



## 6.2 PUBLIC SAFETY

### *Richmond police services:*

- *Prevent and control crime;*
- *Maintain peace in public places;*
- *Promote road safety and enforce traffic regulations.*

*The City of Richmond is committed to providing an environment that is safe from fires, environmental hazards, and medical and other life-safety situations through prevention measures and efficient response.*

### **ISSUE:**

Personal and property safety and security are provided in Richmond through police, fire-rescue and emergency preparedness. As the community continues to change in number, growth pattern, complexity, and diversity, and because fiscal resources are limited, the challenge is to coordinate the strategic and efficient delivery of public safety services.

### **Police**

To most Richmond residents, public safety is primarily associated with police services and is important to quality of life and well-being. Personal safety and security and lower economic costs are two of the benefits of reducing crime and other anti-social behaviours, such as vehicular speeding.

To continue to provide quality police services in a cost-effective manner, pro-active strategies are needed. These strategies include using partnerships, educating and raising awareness of prevention measures in the community, increasing police visibility, and targeting enforcement towards high-risk areas or activities.

### **Fire-Rescue Services**

The role of the Fire-Rescue Department has changed from one of predominantly fire-specific response to include being first responder in rescue and emergency medical situations. In addition to emergency response, the department is moving towards a prevention-based model of community safety as an effective strategy to meet future needs. The changing complexity of City buildings and businesses and the addition of the Vancouver International Airport to the mandate of the department requires flexible strategies to meet the challenges. Increased community education and prevention measures are needed to reduce emergency life safety occurrences in the community.



*The City of Richmond is committed to take immediate action to:*

- *Deal with emergencies or major disasters;*
- *Ensure that appropriate resources are obtained;*
- *Channel the efforts of volunteer agencies and private enterprise in the community;*
- *Solicit assistance from outside the jurisdiction, if necessary.*

*Hazard protection measures, e.g. dykes, are a priority in Richmond. (see 7.6 Flood Protection.)*

*E-Comm Corporation: A non-profit company has been established in order to provide a common communications/dispatch centre for all emergency service providers and programs in the Lower Mainland.*



*Steveston Community Police Station*

### **Emergency Program**

Community-based emergency preparedness planning allows Richmond neighbourhoods to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following an emergency or disaster. By working together, community neighbourhoods and the City can help reduce injuries, protect property, lower the community's emergency needs, and manage existing resources until organized assistance becomes available.

### **Communications**

Each emergency service provider, e.g. Fire-Rescue, Police, Ambulance Service, has its own independent communication system. Therefore, in the event of emergencies/disasters, when there is a need to coordinate services, communication must be done face-to-face. In order to better coordinate services, a common communication network is needed for emergency service providers.

### **OBJECTIVE 1:**

**Increase *police* effectiveness through community awareness and partnerships in crime prevention, traffic safety, and emergency assistance.**

### **POLICIES:**

- a) Ensure local input in setting policing priorities through public forums, advisory groups, and task forces;
- b) Increase community awareness of crime prevention programs, particularly the need to provide appropriate security measures for personal property;
- c) Continue to establish crime prevention programs in partnership with the local community;
- d) Undertake education and awareness programs in partnership with the community, insurance providers, and other agencies to encourage safe driving and reduce traffic violations;
- e) Use community forums and the media to explain the role and interdependence of police and the community;
- f) Participate in regular events to test emergency readiness;



- g) Educate the community in the use of appropriate telephone contact points for relevant needs, including the proper use of '911';
- h) Establish partnerships with the special needs community groups to ensure emergency (e.g. police, fire-rescue) assistance.

**OBJECTIVE 2:**

**Increase *police* visibility as a pro-active measure along with targeted enforcement to deter high-risk threats to public safety.**

**POLICIES:**

- a) Use bicycle squads and community policing initiatives to increase locally-based policing services;
- b) Target the sources and suppliers of drugs;
- c) Increase enforcement of substance abuse and driving violations;
- d) Deploy mobile breath-testing units to areas of high risk;
- e) Work in partnership with the Potoradar Unit to target high-risk areas in relation to speeding and other dangerous traffic violations.



*Police visibility is increasing*

**OBJECTIVE 3:**

**Clearly define appropriate *Fire-Rescue* proactive strategies and reactive responses that meet the needs of the changing community.**

**POLICIES:**

- a) Develop community safety plans for each part of the community, and work in partnership with other service providers, e.g. police, ambulance, emergency programs, health, and other City departments;
- b) Work with the development community to ensure that safety standards are met;
- c) Continue to encourage the use of smoke detection devices;
- d) Work with the community to ensure that buildings and homes are equipped and maintained so as to prevent fires and accidents;
- e) Ensure local input when setting fire-rescue priorities through public forums, advisory groups and task forces;



*Fire-Rescue will emphasize prevention*



- f) Increase community education and awareness relating to safety and accident prevention (e.g. hazardous materials, fires, use of 911, etc.).

#### **OBJECTIVE 4:**

**Maintain, review, and update the City's *emergency plan* annually.**

#### **POLICIES:**

- a) Assign responsibility to organizations and individuals for carrying out specific actions at projected times and places in an emergency or disaster that exceeds the capability or routine responsibility of any one agency;
- b) Establish and maintain a City business recovery plan.

#### **OBJECTIVE 5:**

**Promote effective community safety and response during times of *emergency* or disaster.**

#### **POLICIES:**

- a) Work with the community to develop community emergency response teams which are woven into the social fabric of the community neighbourhood associations, schools, workplaces, places of worship, and other existing organizations;
- b) Work with the development community to build to the latest seismic standards available;
- c) Partner with public safety agencies to ensure emergency coordination plans are up-to-date;
- d) Increase community awareness of emergency management programs and strategies.

#### **OBJECTIVE 6:**

**Ensure that the public safety agencies serving the City of Richmond have a common *communication* system to enable direct inter-agency communication, coordination, and a centralized dispatch service.**

#### **POLICIES:**

- a) Establish a common computer-aided dispatch program to enhance emergency dispatch procedures and related services for better coordination of response to emergency incidents;
- b) Establish a common radio system so emergency service providers have the ability to communicate directly with each other.