



Community Safety Committee

Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Linda McPhail, Vice-Chair
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt
Councillor Bill McNulty
Mayor Malcolm Brodie (entered at 4:02 p.m.)

Absent: Councillor Derek Dang
Councillor Ken Johnston

Call to Order: The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Wednesday, October 10, 2012, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room

Mayor Brodie entered the meeting (4:02 p.m.).

DELEGATION

1. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file, City Clerk's Office), Marlene Keefe and Jan Olson, representing Ban Resident Dogs, requested that a bylaw be considered to ban the chaining, tethering and cruel confinement of dogs in Richmond. Ms. Keefe and Ms. Olson read from their submission, attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1.

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In reply to queries from Committee, Ms. Olson provided the following information:

- Ban Resident Dogs has contacted the Province, but has yet to receive a response;
- the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has limited authority to remove dogs that are tethered;
- under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCA Act), the BC SPCA may only cease a dog under critical distress;
- the PCA Act, defines critical distress as distress in an animal of such nature that (a) immediate veterinary treatment cannot prolong the animal's life or (b) prolonging the animal's life would result in the animal suffering unduly; and
- it is challenging to lobby the Provincial government to amend the PCA Act.

In reply to queries from Committee, Wayne Mercer, Manager, Community Bylaws, advised that over the past year, Community Bylaws has received eight complaints related to the tethering of dogs. Mr. Mercer stated that the City, along with the City's animal control contractor, the Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS), has adequate staffing to monitor such complaints.

Mr. Mercer stated that the City's Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932 includes a clause on the tethering of animals. Also, he indicated that staff are currently reviewing the Bylaw and anticipate bringing amendments forward in the Fall.

Discussion ensued and Committee commented that while reviewing the Bylaw, staff ensure that there is a clause that addresses the tethering of unattended animals.

Discussing further ensued and it was noted that a specific issue needs to be identified and subsequently, options for what can be done. Also, it was noted that more general information is required, as is what is occurring at the provincial level.

As a result of the discussion the following **referral** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff bring forward an unattended anti-tethering amendment as part of the Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932 review that is underway.

The question on the referral was not called, as Mayor Brodie called Point of Order, stating that direction to staff to draft an amendment bylaw should be brought forward for Council consideration and not be considered a referral.

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Discussion ensued and there was agreement that the motion read as follows:

That Council direct staff to include an unattended, anti-tethering clause in the Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932 and ask that an amendment bylaw be drafted accordingly.

The question on the motion as revised was not called as Committee gave further direction to staff to examine what the Province is doing and analyse staffing implications of such an amendment. Also, the Vice-Chair indicated that anecdotal information from other lower mainland municipalities that have enacted such a bylaw would be valuable.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

LAW AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

2. CITY CENTRE COMMUNITY POLICE STATION UPDATE

(File Ref. No. 09-5350-00) (REDMS No. 3610729 v.2)

In reply to queries from Committee, Inspector Bart Blachford advised that (i) the City Centre community police station has limited visibility from No. 3 Road; (ii) two of the five full-time General Duty uniformed members from Zone 3 have been assigned to the station; and (iii) the remaining Zone 3 members have been encouraged to work out of the station as much as possible.

Discussion ensued and Committee expressed that it is imperative that adequate signage identifying the new community police station be installed in an effort to improve visibility from No. 3 Road.

In reply queries made by Committee, Lainie Goddard, Manager, RCMP Administration, advised that (i) staff are tracking the number of visitors to the new station and recording the types of services requested; and (ii) volunteer recruitment is going well.

Discussion further took place regarding signage for the new station and Phyllis Carlyle, General Manager, Law & Community Safety, stated that staff have encountered budgetary limitations, however would further examine the issue.

It was moved and seconded

That the report titled City Centre Community Police Station Update (dated August 15, 2012 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP) be received for information.

CARRIED

3.

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3. **RCMP'S MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE/JULY 2012 ACTIVITIES**
(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 3576758 v.3)

Inspector Blachford commented on the detachment's School Sports Program.

It was moved and seconded

That the report titled RCMP's Monthly Report – June/July 2012 Activities (dated August 15, 2012, from the OIC, Richmond RCMP) be received for information.

CARRIED

4. **RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE – JUNE 2012 ACTIVITY REPORT**
(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 3577368)

RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE – JULY 2012 ACTIVITY REPORT
(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 3611811)

Tim Wilkinson, Deputy Fire Chief, commented on notable fire rescue activities during July 2012.

