

Report to Council



Date: February 19, 2018
File: 0100-01
To: City Manager
From: Rob Mayne, Divisional Director Corporate and Protective Services
Brent Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment
Subject: RCMP Quarterly Council update 2017: October – December

Recommendation:

That Council receive the RCMP Quarterly Update 2017: October – December report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment and the Divisional Director of Corporate and Protective Services dated February 19, 2018.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an update on the activities of the RCMP for the previous quarter and report on progress toward goals and outcomes in the 2016-2019 Crime Reduction Strategy.

Background:

The 2016-2019 Crime Reduction Strategy consists of four main goals each with multiple strategies within. The four goals include:

1. Taking a proactive approach to crime
2. To work with partner agencies for more effective policing
3. To maximize the effectiveness of resources using an intelligence-led model
4. Leveraging effective communications

In the fourth quarter of 2017, work continued to meet these goals.

Taking a proactive approach to crime:

The commercial theft program which launched in June continues to yield results as a proactive approach to crime, with 338 files resulting in 206 charges to date. Other projects include: the downtown

drug projects (resulting in 102 drug charges), impaired driving enforcement throughout December (resulting in 30 alcohol-related sanctions and 79 violation tickets), and prolific prohibited driver project.

Multiple proactive crime prevention programs contributed to informing the public on staying and keeping property safe. In 2017 more than 9,000 volunteer hours contributed to extra eyes on the streets and community policing initiatives. Ongoing work with programs including Block Watch, tamper-proof licence plate screws, Don't Be An Easy Target campaigns and the senior contact programs remain effective initiatives for community-level proactive crime prevention and safety awareness.

Working with partner agencies for more effective policing:

Approaching its one-year anniversary, the Police and Crisis Team (PACT) continues to be a successful model resulting in providing efficient, compassionate and effective enforcement. The PACT intervened on nearly 20 per cent of all mental health calls for service.

The RCMP was a key partner in the quick activation of the Emergency Shelter Action Team that monitored the impact of the four main shelters within Kelowna during the winter months. The collaborative approach, primarily focused on getting the Cornerstone shelter running, helped ensure the safety of our most vulnerable population, the public and businesses, and the shelter's staff. It has proved to be a successful model for inter-agency collaboration.

In line with the Crime Reduction Strategy, the RCMP worked with the City's Bylaws department to implement the Good Neighbour Bylaw in October. The bylaw consolidates the anti-litter, noise and disturbance control, residential nuisance and unsightly premises. It also added nuisance abatement fees.

Maximize the effectiveness of resources using an intelligence-led model:

Looking at residences that generate a number of repeated calls, a DEU team was created to focus on these repeat residences. The Auxiliary Constable Program is being reactivated under its new regulations and is being leveraged to reduce crimes throughout the City.

While property offences increased in the fourth quarter over the previous year, the yearly comparison of all criminal code offences demonstrates reduction in property offences, a five per cent reduction in other criminal code offences and a third consecutive year of reductions in person offences. Considering Kelowna's fast-growing population, these figures show a positive dent being made in crime reduction. The data is showing that crime prevention, officer presence, partnerships and proactive policing communications is having an overall positive impact on the community.

Leveraging effective communications:

The annual Don't Be An Easy Target holiday campaign in December leveraged social media channels and online advertising to inform the public about keeping valuables safe by locking cars.

The RCMP continued to proactively engage with the media to inform the public about arrests in the community and to provide crime information to the public.

In the fourth quarter, the Kelowna RCMP detachment participated in a number of positive community engagement initiatives including a community celebration for Gratitude Month, National Take Our Kids to Work Day and marching in the Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Results released in October of the 2017 Citizens Survey once again showed that Kelowna is a safe community, with 90 per cent of residents describing the city as very/somewhat safe. This is on par with 2015 (94 per cent). However, perception of safety is declining – a good reminder to continue in proactive communications efforts to the public about safety initiatives and crime prevention. The decline in perception was attributed to primarily homelessness/poverty followed by drugs and break-ins/thefts. Yet, most residents still describe downtown as safe (80 per cent).

Internal Circulation:

Communications Consultant, Axelle Bazett
Crime Prevention Supervisor, Colleen Cornock

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

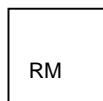
Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

R Mayne, Divisional Director Corporate & Protective Services
B. Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment

Approved for inclusion:



Divisional Director, Corporate and Protective Services

cc:

Police Services Manager
Bylaw Services Manager