



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** September 25, 2014
From: Rendall Nasset, Superintendent **File:** 09-5000-01/2014-Vol
 Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment 01
(14.15)
 Phyllis Carlyle, General Manager
 Law & Community Safety

Re: Police Presence in the Downtown Core

Staff Recommendation

That the City Centre Community Police Station located at 5671 No. 3 Road, be approved as the temporary location in the downtown core; until another location is determined during the redevelopment of the downtown core.

Rendall Nasset
 Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment
 (604-278-1212)
 Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Finance Division Real Estate Services Facility Services Project Development Development Applications	CONCURRENCE ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

As a result of the relocation of the RCMP Detachment to its new location at 11411 No. 5 Road at the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on November 7, 2011, Council approved that:

- 1) a) *City Centre Community Police Station be considered on a 3 year trial basis: at 5671 No. 3 Road, as the temporary location in the downtown area;*
- b) *a maximum of \$573,800 in total costs over 3 years (\$167,000 in capital costs and operating costs of \$406,800) be funded from the existing RCMP budget; and,*
- c) *staff report back annually regarding the success of the program.*

“The continuation of the program after 3 years is subject to Council’s review and approval.”

This report supports Council Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City’s specific needs and priorities.

This report also supports Council Term Goal 1.5:

Improved perception of Community Safety by the community.

Background

The purpose of the City Centre Community Police Station (CCCPS), located at 5671 No. 3 Road, is to enhance a police presence and deliver city centre specific community policing programs to the centre of Richmond.

The CCCPS opened on September 20, 2012 and enhances the level of community policing service above what was historically available in the downtown core. On an annual basis, staff have brought reports forward to Council regarding the success of the CCCPS. Originally, the CCCPS was approved by Council for a three year trial period. This trial period is due to expire in 2015.

Staff recommends that the CCCPS stays in its current capacity and location, although it is understood that the location is expected to change in the future. While the site currently provides appropriate service to the surrounding area in the interim, the CCCPS site is envisioned at a long-term redevelopment site in the City Centre Area Plan (CCAP). Should the current site become subject to a redevelopment proposal staff will bring forward a report to Committee with recommendations regarding alternative CCCPS locations.

Analysis

With the densification and growing population of the downtown core, the CCCPS provides area residents and businesses with crime prevention information and personal safety tips. The station is also equipped with computer workstations and other systems to allow general duty members, and the bike squad the ability to conduct operational work without returning to the main detachment. In partnership with the City's community bylaws, soon the CCCPS will allow bylaw staff to complete paperwork and make telephone calls from the CCCPS. This enhances the visibility of the police in the downtown core and is anticipated that it will have the same effect for community bylaws.

Management of the community programs continues to be the responsibility of a full-time City employee (Coordinator). The Coordinator's role is to recruit, train, motivate and organize volunteers who assist in the administration, and operation of the various programs as well as office support. With an addition of 20 volunteers from this time last year, there are 80 active volunteers at the CCCPS. It is with this in mind that staff believe that the Coordinator's position should become permanent in order to keep the CCCPS operating at an optimum level.

The CCCPS programs and detachment services are communicated to the public via the internet and in-person when they visit the CCCPS during business hours Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The CCCPS offers the following programs:

Lock Out Auto Crime	Volunteer Foot Patrol	Crime Watch
Speed Watch	Van Patrol	Block Watch
Stolen Auto Recovery	Volunteer Bike Patrol	Project Swoop
Pedestrian Safety	Business Link	Distracted Drivers
Restorative Justice	Adopt a Street	Youth Intervention

For emergency service a phone connecting directly to E-Comm is accessible outside the front door of the community police station and is available 24/7.

The CCCPS is an ideal location for the Youth Intervention Program's (YIP) clients because of its easy accessibility to transit. YIP Program staff work closely with the Ministry of Children and Families, Youth Probation, Richmond School Board, Touchstone Family Association, Richmond Addiction Services and other community partners, who are all within the downtown core. In particular, the CCPS location is beneficial to the high at-risk students from Station Stretch¹. Station Stretch students are finished school in the early afternoon and therefore, able to make earlier appointments. Later afternoon appointments are available for students from other schools and parents who can come after work. There has been an average of 76 YIP appointments per month this past year.

¹ Station Stretch is a Grade 9/10 school readiness program. Students have the opportunity to "catch up" on the core academic courses as well as work on issues impeding their success at the larger high schools.

