

Report to Council



Date: October 21, 2019
File: 0100-01
To: City Manager
From: Brent Mundle, Superintendent Kelowna RCMP Detachment
Subject: RCMP Report to Council, May – September 2019

Recommendation:

That Council receive the RCMP Update report from the Superintendent, Kelowna RCMP Detachment dated Oct. 21, 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 throughout May - September have focused on targeting street level drug criminal activity, street patrols, traffic enforcement and crime prevention initiatives.

The ongoing Street Level Drug Project continues to proactively target drug activity: 61 individuals were charged with 92 drug charges from May to the end of September. A number

of significant investigations – including drug, armed robbery, car thefts - resulted in drug and firearms seizures, arrests and criminal charges.

During the summer months, officers were deployed to increase foot, bike and motorized cart patrols. Four dedicated members patrolled beaches, parks, popular pedestrian areas and the downtown area on bikes seven days a week. In addition, foot patrols were deployed three days a week. The addition of motorized carts and utility vehicles increased the area covered by officer patrols.

Traffic Services enforcement resulted in 84 impaired driving related infractions with continued distracted driving enforcement. Once again, RCMP silhouettes were deployed in school zones across the community at the start of September, paired with speed enforcement, as a reminder to slow down in school zones.

The Crime Prevention team conducted 50 on-site business visits to assist with who and when to call, and to discuss community safety issues. The Crime Prevention team is helping to facilitate a community engagement workshop this week, called a Design Jam, to develop solutions that address thefts from motor vehicles. In addition, RCMP volunteers contributed more than 6,000 hours to support active RCMP and promote community safety.

To work with partner agencies for more effective policing

The RCMP continues to partner with the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). The RCMP Child Abuse Section will be working full-time in the new CAC which is set to officially open in January of 2020.

The Kelowna Outreach and Support Table (KOaSt) training has been completed. Approximately 12 partner agencies meet weekly to support individuals who are at immediate risk of crisis. To date 53 table discussions have been had, with 50 resolved.

A second officer has been added in October to expand the successful Police and Crisis Team (PACT). This enables PACT to offer seven days a week coverage.

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

Kelowna continues to be one of Canada's fastest growing region and is increasingly facing the pressures of social issues, crime and safety –noted as citizens' top issues in the 2018 Citizen Survey.

Building on the 2018 Public Safety Report and the 2012 Prosser report, a Resource Analysis Study has been completed. The independent consultant is wrapping up the report and recommendations for future resource requirements to further increase safety in the community are set to be presented to Council later this Fall.

While a bigger need exists to meet the community challenges, the new positions added to the Community Safety Unit (CSU) in 2019 are a start and include two permanent foot patrol officers who started in October, and a new CSU officer position is expected to be filled early in the new year.

Helping alleviate the deployment of officers to non-emergency calls, the Online Crime Reporting (OCR) tool went live on June 26. There were 136 incidents reported to the OCR in the first three months, primarily reporting bike theft, theft from a motor vehicle and mischief. OCR allows reporting of non-emergency complaints to be made online, rather than needing an officer to be deployed. The community can access the OCR via the RCMP website or at kelowna.ca/police.

Traffic Services has acquired a Black Cat Radar Monitor which allows for collection of traffic data and subsequently generates detailed reports to identify hot spots and peak periods for traffic enforcement.

The Detachment Wellness Committee continues to pursue many projects to improve employee wellness within the Detachment environment, including Crisis Intervention and Peer Support Training and the BARK Program which has started up again this October.

Leveraging effective communications

The Media Relations Officer, Cpl. Jesse O'Donaghey has accepted a position at Southeast District. The position is currently vacant.

Throughout this quarter, officers participated in a variety of community events including: Tim Horton's Camp Day, McDonald's McHappy Day, Boston Pizza Special Olympics fundraiser, the Braintrust Positive Ticket Campaign and the Ride Don't Hide in support of mental health awareness. The Kelowna Detachment also hosted the Third Space Family Fun Festival in late September.

Addressing public safety in the community, Supt. Brent Mundle continues to conduct interviews with our varied local media.

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