It was moved and seconded

(1) *That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – June 2012 Activity Report (dated August 29, 2012, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue) be received for information; and*

(2) *That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – July 2012 Activity Report (dated August 29, 2012, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue) be received for information.*

CARRIED

5. **COMMUNITY BYLAWS - JUNE 2012 ACTIVITY REPORT**
(File Ref. No. 12-8060-01) (REDMS No. 3581375 v.3)

6. **COMMUNITY BYLAWS - JULY 2012 ACTIVITY REPORT**
(File Ref. No. 12-8060-01) (REDMS No. 3614854 v.3)

In reply to a query from Committee, Mr. Mercer stated that it is not uncommon to see a high number of Notice of Bylaw Violations issued in areas dense with restaurants.

It was moved and seconded

(1) *That the staff report titled Community Bylaws – June 2012 Activity Report (dated July 27, 2012 from the General Manager, Law & Community Safety), be received for information; and*

(2) *That the staff report titled Community Bylaws – July 2012 Activity Report (dated August 13, 2012 from the General Manager, Law & Community Safety), be received for information.*

CARRIED

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7. **FIRE CHIEF BRIEFING**

(Verbal Report)

Items for discussion:

(i) Roll Out of Fire Plan

Deputy Fire Chief Wilkinson provided background information and stated that two senior staff rollouts have taken place with the intent for the Officers to disseminate the information to their staff. Also, he noted that an external stakeholder presentation was held on August 1st and was well attended by various community groups.

(ii) Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Deputy Fire Chief Wilkinson stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and in support, Richmond Fire-Rescue is working with the IAFF Union Executive to support the cause.

(iii) Fire Prevention Week in October

Kim Howell, Deputy Fire Chief, stated that Fire Prevention Week takes place from October 9th to the 13th. The theme for this year is 'Have Two Ways Out' – focussing on the importance of fire escape planning and practice. Also, Ms. Howell spoke of various community engagement initiatives that will take place during Fire Prevention Week.

(iv) Presentation of Cheque to the Richmond Firefighters Charity

Deputy Fire Chief Wilkinson presented the IAFF Local 1286 President Cory Parker with a cheque for \$1,524 for the Richmond Firefighters Charity. He stated that the cheque was donated from the Fire Chiefs' Association of British Columbia Companions Group, who held a fundraiser as part of the BC Fire Chiefs' Conference held in Richmond in June 2012.

(v) Friends of the Fire Chief – United Way Car Wash

As part of the City's annual United Way Campaign, Deputy Fire Chief Wilkinson stated that Fire-Rescue has organized several fundraising events, including a car wash. The car wash will be held on September 22, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Hall No. 1.

Deputy Fire Chief Howell stated that Richmond Fire-Rescue will no longer offer ride-alongs as charity silent auctions items as it was felt that this practice was unsafe. Instead, Richmond Fire-Rescue is proposing to offer Safety Bags, which will contain items such as a smoke alarm and a fire extinguisher.

It was moved and seconded

That the Fire Chief Briefing Verbal Reports be received for information.

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8. **RCMP/OIC BRIEFING**

(Verbal Report)

Item for discussion:

(i) *Integrated Team Annual Report 2011/2012*

Inspector Blachford distributed the Integrated Team Annual Report 2011/2012 (copy on file, City Clerk's Office) and spoke of a significant projected increase in Richmond's share for Integrated Teams.

In reply to queries from Committee, Ms. Carlyle stated that there have been no changes to the current governance model for the Integrated Teams. She commented on the projected increase, noting that it appears that much of the increase is associated with administrative costs as opposed to frontline services. Also, Ms. Carlyle advised that many services have been centralized, however the cost benefits have not been passed down to municipalities.

Discussion ensued regarding the projected costs as presented in the Integrated Team Annual Report 2011/2012 and as a result, the following **referral** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff analyze the Integrated Team Annual Report 2011/2012 and report back.

CARRIED

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Deborah Procter, Manager, Emergency Programs, distributed materials (copy on file, City Clerk's Office) and spoke of a new free program called Get Ready Richmond. She stated that the workshops will focus on how to be prepared for an emergency or disaster by knowing the risk, making a plan having an emergency kit and knowing what to do in an emergency.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (5:12 p.m.).

