

Report to Council



Date: July 16, 2018
File: 0100-01
To: City Manager
From: Brent Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment
Subject: RCMP Quarterly Update 2018: January – May

Recommendation:

That Council receive the RCMP Quarterly Update 2018: January - May report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment dated July 16, 2018.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an update on the activities of the RCMP 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. To effectively communicate public safety

From January to May of 2018, work continued in order to meet these goals.

Taking a proactive approach to crime

Proactive policing initiatives for the first part of 2018 targeted drug criminal activity, property theft and impaired and distracted driving enforcement.

Work continued to target street-level drug activity through the Downtown Drug Project, resulting in 76 drug trafficking charges and a number of significant drug seizures in the most recent two phases. There has been an increase in patrol teams both on foot and in cruisers, with a focus on the downtown area to address increasing public safety concerns.

A separate initiative and an additional level of drug enforcement, the Fentanyl Drug Project saw resources committed for targeting criminal activity involving those trafficking Fentanyl.

Engaging with the public, Crime Prevention teams participated in Bike to Work Week activities to encourage riders to enrol in the Project 529 bike registry.

Other crime prevention programs include the Volunteer "Watch" programs (speed, cell and noise), as well as presentations to Block Watch groups about personal and home safety, and also frauds and scams.

Looking ahead to summer policing, from July to September four joint RCMP/Bylaw bike teams will patrol downtown and surrounding areas. The public will also notice more RCMP and Bylaw officers out patrolling the streets on foot and in cruisers for increased safety.

Operational plans are being put in place for special events, including the upcoming Centre of Gravity in City Park, where a no-tolerance approach to drug criminal activity will be enforced. The ongoing Inadmissible Patron Program, which bans those involved in organized crime from frequenting restaurant/bar establishments, continues to be a priority.

To work with partner agencies for more effective policing

Since January 2018 the Police and Crisis Team (PACT) continued to work collaboratively engaging in approximately 350 calls for service with 53 individuals diverted from Kelowna General Hospital (KGH). Now in its second year, this program was implemented to improve mental health patients' access to care as well as divert police resources from repeated mental health calls to public safety matters.

Work continued with the John Howard Society on the Stop Taking It Out On Your Partner Project to increase awareness about the harms of domestic violence and to familiarize clients with the variety of abuse; physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual and economic. The program offers free counselling for men who use violence or controlling behaviours within their intimate partner relationship. The program can support those with or without criminal charges and is

seen as an independent, community focused, offender orientated, and voluntary option. Information is confidential and protected.

The RCMP contributed to the development of the Journey Home Strategy and continue to play a key role as the strategy moves forward.

Criminality and homelessness are not one and the same. RCMP (and Bylaw) use an enforcement approach when necessary but officers also conduct outreach daily to connect people with the services they need. Often situations are de-escalated and redirected to support services. The RCMP partners with social development groups to address both sides of the issue, with the goal of protecting the most vulnerable, the public and businesses from those involved in criminal activity.

To maximize the effectiveness of resources using an intelligence-led model

The effective use of crime analysis informs RCMP staff of trending criminal activity within the region. By focusing on trending crime patterns and prolific offenders, crime prevention activities and resource allocation can be focused on potential hot spots.

To help create efficiencies, work has started on developing a new pilot online crime reporting system, anticipated for rollout in 2019.

As a health resource to employees, the RCMP contracted with a well-being consultant to address stress, work-life balance and health. Wellness efforts for employees were furthered with a partnership with UBC Okanagan on the BARK Program: therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers visit the detachment weekly to help reduce stress within the workplace.

To effectively communicate public safety

The local RCMP took part in several community events including: Cram the Cruiser for the Kelowna Food Bank, Cops for Kids Jail 'n Bail and Bike to Work Week events to promote bike theft prevention.

To address public safety in the community, Supt. Brent Mundle conducted a video interview with Kelowna Now and is a monthly radio guest on AM 1150. Promotional media relations were also conducted for the upcoming RCMP Musical Ride event on Aug. 9.

In addition, the RCMP worked with City staff to update the 'know who to call...and when' informational public brochure. Available at multiple civic properties, at RCMP headquarters and also distributed to local businesses, the brochure clarifies when to call 911, the non-emergency police line or Bylaws.

Crime Statistics

Year to date statistics concerning property crime demonstrate an increase in offences in comparison to the previous four years. These offences include theft from autos, theft of autos and bike thefts. Strategic efforts have been directed at targeting chronic offenders along with the use of our "bait vehicle" program to curb the property crime increase.

Recent street-level criminal incidents in the downtown area are being actively investigated.

Internal Circulation:

S. Jackson, Police Services Manager
D. Gazley, Bylaw Services Manager
C. Cornock, Crime Prevention Supervisor
A. Bazett, Communications Consultant
T. Wilson, Communications Manager

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:

B. Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment

Approved for inclusion:



Joe Creron, Deputy City Manager, Operations