CCCPS Front Counter Statistics

The table below lists the number of people who came into the CCCPS and the reason for the visit during the June 2013-May 2014 period. From June 2012 to May 2013 there were a total of 1,506 visits, compared to 1,644 for June 2013 to May 2014, which is an increase of 9.16 %. The largest percentage increases were request for Criminal Record Checks information at 51% and Youth Intervention Program appointments at 11.5%.

Figure 1:

Month	Information regarding Criminal Record Checks	Information regarding Liquor Licences	YIP	Information regarding Reporting a Crime	Other *	Total
Jun-13	12	2	88	5	15	122
Jul-13	29	1	72	4	34	140
Aug-13	35	2	42	12	22	113
Sep-13	26	1	69	6	32	134
Oct-13	31	2	87	15	30	165
Nov-13	20	1	88	12	30	151
Dec-13	17	0	67	6	18	108
Jan-14	17	0	72	33	17	139
Feb-14	32	2	61	11	27	133
Mar-14	34	2	81	15	10	142
Apr-14	15	0	89	21	18	143
May-14	23	0	86	19	26	154
TOTALS	291	13	902	159	279	1644

*Other: can be any of the following:

- 1) Volunteer information request
- 2) Policing questions and advice
- 3) Found property
- 4) Directions

Financial Impact

Operating Budget Impact (OBI)

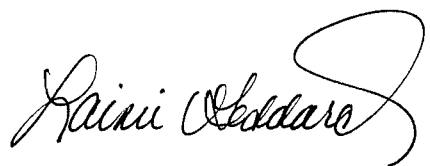
Regular FT City Employee Salary & Benefits	\$83,321 ²
Community Policing Program Operating Costs	\$15,700 ³
Maintenance and Utilities	\$21,695 ⁴
Janitorial Services	<u>\$27,000⁵</u>
Total Annual Operating Costs	\$147,716

The annual costs for the Coordinator's position and the operating costs totalling \$147,716, for 2015 will be considered during the 2015 budget process. As this is a City-owned building the annual lost rental opportunity would be in the order of \$50,000 and the annual lost tax revenue would be approximately \$40,000.

Conclusion

Although a CCCPS is not required for an operational response to the City Centre, many RCMP members, City staff and volunteers are on location frequently. The CCCPS provides the citizens of Richmond with a higher level of service than they would receive if the CCCPS was to close. The CCCPS continues to assist with maintaining a visible police presence in the City core. This increased level of service is balanced against the overall annual costs to the City and staff are of the opinion that the CCCPS more than compensates for the lost tax and rental revenue.

During the redevelopment of the downtown core, should the site no longer be available RCMP staff will bring forward a report to Committee with recommendations regarding alternative CCCPS locations. In a future report, the effectiveness of the other Community Police Stations (CPS) in Richmond will be discussed.



Lainie Goddard
Manager, RCMP Administration
(604-207-4767)

LG:jl

Att. 1: Highlights 2013-2014

² ME Costs are based on 2015 Richmond Detachment Community Policing Co-ordinator City Employee.

³ CP Program Operating Costs are based on Historical CPS Programming Costs and include such things as supplies, travel, training, cellular telephone, meetings, volunteer appreciation and equipment.

⁴ Based on information from Engineering and Public Works.

⁵ Janitorial Services are based on the information from City of Richmond Building Maintenance, \$6.00/square foot.

2013-2014 Highlights

July 2013

- Ten City Centre volunteers participated at the Steveston Salmon Festival by doing foot patrols and contributing 44 hours.
- The Richmond RCMP Business Link program was started on May 27, 2013 at the CCCPS. The program has grown to over 975 registered businesses with volunteer foot patrols being done throughout Richmond. The highest densities of registered businesses are located in the downtown core. Volunteers regularly visit the businesses to distribute crime prevention information and have formed strong relationships with business owners resulting in a higher awareness of the benefits of reporting crime as it happens in the community. Business owners are educated in crime prevention techniques to increase their business's security and reducing the calls for service.
- The CCCPS adopted Lansdowne Road, Alderbridge Way, Minoru Boulevard and No. 3 Road for the Adopt a Street Program that was officially launched.
- Volunteers on foot and bikes completed 5 patrols at the Richmond Night Market.
- The Volunteer Bike Patrol participated in the City of Richmond's Annual Island Bike Tour.

