiliary constables play an important role in the City’s community policing and crime prevention programs. There are 64 auxiliary constables in the Burnaby RCMP program and they provide thousands of hours of valuable services every year in the community. Their personal safety when on duty is also of paramount importance to the City. The City appreciates the purpose of the new directive issued by Ottawa to enhance personal safety of auxiliary constables. However, this new national policy requiring direct supervision has not taken local condition and risk level into consideration and will undoubtedly limit further use of auxiliary constables in various crime prevention activities and special community events.

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Therefore, it is recommended that the RCMP Commissioner be requested to reconsider the subject directive and allow auxiliary constables continue to be deployed with due consideration to local risk and threat level. As the Provincial Government insures the auxiliary constable program, it is also recommended that a copy of this report be sent to the Provincial Minister of Justice. Staff have reviewed the content of this report and recommendations with the Burnaby RCMP OIC and appreciate the input received from the OIC.

Lambert Chu, P.Eng.
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

Copied to: City Manager
RCMP Burnaby Detachment OIC C/Superintendent Critchley