

ITEM 6  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 10  
COUNCIL MEETING 92/02/10

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1992 February 03

FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE, BURNARY DETACHMENT R.C.M.P.

SUBJECT: R.C.M.P. BICYCLE PATROL PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To inform the Mayor and Council of the implementation of a new Bicycle Patrol Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That this report be received for information.

REPORT

Recent incidents have necessitated activating this program to meet the need in high crime areas. This program has been researched with the projected date in the first half of 1992. The current attention given to the Imperial Street area with remedial and prevention programs being implemented, the Bicycle Patrol is a required integral part.

Our research into existing police agencies that have this Program report phenomenal success in detecting and substantially reducing crime in the high risk areas.

The pluses to this program are:

1. Speed: The bikes demonstrate that they can often be on scene minutes ahead of either patrol cars or foot officers. The bikes can move between vehicles, on grid locked city streets or down city sidewalks safely, in a way that the patrol cars can not and cover seventeen times the area of foot patrols.
2. Maneuverability: The bikes can jump over curbs, climb and descend stairs, be ridden through malls, vacant lots and tight hidden drug locations all at a steady speed.
3. Stealth: There is no engine noise to alert suspects, no sounds of approaching footsteps, no audible warnings of the bikes approaching at all.

The above three elements translate into a priceless police tactic: surprise.

4. Economy of Operation: You can equip, train and operate ten officers for each one in a Patrol car (excepting salaries).

5. A Sense of Community: The public has found the bike squad members visible, and more approachable than in vehicles. The public has in other locations accepted the idea so readily they pose for photographs with tourists as a common part of the work day.

116

The bike patrol operated as a pro-active unit not usually dispatched to a call unless in the immediate vicinity. The bike patrol is expected to be highly successful in the following areas:


- a. High crime areas: Metrotown Mall area including underground parking, Imperial Street and vicinity to establish a high visibility and Loughheed Mall area, high risk areas on Kingsway ie: robbery, assaults.
- b. City Parks: Central Park.
- c. Pedestrian walk ways: Excellent deterrent on the proposed Urban Trails system.
- d. High burglary areas: 24 hour convenience store/malls.

The flexibility and viability of this program is expected to be extremely successful in reducing crime in areas not accessible to vehicle traffic and very quickly to areas in the case of foot traffic.

There is in place a bicycle patrol of the Auxiliary Program. They have 12 members equipped and in possession of 2 mountain bikes. This program is idle due to requirements of in company supervision of a regular member. Once our regular program is in place this existing patrol of the Auxiliary is immediately activated at no additional cost to the municipality.

This would bring the total complement of both programs to 16 members equipped and six bikes. This could create flexibility up to 3 two men teams to be active simultaneously throughout the municipality. This program has been in the research stage, however, is now needed. The program is expected to be operational by April 01, 1992.

This is for the information of Council.

  
(B.A. Beaudreau), Superintendent  
Officer in Charge  
Burnaby Detachment

JEB:sgm

cc: Director of Administrative and Community Services