August 2013

- Volunteers assisted the RCMP Youth Section with their Youth Camps at the local community centres and the Musical Ride.

September 2013

- CCCPS had their first community table at the Brighthouse Library to promote Speed Watch.
- In partnership with ICBC, CCCPS participated in the semi-annual Project Speed Watch out on Patrol (SWOOP) with the detachment's Road Safety Unit and the CP/VS constables.
- The Volunteer Bike Patrol found possible grow ops in the East Richmond and Steveston areas and the information was forwarded to the police.

October 2013

- CCCPS had their second community table at the Brighthouse Library to promote Pedestrian Safety.
- CCCPS had their semi-annual Pedestrian Safety Blitz with the detachment's Road Safety Unit, CP/VS constables, Richmond Fire Rescue and Transit Police.
- CCCPS volunteers rode the sky train to River Rock and back with Transit officers.
- On Halloween night eight City Centre volunteers assisted at South Arm with Bike and Foot Patrols.

November 2013

- CCCPS participated in the third community table at the Brighthouse Library to promote Lock Out Auto Crime and to explain to the general public about not leaving anything in their vehicles during the holiday season.
- Volunteers went on a mini Jaywalking Blitz and handed out brochures at No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway.

December 2013

- CCCPS third Pedestrian Safety Blitz for 2013 with CP/VS constables, ICBC and volunteers around the Richmond Centre Mall area.

January 2014

- CCCPS received referrals for more patrols from the City of Richmond's Transportation Department for the Hamilton area as they were getting complaints from the local residents concerning speeding. Volunteers completed their referral this month.
- The fourth community table was hosted at the Brighthouse Library to promote Pedestrian Safety.

February 2014

- A Distracted Driver's Campaign was hosted with the detachment's Road Safety Unit, CP/VS constables, Transit Police, ICBC and volunteers.
- A mini Jaywalking Blitz was done with CP/VS constables and volunteers at Cook Road and Saba Road.

March 2014

- The CCCPS Speed Watch program completed a referral from the City of Richmond's Transportation Department. The volunteers set up Speed Watch at the requested location and then provided statistical information about how many vehicles went through the deployment and at what rate of speed. Letters were sent out to the drivers that are going 10 km/hr over the posted speed limit. The referral was for the 23000 block of Westminster Highway, 12,000 Block of Jack Bell Drive and Alder/Alberta.
- The CCCPS received a referral from a local resident concerned about No. 6 Road and Westminster Hwy. Local residents were concerned about traffic failing to stop at the lights and vehicles speeding. A Speed Watch deployment was set up as well as letters sent to the drivers speeding 10 km/hr over the posted speed limit.

April 2014

- The CCCPS participated in a Lock Out Auto Crime Blitz with CP/VS constables and volunteers at the Richmond Public Library, River Rock, Richmond General Hospital and Cosmo/Pacific Plaza.
- At the request of the City of Richmond Transportation Department, the CCCPS volunteers did four foot/van patrols through Burkeville.

May 2014

- The CCCPS participated at the annual Police Week Display at Richmond Centre Mall.
- Project SWOOP was held with the detachment's Road Safety Unit, CP/VS constables and volunteers.
- Crime Watch found a stolen vehicle in Hamilton.
- Bike Patrol volunteers heard an alarm going off in the 7800 Block of Saba Road. It was a flashing "fault" signal and a damaged sensor was found on the ground. They called Richmond Fire Rescue who was able to silence the alarm.

June 2014

- Van Patrol found a stolen car at Cosmo Plaza.
- Bike and Foot Patrol volunteers took part in the opening of Railway Greenway.
- Bike Patrol participated in the City of Richmond's Annual Island Bike Tour.
- Van Patrol found a small fire (smoke on grassy part of roof) at Cosmo Plaza and they called Richmond Fire Rescue.
- Van Patrol found a family stuck in the elevator of Cosmo Place and called Richmond Fire Rescue to assist.
- A Pedestrian Safety Blitz was done with Youth Section, CP/VS constables, Richmond Fire Rescue and Transit Police along with volunteers and ICBC.
- A new partnership with City of Richmond Bylaws will now enable the Bylaw Enforcement Officers to complete paperwork and make telephone calls from all of the CPS's.