

# COMMITTEE REPORT

NO: **P007**

COMMITTEE DATE: **Sept. 19, 2016**

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 13, 2016**

FROM: **Bill Fordy, Assistant Commissioner  
Officer in Charge, Surrey RCMP**

FILE: **7400-01**

SUBJECT: **Surrey RCMP Community Engagement Update**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Surrey RCMP recommends that the Public Safety Committee receive this report as information.

## **INTENT**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Detachment's efforts in engaging with Surrey residents and business owners.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Surrey RCMP is committed to providing a multifaceted approach to addressing public safety concerns. A key component of our strategy is community engagement, which involves police working together with the community on a number of enforcement, prevention, and intervention efforts aimed at supporting children, youth and families and reducing crime.

Community Engagement and Mobilization is one of the strategic priorities for the Surrey RCMP, as outlined in the detachment's 2015-2017 Strategic Framework. Essentially the focus of this priority is on "enhancing community understanding and involvement in identifying and addressing public safety issues". Specifically, the detachment is looking to meet the following community engagement objectives:

- To enhance communication of key messages regarding policing and public safety issues;
- To enhance outreach and foster dialogue with the community, inclusive of First Nations people and other diverse populations;
- To promote positive interactions with the public and increase community involvement in police programs and partnerships; and
- To develop and expand community safety programs.

In order to meet these objectives, the Surrey RCMP takes proactive measures to engage with Surrey residents, youth, and business owners through direct and personalized contact with the goal of reducing crime, and increasing public trust and police accountability. The detachment's community engagement initiatives are part of a long-term strategy to reduce crime by promoting

positive choices for youth, providing support to parents of at-risk youth, educating the community on crime prevention, and building relationships between police and the community.

## DISCUSSION

This year, the Surrey RCMP has developed and executed a number of community engagement initiatives to strengthen relationships with community members and promote crime prevention.

1. **Surrey RCMP Diversity and Community Engagement Unit:** This year, the Surrey RCMP expanded its Diversity Unit to create the first RCMP Diversity and Community Engagement Unit. This unit seeks to enhance the Surrey RCMP's relationships with the city's diverse communities by attending cultural events, representing the detachment on various committees, and assisting with the creation and distribution of translated resources. The unit also facilitates internal training to raise awareness around diversity and cultural sensitivity and external training to raise awareness around policing services.

This summer, the unit delivered over 40 presentations to over 2,000 residents, many who were refugees or newcomers to Canada. The presentations focused on dispelling any misinformation about police that may have been acquired from their homeland or peer groups and has led to additional forums being planned in multiple languages.

2. **Community Engagement Teams:** In June, the Surrey RCMP introduced its new Community Engagement Teams to attend family and youth focussed community events across the city. The Community Engagement Teams are part of the detachment's effort to increase positive connections with young people and families. At the events, Team members talk to parents and community members, connect with children and youth, and offer assistance and resources to parents who may be concerned about their children becoming involved in illegal activities. To date, these teams have gone to over 50 events and engaged with over 14,000 people. The Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC) also attended a number of these events throughout the summer.
3. **Surrey RCMP Parent Help Line (604-599-7800):** Since launching this parent helpline in May 2016, 38 calls have been received from parents with concerns about their children's involvement or potential involvement in illegal activities. Through this helpline, parents can get in touch with the Surrey RCMP's specialized youth officers and youth counsellors who can assist them with resources, police information, and intervention services. The helpline was launched as a result of concerns expressed by parents at the Surrey RCMP's Community Safety Forum in April.
4. **Neighborhood Safety Meetings (NSM):** This fall, the Surrey RCMP will continue to host its Neighbourhood Safety Meetings to provide residents with information on localized crime trends, current policing initiatives, and how to engage with police in crime prevention. This is a continuation of the Neighbourhood Safety Campaign that was launched in 2015.
  - a) City Centre, Guildford, Fleetwood Neighbourhood Safety Meeting  
Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Kirkbride Elementary (12150 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue)

