

Report to Council



Date: November 25, 2019
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Griffiths and Pollard RCMP and Police Services Resource Review
Department: Deputy City Manager, Operations

Recommendation:

THAT the Griffiths and Pollard RCMP and Police Services Resource Review – Executive Summary dated November 2019 be received as information.

AND THAT staff report back to City Council in the new year with a strategy to deliver RCMP and Police Services needs over the next 5 years.

Purpose:

The consultants will present the findings of the RCMP and Police Services Resource Review. The purpose of this report was to conduct a review and develop a new 5 Year plan for 2020 to 2025 including support services delivered by civilian staff in Police Services. In addition to proposing future resourcing needs and advice on delivering policing services more effectively and efficiently, the consultant will comment on the results expected and achieved by adding resources proposed by the Prosser Report in 2012.

Background:

The Prosser Report identified policing needs over a 5-year period; 2012 to 2017. The Prosser Report identified hiring 35 members over that time. The City of Kelowna resourced 29 members during that time but resourced an additional 11 members during 2018 and 2019.

Since the Prosser Report in 2012, our environment has changed. Our population has increased by 15,000 residents and the opioid crisis has swept across North America, including Kelowna. Our consultant was also asked to pay attention to our significant influx in tourists which is in the order of 2 million visitors annually and most visit between May 1st and October 1st each year. Comparing us to similar population sized cities is not applicable unless they have a significant tourist population.

Many initiatives are underway to manage and reduce the outcomes of the opioid crisis and help those who can't afford a home or have mental illness. It doesn't matter how many police resources we add, it will not solve the problems of homelessness, mental health challenges or eliminate related crime. These issues need more intense attention from other levels of government. Although 87% of our community feels safe according to our 2018 Citizen Survey, almost half of our community believe

community safety has worsened in the last three years. Property crime has significantly increased, and our experience indicates this is largely due to those who have a drug addiction and need money to buy drugs.

The report outlines the need to add 56 RCMP members and 28 civilian positions. In the new year, staff will prepare a report to City Council in collaboration with the RCMP. The strategy will outline priorities and a financing plan that is affordable for our community. The needs identified here must be assessed in relation to all City requirements. As Provincial funding for housing and support services are expanding through the Journey Home Strategy 's five-year plan to address homelessness we expect to see fewer resourcing needs in this area.

Some policing needs will be addressed during the 2020 Provisional Budget. Our community has told us that community safety is their top priority and we are committed to addressing this community priority in a financially responsible manner. Staff propose to complete a Community Safety and Well-being Strategy which will also be considered at the 2020 Provisional Budget.

Internal Circulation:

RCMP Superintendent
Divisional Director, Human Resources and Community Safety
Community Safety Director

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

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