

5.0 Safe City



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OVERVIEW:

Richmond continues to grow and evolve into a vibrant and diverse metropolitan City with most of the vertical growth focussed in the urban City Centre area. As Richmond continues to change, it brings with it an increased desire to build, grow and sustain a safe City. There is a need to deliver public safety services in a strategic, agile, coordinated and cost-efficient way that includes everyone taking some responsibility for their safety. Through the design of safe attractive gathering places and strategically located service delivery facilities, Richmond will be one of the safest and livable cities in Canada.



Police

Police services are important to the quality of life, life safety, and well-being for all Richmond citizens. Enhanced personal safety and security, and lower economic costs are two of the benefits of reducing crime and other anti-social behaviours.

The Richmond detachment of the RCMP is committed to working in partnership with the citizens of Richmond to achieve the goal of "Safe Home and Safe Communities" to provide quality police services in a cost-effective, proactive manner. These strategies include but are not limited to partnerships, education, problem solving, increased visibility, intelligence-led policing, crime reduction initiatives and enforcement.



Fire-Rescue Services

Richmond Fire-Rescue delivers fire and life safety prevention, education and emergency response services. It places an emphasis on service excellence in the delivery of its prevention and education services to support and manage the growing demand for emergency 9-1-1 fire and rescue services.

To meet the challenges of delivering its services in support of a safe city, Richmond Fire-Rescue believes that it must be: capable of responding to 9-1-1 fire and rescue calls in urban and rural environments; prevention focussed; public educators through community partnerships; integrated with community safety providers; agile; responsive to customer needs; able to operate at a optimum level in the event of a significant major emergency; and able to deliver services in a financially sustainable manner.



Emergency Programs

Emergency Programs develops emergency plans and programs, and educates and implements these plans to ensure that the City is prepared to respond and recover from emergencies and disasters.

Community-based emergency preparedness allows Richmond residents to be prepared for and able to respond to anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following an emergency or disaster. By working in partnership, community neighbourhoods and the City can reduce injuries, protect property, reduce emergency needs, manage existing resources until organized assistance becomes available, and recover quickly.

