

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2018 July 09

FROM: DIRECTOR PUBLIC SAFETY &
COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CITY BIKE PATROL UNIT OPERATING IN CITY PARKS
AND PUBLIC SPACES

PURPOSE: To provide an update to the Public Safety Committee on the deployment
and operation of the City Bike Patrol Unit.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Public Safety Committee receives this report for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 2018 March 05, Council approved the implementation of a one year pilot program for a City Bike Patrol Unit as part of a larger initiative to enhance public safety and security in City parks and public spaces. The program objective is to increase compliance with Animal Control, Parks, and Street and Traffic bylaws, as well as to deter nuisance and/or illegal activity in public spaces and parks areas. The program has been in operation for approximately two months and this report will provide the Committee with an update on the unit to date.

2.0 PROGRAM LAUNCH, STAFFING AND TRAINING

Four temporary full-time Bylaw Patrollers have been hired to work in teams of two, operating seven days a week including statutory holidays. The daily operational hours are from 6 am to 9 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and 1 pm to 9 pm Monday to Thursday. The working schedule takes into account peak park usage (evenings and weekends) and will be adjusted to reflect shorter day light hours and other seasonal requirements.

The Bike Patrol Unit commenced operation on 2018 May 19, in conjunction with the start of the May long weekend. A public announcement about the deployment was placed on the City's public webpage and the launch was also covered in the Burnaby Now newspaper.

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Prior to commencing operations, all team members were required to successfully complete a week long bicycle handling course provided by a retired RCMP bike patrol team member. The Bike Patrol staff also received in house training from the Justice Institute of BC on Personal Safety which focused on awareness, prevention and personal defense. Other training included pairing the new staff members with experienced bylaw officers to facilitate coaching and job shadowing, to ensure the teams know how to properly issue Bylaw Violation Notices, are familiar with park and civic facility locations, and are familiar with standard operating procedures related to bylaw enforcement.

3.0 OPERATIONS TO DATE AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Since the launch the feedback received from the general public in response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. All team members have been outfitted with high visibility uniforms to easily identify them to the public and park patrons as City of Burnaby Bylaw Enforcement Officers. During their routine patrols the teams are often approached by members of the public in order to respond to general questions and concerns. One Central Park patron made a point of informing the bike team that she has noticed a decrease in the amount of off leash dogs in the park and said that she personally feels safer since the implementation of the Bike Patrol Unit.

In addition to the larger parks, other public spaces including Civic Square and Highgate Greenway have also been added to the general patrol areas, as have seasonally used parks space like Barnet Beach. Unless it is absolutely necessary, rather than resorting to strict enforcement, the officers attempt to educate the public of the various bylaws governing the safe use of parks and public spaces. In most cases this approach has resulted in voluntary bylaw compliance. The most common issues that the team has encountered involve dogs off leash, unauthorized camps in parks, unlicensed vendors and unsafe parking concerns.

Recently, a patrol team was able to provide assistance to a woman that was injured in the trails within Central Park. After calling for an ambulance one team member waited with the woman while the other met the paramedics and directed them to the area.

Along with the general patrols the Bike Patrol Unit has also attended special events including Hats Off Day, Canada Day celebrations, and Symphony in the Park. During the Hats Off Day event the team took the opportunity to engage with the public, provide directions, field questions and explain the role of the City Bike Patrol program.

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4.0 FUTURE PROGRAM DIRECTION AND ENHANCEMENTS

Similar to the GPS units mounted to City owned vehicles, each bike has been equipped with a unit to track the bike team's locations and ensure officers safety. The GPS units will also assist in providing detailed analysis of the frequency and total hours spent in various parks and public spaces.

The Bike Patrol Unit will soon be outfitted with Body Worn Cameras that can be used to collect evidence should it become necessary as well as enhance transparency, ensure public trust and confidence, and to protect officers from unfounded allegations.

Staff are currently developing several brochures to hand out to the public informing them about the Bike Patrol program as well as general park safety and etiquette. In addition, Public Safety staff continues to improve the communication plan (social media, press releases, and web announcements) with the assistance of Corporate Services to inform the public of Bike Patrol Unit updates and any related messages.

In addition to general patrols of parks and civic facilities, the Bike Patrol Unit is scheduled to attend upcoming special events including but not limited to: Giro di Burnaby, Edmonds City Fair and Classic Car show, Willingdon Linear Park Grand Opening, and Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival.

5.0 POLICY SECTION

The Bike Patrol Unit initiative 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

- Transportation

A Connected Community

- Social connection
- Geographic connection

An Inclusive Community

- Create a sense of community

A Healthy Community

- Healthy life
- Healthy environment

A Dynamic Community

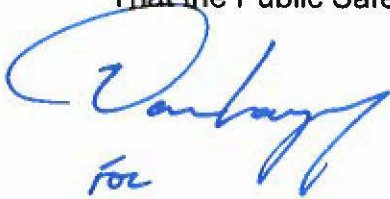
- City facilities and infrastructure

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6.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Safety Committee receives this report for information purposes.



Dave Critchley
DIRECTOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

DC:cjh

Copied to: City Manager
Burnaby RCMP OIC Chief Superintendent