CARRIED

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Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

Councillor Linda McPhail
Vice-Chair

Hanieh Berg
Committee Clerk

Anti-Chaining Legislation Presentation

(Powerpoint - pics of chained dogs)

Jan

Imagine yourself standing in the middle of an 8 foot diameter circle (pause) and spending the rest of your life there.

Imagine waking up every morning knowing that you will spend almost every minute of that day alone.

Imagine not being able to walk more than a few feet in any direction, dragging a chain along with you every time you move.

You long to run but you can only pace.

Imagine looking longingly through the window of your family's home, watching as they go about their lives without you, hoping that today you might be brought inside to be with them.

Imagine the mind-numbing boredom of doing nothing but sitting in the same spot all day, every day, never knowing the sheer joy of running free or chasing a ball, of playing with other dogs, or lying on a soft bed at your owner's feet.

This is what life is like day after day, year after year for thousands of resident dogs throughout the lower mainland.

Unlike family pets, resident dogs are not welcome inside their home as members of their family.

They live alone in the yard, in a pen, on a chain, or inside a shed or garage.

Resident dogs may also be cruelly confined inside the home, living continuously in basements, attics, closets, and crates.

Resident dogs have addresses, not homes

Chained and penned dogs must eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in a single confined area.

They invariably have overturned water bowls, inadequate vet care and are rarely kept clean and groomed.

They swelter and suffer from heat stroke in the summer, freeze and die from hypothermia in the winter.

Fleas, parasites and ear infections are common afflictions. (slower)

The intense boredom they live with often causes them to lick or chew themselves obsessively, causing open sores and infections (pics of neck wounds)

The necks of chained dogs often become raw and infected from constant rubbing or from collars that must be kept uncomfortably tight to prevent the dog from backing out of them.

(Pics of tangled dogs) (faster)

Tethers can become entangled around other objects further restricting their movement.

In 2008, a Saint Bernard who became hopelessly entangled in the cord she was tethered with tried to chew off her own leg in an attempt to free herself.

Many chained dogs have hung themselves when they have attempted to jump over their own doghouses and fences, such as this dog did. (pic of hanging black dog).

And this one. (picture of hanging gold dog).

This was Amber. Her owners admitted she had never once been off her chain in all the years they owned her.

Amber's horrific death was her only escape from years of isolation and boredom. (Pic of dead dog)

This dog in Surrey strangled to death after struggling for hours to free himself from his tangled tether, his cries and whines for help ignored by his family.

(Judas video)

But all the ways that chained and cruelly confined dogs physically suffer pale in comparison to the emotional torment they endure by being isolated and consistently alone.

This is Judith, a dog who spent almost her entire life on the end of a heavy chain in Burnaby. Despite being reported repeatedly to the SPCA, Judith remained on her chain for ten torturous years.

At that time Burnaby did not have an anti-chaining law as they do now.

So Judith remained on her chain, her life filled with misery, boredom, loneliness, pain and terrible neglect.

Humans have specifically bred dogs for thousands of generations to want to be our constant companions more than they want anything else.

A 1994 study of puppy behaviour showed that dogs long to be with humans almost from the moment they open their eyes.

Four month old puppies given a choice between going to a human or going to another dog consistently preferred the human.

If you could ask a dog if they would rather have a warm dog house with a soft bed and sufficient food and water but be always alone or if they could be with their family even if

that meant sleeping on the ground and sometimes being thirsty and hungry, they would pick the latter every time.

But dogs can't make these decisions for themselves.

They are totally dependent on us and our humanity, or lack thereof.

(End of chained Judas video)

(Pics of dejected dogs on chains)

There is hardly a single animal welfare organization that hasn't spoken out to declare that long term chaining or penning of dogs is inhumane and that isolating a dog from their family is one of the cruelest things we can do to them.

Resident dogs suffer from intense boredom, loneliness, frustration, anxiety, depression and insanity.

Eventually they lose all hope and their defeated souls are clearly evident.

And yet, this cruelty is entirely supported by current federal, provincial and most municipal laws.

As long as this is legal how can we ever consider ourselves a humane people.

Marlene

(Begin scrolling list of bites)

I will be discussing how the implementation of an anti-tethering by-law will not only make Richmond a more humane community but a safer one as well.

Scrolling on the screen in front of you is a partial list of attacks on humans by chained or penned dogs over the past few years in the US and Canada.