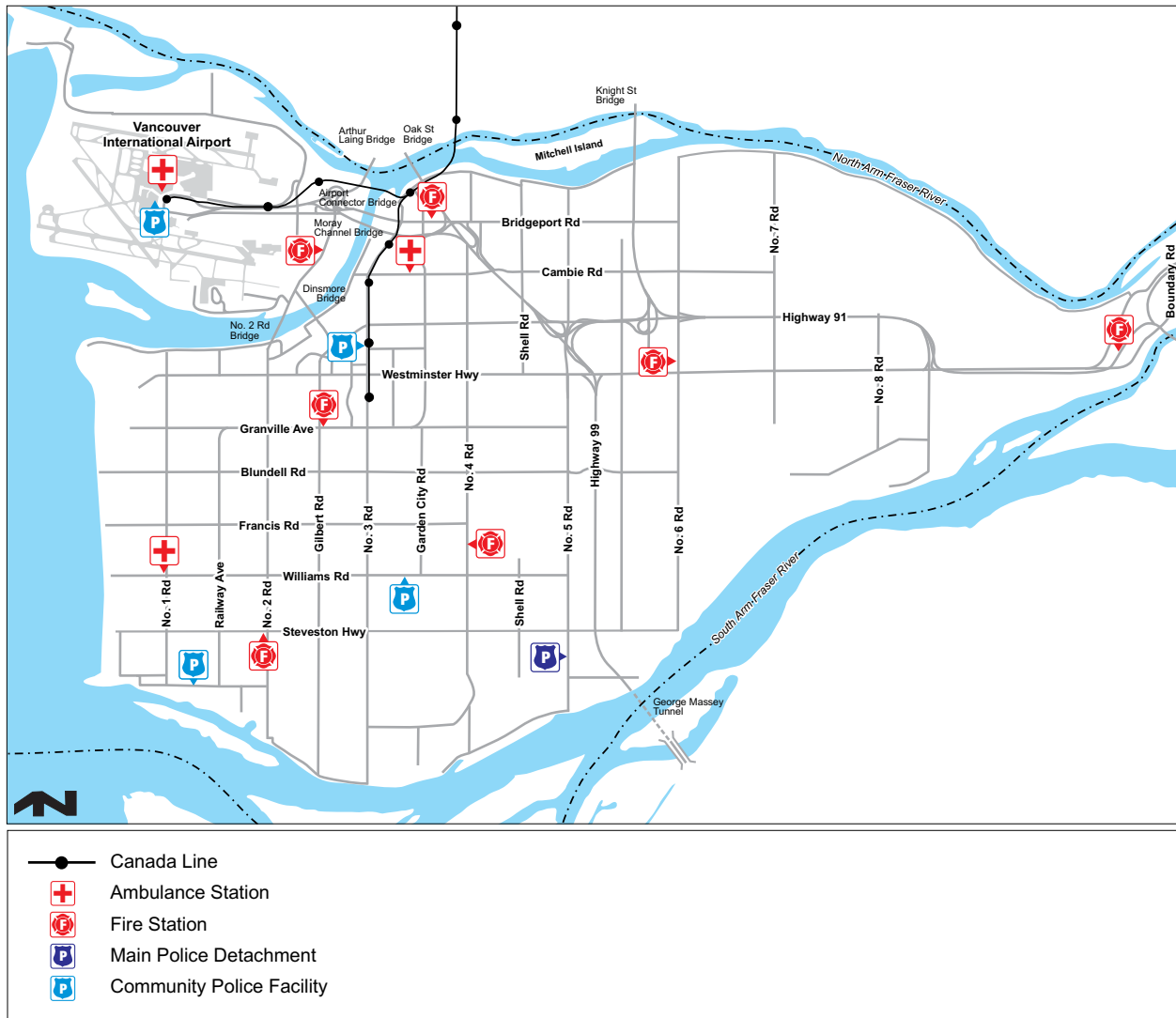


Community Bylaws

City Council establishes bylaws to manage activities and provide an appealing, safe and livable community. These bylaws regulate, prohibit or impose a variety of requirements, and enforcement is undertaken often on a complaint basis where necessary to obtain compliance with City regulations. The goal for Community Bylaws is to work with the residents, businesses and stakeholders to educate and establish compliance prior to enforcement.



Community Safety Facilities Map



OBJECTIVE 1:

Maintain a safe community through the provision of sufficient fire rescue, policing and emergency services and facilities.

POLICIES:

- a) review and maintain RCMP detachment, Community Police Offices, Richmond Fire Rescue and Emergency facilities in appropriate locations to ensure effective service delivery;
- b) review fire and policing considerations for all public and private developments;
- c) periodically monitor the effectiveness of the locations of these facilities and delivery of services.



OBJECTIVE 2:

Increase Police effectiveness through community awareness, and partnerships in crime prevention, road safety and emergency assistance.

POLICIES

- a) establish crime prevention programs in conjunction with the local community;
- b) ensure local input in setting policing priorities through public forums, advisory groups and task forces;
- c) increase community awareness of crime prevention programs, including appropriate security measures for private property;
- d) continue pedestrian and traffic safety awareness and education programs in conjunction with the community, insurance providers and other agencies, supported by effective enforcement if necessary;
- e) increase crime reduction and prevention strategies around organized crime;
- f) use community forums, media and social media to explain the role and interdependency of police and the community around prevention;
- g) participate in regular exercises to test emergency readiness;
- h) educate the community in the use of appropriate City and other contact for relevant needs including the “proper” use of 9-1-1;
- i) establish partnerships with the community to ensure emergency assistance.



OBJECTIVE 3:

Reduce high-risk threats to public safety through crime reduction strategies and targeted enforcement.

POLICIES

- a) increase enforcement for potential serious crimes;
- b) target the sources and suppliers of drugs through increased enforcement;
- c) use of bike squads and community policing initiatives to increase local policing services;
- d) ensure adequate prevention and enforcement at high accident intersections and roadways.



OBJECTIVE 4:

Clearly define appropriate Fire Rescue strategies and 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) use community forums, media and social media to explain the role and interdependency of fire prevention and the community;
- c) work with the development community to ensure that safety standards are met;
- d) work with the community to ensure that buildings and homes are equipped and the equipment is maintained, to prevent fires and accidents;



- e) ensure local input in setting fire-rescue policies;
- f) increase community education and awareness relating to safety and accident prevention (e.g., hazardous materials, fires, use of 9-1-1.).

OBJECTIVE 5:

Ensure the city's emergency plans are current and appropriate.

POLICIES

- a) maintain, review, and update the City's emergency plans annually;
- b) educate, train and exercise the City's emergency plans;
- c) partner with public safety agencies to ensure the emergency plans are up to date and a coordinated response is in place;
- d) maintain a centrally-located, multi-agency Emergency Operations Centre;
- e) work with the community to develop emergency response capabilities which are woven into the social fabric of the community neighbourhood associations, schools, workplaces, places of worship and other existing organizations;
- f) increase community awareness of emergency management programs and strategies.

OBJECTIVE 6:

Ensure that the public safety agencies serving Richmond have a common communication and dispatch system that enables direct inter-agency communication and coordination.

POLICIES

- a) ensure that emergency services are coordinated in an effective and efficient way;
- b) ensure that borderless responses are encouraged in emergency situations;
- c) work to proactively provide input into communication and dispatch service enhancements.

OBJECTIVE 7:

Maintain safe and secure neighbourhoods through good design practices.

POLICIES

- a) encourage best practices for crime reduction through design for all developments in the City (e.g., Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design—CPTED);
- b) enhance bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways to ensure safe movement;
- c) periodically review crosswalk lights and traffic lights for safety.