

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2018 Jun 28

FROM: DIRECTOR PUBLIC SAFETY &
COMMUNITY SERVICES

OFFICER IN CHARGE
RCMP BURNABY DETACHMENT

SUBJECT: INCREASING BURNABY RCMP POLICE RESOURCES

PURPOSE: To obtain Committee and Council approval to increase the number of police officers at the Burnaby RCMP Detachment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Public Safety Committee recommends Council approval to add eight police officers to the Burnaby RCMP in 2018 as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** the Public Safety Committee recommends Council approval to add six police officers to the Burnaby RCMP in 2019 as outlined in this report.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Burnaby is a vibrant, diverse and growing municipality delivering effective and efficient municipal services, ensuring the continued well-being of our community. A component of the City's growth in service delivery has been an increase in the number of *Calls for Service* to the Burnaby RCMP. In order to ensure the consistent delivery of police services and implement unique policing programs, a thorough service and resource allocation review was conducted and a proposal to increase police resources has been identified.

The RCMP became Burnaby's police force in 1950 and has continued to evolve and expand over the years to become the second largest detachment in the RCMP. The Burnaby detachment currently provides policing services with a resource level of 301.5 police officers, 24.5 of whom are assigned to specialized Integrated Teams such as Police Dog Service, Integrated Homicide Investigative Team and the Emergency

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Response Team. In addition, 95 municipal employees are assigned to the detachment to provide administrative support services to the police operations.

A RCMP resource allocation review was recently undertaken as an initiative towards ensuring *A Safe Community*, one of the goals outlined in the City of Burnaby Corporate Strategic Plan. The aim of the review was to assess the detachment staffing level and identify any gaps that would prevent the RCMP from delivering on the responsibility to provide law enforcement, crime prevention and maintain peace and safety for our community.

As a result of the review undertaken by the RCMP Officer in Charge and the Director of Public Safety & Community Services, adjustments to the resource allocation plan was made to improve service delivery and a further a need has been identified to increase the number of police officers at the detachment by eight in 2018 and six in 2019.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Increasing the number of police officers at the Burnaby RCMP is aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

A Safe Community

- Crime prevention and reduction
- Emergency preparedness
- Emergency services
- Transportation safety
- Community amenity safety

3.0 2018 INCREASE – EIGHT POLICE OFFICERS

The increase of eight police officers will be distributed as follows:

3.1 Bike Patrol Team (Four)

The Burnaby RCMP has previously deployed uniformed police officers on bicycles during the summer months and at large community events, as a way to actively engage the community and reduce crime. The police officers assigned to the bike team were typically drawn from General Duty and required special equipment and training prior to undertaking patrols. Whenever the bike patrol was deployed, there was tremendous positive response from the community as citizens believed the police officers were much more approachable and engaging when they were on bikes, versus being in police vehicles. The bike patrol also provided a mechanism to patrol areas where crime was occurring and was previously inaccessible. The bike patrols were very effective in reducing and preventing crime at various locations due to their high visibility along with a consistent focused presence.

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Although the bike patrol has been very successful when deployed, difficulties with staffing the team were encountered due to seasonal and occasional nature of the bike team deployment, compounded by the need to draw police resources from General Duty.

In consideration of the above, four new resources are prepared to be added to establish a permanent year round Burnaby RCMP bike team. The bike team will contribute towards crime reduction, a reduction in the fear of crime within the community, an increase in the public's confidence of police as well as the promotion of public safety while providing a high level of enforcement within the community. The bike team will be a specialized, highly visible, uniform enforcement unit dedicated to community policing for the purpose of crime reduction. They will conduct high visibility uniformed patrols engaging in both crime prevention activities and enforcement, both of which will result in a reduction in crime.

The bike team will:

- conduct high visibility patrols within Burnaby;
- respond to calls for service when appropriate;
- conduct high impact patrols to enhance public safety in parks, green-belts and other geographical areas;
- conduct patrols in crime "hot spots";
- conduct patrols in popular public spaces such as mall parking lots and the four Town Centres;
- engage and establish relationships with youth;
- apply consistent and focused attention to prolific offenders;
- provide support and conduct enforcement at community and special events; and
- liaise on a daily basis with local businesses and the general public to learn of their concerns and implement solutions.

In an urban environment such as Burnaby, having police resources on bicycles unhindered by heavy traffic and undeterred by areas inaccessible to vehicular traffic such as parks and recreational areas, decreases response time to calls for service and thus increases public safety. Once an issue is identified, the bike team will be deployed for high visibility, high impact patrols and to enforce the Criminal Code, Provincial Statutes and appropriate Municipal Bylaws in an effort to rectify those issues.

During times of the year when it will be impractical to deploy the bike team due to severe weather, the bike team will still adhere to their primary mandate which is visible patrols and crime reduction and will undertake uniformed foot patrols. Their deployment will be targeted at high crime areas, once again defined by the RCMP accountability model.

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3.2 General Duty (Four)

The Burnaby RCMP responds to calls for service from the public with their General Duty staffing compliment.

Four additional police officers will be placed onto General Duty and will:

- contribute towards reduced response times by having an extra police car on the road;
- immediately respond to priority calls for service such as 9-1-1 calls;
- patrol in areas with high crime trends;
- contribute towards road safety by conducting traffic enforcement; and
- provide additional capacity for the detachment to address emerging public safety issues.

4.0 2019 INCREASE – SIX POLICE OFFICERS

The additional six police officers will be assigned as follows:

- four deployed to General Duty to undertake duties as outlined for 2018
- two will be deployed at the discretion of the Officer in Charge dependant on operational and emerging needs of the detachment and community.

5.0 FUNDING SOURCE

Projections to year end expenditures currently indicate there are sufficient funds available in the Operating Budget to accommodate the additional members. Supplementary funding will be requested during the 2019 budget process to ensure a sufficient base budget to accommodate the additional RCMP members.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Public Safety Committee recommend Council approve the increase of police officers at the Burnaby RCMP as outlined in this report.



Dave Critchley
Director Public Safety & Community Services



C/Supt Deanne Burleigh
OIC Burnaby Detachment

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Copies to: City Manager
Director Finance