- b) Newton, Cloverdale, South Surrey Neighbourhood Safety Meeting  
Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
École Woodward Hill Elementary (6082 142<sup>nd</sup> Street)
5. **City of Surrey Public Safety Strategy:** Since December 2015, Surrey RCMP members and support services have been engaged in all aspects of the development of the Public Safety Strategy. We collaborated on several community consultation forums and have developed several of the strategic initiatives included in the strategy. Going forward, we will continue to ensure activities are aligned towards our shared public safety mission.
  6. **Community Safety Forums:** This October, the Surrey RCMP will be hosting a large Community Safety Forum that will provide parents with online safety information to keep their children safe on the internet. More information and details will be released on this forum in the coming weeks. This follows the April 18<sup>th</sup> forum which focused on youth, drugs and violence.
  7. **Citizen and Youth Police Academies (CPA & YPA):** On September 14, 2016, the third annual Citizen Police Academy and second annual Youth Police Academy will kick off with 56 participants. Residents and youth were selected from over 100 applicants to participate in interactive, three hour sessions once a week for eight weeks. The Academies are designed to give participants an inside look into policing in Surrey and foster a better understanding between Surrey citizens and the RCMP.
  8. **Community Constable Program (CCP):** In September of 2015, the Community Safety Officer (CSO) Pilot Program transitioned to the Community Constable Program. A number of CSOs participated in a 21 week training program related to this new position. Following the completion of their Field Coaching this fall, they will engage in duties related to community policing, crime prevention, and community engagement and mobilization in each District.
  9. **Block Watch Symposium:** The Surrey RCMP will host the third annual Block Watch Symposium in November (date to be determined). The purpose of this event is to provide Captains and Co-Captains with additional skills and tools to support reporting of crime and neighbourhood crime prevention.
  10. **Schools Engagement:** With the start of the 2016/17 school year, the Surrey RCMP's Youth Unit is continuing a number of youth engagement initiatives in Surrey schools this fall including the [WRAP program](#), [Code Blue](#) after school fitness program, "high fives" at elementary schools, and End-Gang Life presentations with CFSEU-BC. These early intervention activities gives kids a chance to talk to police officers in a positive environment and are key to preventing them from making poor decisions that could lead to criminal involvement.
  11. **Joint Force Operation (JFO) with Transit Police:** Since January 2015, a Transit police officer and a Surrey RCMP member have been partnered together to reduce crime and increase public safety around the Surrey Central transit corridor. The pair provide a high visibility presence and focus on proactive policing and community engagement with local businesses, commuters, and patrons. The JFO has recently been extended to include the Newton area.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Surrey RCMP's community engagement initiatives relate to the Sustainability Charter themes of Inclusion and Public Safety. Specifically, they support the following Desired Outcomes:

- Inclusion DO1: Surrey welcomes, includes, embraces and values the diversity of people who live here.
- Inclusion DO5: New immigrants and refugees are supported to settle, integrate and become thriving members of the community.
- Inclusion DO21: All residents have opportunities to be meaningfully engaged in civic issues and to contribute to community life.
- Public Safety DO1: Residents are safe and have a strong sense of security in all neighbourhoods and throughout the city.
- Public Safety DO3: There are minimal community safety issues in the city, and the public is fully engaged in preventing and reducing crime.
- Public Safety DO4: Local residents and businesses are connected and engaged within their neighbourhoods and with the broader community - including police, public safety partners and social service agencies - to enhance safety.

## OTHER STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

Many of the Surrey RCMP's community engagement activities are done in collaboration with other partners including the City of Surrey, Surrey School District, Transit Police, DiverseCity, and CFSEU-BC. This increased collaboration ensures that we are improving and expanding our service to City residents and not duplicating our efforts.

## CONCLUSION

Citizens of Surrey have made it known that they want to engage with their local police on a more personal, face-to-face level. By meeting with residents, business owners, youth and families and having a more visible presence in the community, the Surrey RCMP are building important relationships that, over time, will reduce and prevent crime.



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Surrey RCMP

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