Dogs, like humans, are fight or flight animals.

When faced with a threat, dog psychology dictates that it escape or confront.

Because tethered dogs have no opportunity to flee from perceived danger, their only option is to attack.

Research from the Center of Disease Control in the US has shown that consistently chained dogs are three times more likely to bite than unchained dogs.

And the more frequently and longer the period of time a dog is chained, the more likely they are to attack.

Young children are especially at risk as they are unaware of the potential danger and are more vulnerable to severe injury and death.

Research about fatal dog attacks in the States determined that children make up 88% of the

victims of fatal attacks by chained and penned dogs.

Dogs are chained for any number of reasons, but one of the most common is to act as guard dogs.

But chained dogs are poor protectors of their families.

By isolating dogs and depriving them of their greatest emotional need, we create unsocialized and emotionally detached timebombs.

Such dogs become aggressive – not protective.

As they are not used to being with people, they may not know the difference between friends and enemies and may attack anyone, including their own family members.

One particularly horrifying case illustrates how fast tragedy can strike.

In 2005, a 4 yr old boy named Robbie of Orange County, Virginia was mauled to death by his family's mixed breed dog who was chained inside his pen.

It took less than a minute for Robbie to walk into the pen and for the dog to fatally break his neck.

As Ingrid Newkirk of PETA states, "if you want to protect your family, chain your door, not your dog".

(start of Alex video)

This is a video of a chained dog named Alex.

He is being approached by a man who is trying to gently loop a leash over his head.

Despite the non-aggressive manner in which the man approaches him, it is clear Alex feels threatened. Without the option of fleeing, chained dogs like Alex often perceive any approach as threatening, resulting in an aggressive response.

No one would doubt that Alex would bite this man if he had the chance.

But you will be surprised to see that Alex is not an aggressive dog at all.

Once he is removed from the chain, Alex almost immediately transforms into the naturally gentle and affectionate dog he is.

This is a very typical response from dogs once they are removed from their chains.

Dogs are naturally gentle and affectionate creatures.

More often than not, the chain is the source of the aggression, not the dog. (end Alex video)

(list of cities that ban or restrict chaining)

Anti-tethering laws have been enacted by several states and in hundreds of communities

throughout the US and Canada, including the cities of Calgary, Burnaby, Delta, Lions Bay, New West, Victoria and soon in Surrey.

(Before and After pics)

Experience has shown that these laws create safer communities, encourage responsible and humane pet ownership and end the suffering of thousands of tethered dogs, including the ones you see here.

These laws vary from a total tethering ban, to banning the chaining of unattended dogs to allowing short term chaining for toiletry needs to multi-hour chaining limits.

Feedback from many of these communities is included in your package.

But to summarize, many communities that legislated multi-hour chaining limits found the law difficult to enforce as officers needed to determine how long a dog had been on the chain.

Multi-hour chaining limits also didn't reduce the number of neglect calls, required more officer hours and did not reduce the number of dog bites.

In contrast, communities that enacted total or unattended bans found the law highly enforceable, required less officer hours, and was very effective at reducing the incidence of dog bites.

Many U.S. communities that initially enacted multi-hour chaining limits eventually enacted a total or unattended ban.

The legislation we are recommending is the easiest to enact and enforce.

It includes a ban on unattended chaining and on long term crating and penning of dogs.

It requires that a responsible person must be outside with a chained dog and have them in visual range.

(pics of pitbull fighting victims, then pics of puppy mill dogs)

This law has the additional benefit of providing officers with tools to end dog fighting rings, whose dogs are consistently chained, and puppy mills, whose dogs typically spend their lives in crates and small pens.

(start of Happy Judas Video)

The power to improve the lives of chained dogs like Judith is in your hands.

Thanks to the anti-chaining law in Burnaby, Judith was finally liberated and spent the last year of her life as a much loved and cherished member of her new family.

If Judith had lived in a community that still had no anti-chaining law, she would have died on her chain, alone and in misery.

Anti-chaining and anti-cruel confinement legislation will help your animal control officers educate the members of your community who may not understand the psychological and physical suffering inflicted on chained and penned dogs and will empower them to end the suffering of dogs of non-compliant owners.

Please help chained and isolated dogs currently suffering in your community by making the humane decision to ban unattended chaining and the cruel confinement of dogs and help ensure Richmond becomes a safer and more humane community.