

Report to Council



Date: April 29, 2019
File: 0100-01
To: City Manager
From: Brent Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment
Subject: RCMP Quarterly Report to Council

Recommendation:

That Council receive the RCMP Quarterly/Yearly Update report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment dated April 29, 2019.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an update on the activities of the RCMP and 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

Taking a proactive approach to crime

Proactive policing initiatives this past year focused on bicycle theft crime prevention, targeted drug criminal activity, and traffic offences, especially speed enforcement in school zones.

Working with Police Services, a proactive social media campaign ran during the winter holiday season to encourage people to lock their cars and keep other possessions safe from crimes of opportunity. The campaign resulted in thousands of engagements with people through Facebook posts.

The Downtown Drug Project continues on its track record of proactively targeting drug activity in the downtown core. 172 drug charges were laid against 95 individuals.

Traffic Services enforcement resulted in 175 impaired driving related infractions as well as 120 distracted driving offences. Collisions in this quarter dropped 4.3% from the same time period in 2018.

Crime Prevention volunteers including Citizens on Patrol, Speed Watch and CPOs added up to 9,200 hours in 2018.

To work with partner agencies for more effective policing

The RCMP continued to partner with the John Howard Society in delivering the STOP Project to increase awareness about the harms of domestic violence. STOP incorporates free counselling for men who use violence or controlling behaviours in their relationships and supports those with or without criminal charges. The project is an independent, community-focused and offender-oriented program with voluntary enrolment by participants. Information is confidential and protected.

KOaST – Kelowna Outreach and Support Table training has been completed. Approximately 12 partner agencies meet weekly.

The RCMP continues to partner with the Child Advocacy Centre, with construction renovating an existing building commencing this spring, and a tentative opening in late 2019. The building will house the centre's activities.

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

The On-Line Crime Reporting continues to be tested in early April with an anticipated roll-out prior to fall. This will allow reporting of non-emergency complaints to be made on-line.

With Police Services, a community safety survey (presented to Council on April 15) gathered information about residents' perceptions of safety in the city. the survey results will be used in conjunction with the resource review being completed by the analyst.

Supporting staffing resources, the Kelowna RCMP Detachment has continued in partnership with UBC Okanagan to offer the BARK therapy dog Program.

A Detachment Wellness group has been established and is pursuing many projects to improve employee wellness within the Detachment environment.

Leveraging effective communications

Partnering with School District #23 a one-day conference on April 30 involving Grades 9-12 will provide exposure to the physical and mental aspects of being a police officer.

The Kelowna Crime Prevention Unit has held 21 business presentations in 2019, including 5 CPTED reviews/security audits.

Addressing public safety in the community, Supt. Brent Mundle continues to conduct monthly interviews with AM1150.

Crime statistics overview

2018 Q4 (in comparison to 2017 Q4)

- Property crime offences have increased by 6.3% (127 more files – total of 2,158 files)
 - Downtown property crime has increased 7.8% (16 new files – total of 222 files)
 - Bicycle theft has increased 60.6% (43 more thefts - 114 total bicycle thefts)
 - Theft from auto has increased 25.2% (136 more thefts – 679 total thefts from auto)
- Persons offences have decreased by 6.6% (22 fewer files – total of 309 files)
 - Downtown person offences have increased 5.9% (2 new files – total of 36 files)

2018 annual (in comparison to 2017)

- There were 59,517 files in 2018
- The RCMP received 55,152 calls for service (2% increase from 2017)
 - Calls for service have increased 12.2% since 2014 (5,984 more calls)
- Property crime offences have increased by 10.1% (852 more files – total of 9,285 files)
- Person offences have increased by 5.0% (62 more files – total of 1,302 files)
 - Compared to 2014, person offences have decreased by 2.7% (from 1,338 files in 2014 to 1,302 in 2018)
- Other criminal charges have increased by 8.7% (248 more files – total of 3,096 files)

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