

REPORT
1994 September 26

CITY OF BURNABY
COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: RCMP DETACHMENT ESTABLISHMENT INCREASE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council endorse the recommendation to increase the establishment of the RCMP Detachment by four (4) regular members for the purpose of expanding the School/Community Liaison program.

R E P O R T

The Community Policing Committee, at its meeting held on 1994 September 15, adopted the attached staff report requesting approval for an increase in the size of the RCMP Detachment by four (4) regular members effective 1994 December 01.

The Committee therefore places the recommendation before Council for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Evans
Chair

Councillor J. Young
Vice Chair

COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIR. ADMIN. & COMM. SERV.
- OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.

TO: COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE September 15, 1994
FROM: SUPT. B.A. BEAUDREAU, OIC BURNABY DETACHMENT RCMP
SUBJECT: R.C.M.P. DETACHMENT ESTABLISHMENT INCREASE
PURPOSE: TO APPROVE AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE R.C.M.P. DETACHMENT BY FOUR (4) REGULAR MEMBERS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1ST, 1994.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Community Policing Committee endorse the recommendation to increase the establishment of the R.C.M.P. Detachment by four (4) regular members for the purpose of expanding the School/Community Liaison Program.

REPORT

This is a proposal for four (4) additional regular member resources effective December 1st, 1994. No other resources have been received by this Detachment in this fiscal period so this request, if approved, would be the only increase in the police establishment for 1994.

This proposal is essentially a partnership between the City, the School Board and the RCMP to deal with very real criminal problems which exist within the Burnaby's Secondary Schools. The success of the program elsewhere and the willingness of the School Board to participate in the program gives us cause to believe that having RCMP members working out of the schools in Community Liaison positions will make a very real difference in Young Offender crime.

The ability to deal with criminal acts committed by Young Offenders either as a policing activity or through the Court system has been subject of a great deal of publicity. While recent amendments to the Young Offenders Act have increased penalties this will do little to deal with the root causes of the problems. To give a statistical breakdown of crimes committed by Young Offenders would be, in large part, to re-state the obvious. All too often over the past year calls from schools have involved drugs, weapons, violence and gangs. Also any statistics might well understate the problem. Many people realizing the inability of the current system to deal with young people simply do not report incidents involving young people.

As stated, this program has been successful in other jurisdictions such as Vancouver and Richmond. It attempts to deal both with the young people who have committed a crime and also and more importantly to serve as a deterrent to criminal activity. With the current School Liaison members and the new positions contained in this submission there will be sufficient resources to have a member assigned to and working out of each secondary school within Burnaby. The School Board as well as enthusiastically supporting this plan will provide office accommodation within each school. Currently there are two School Liaison members but for them to try and cover 6 secondary schools as well as the numerous feeder schools is impossible. In their current roles they simply react to incidents after the fact.

The initiation of this program is entirely consistent with the Detachment's move to Community Based Policing. The Community/School Liaison positions would work under the Community Based Policing umbrella functioning as a neighbourhood liaison member. The Constable would cover the school and several adjoining streets which are often subject to occurrences involving students. While the member would be stationed in the secondary school they would also visit the feeder schools in the City to promote a positive police image.

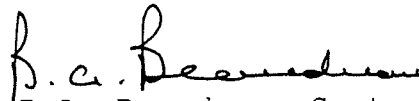
By having members involved in school activities, interacting with students and school staff there should be an early detection and, hopefully at least in some cases, a prevention of criminal behaviour. We are of the view that based on the experience of other jurisdictions this will bring about a more positive approach to policing and will contribute to reduced crime. An improved relationship between the youth of Burnaby, police officers and school staff will also result.

As stated office accommodation will be provided by the School Board in each of the Junior and Senior Secondary Schools. In our view it is necessary to begin the program in each of the schools simultaneously. The program gives the opportunity for police and young people to meet in a venue that is familiar to the young person. It gives the police officer the opportunity to hear their complaints, answer their questions, and understand their problems. This communication will not be interrupted by an emergency call and will hopefully eliminate many of the barriers and misconceptions that exist between youth and police, and in so doing will create a positive atmosphere for future interaction of these citizens. Being a part of the school scene is very important, and the member's presence at extra curricular school activities will help students through these formative years. During the working day the member will wear uniform to create a positive police image.

Attached in support of this proposal is a letter of endorsement from the Burnaby School District. Once approved in principle, terms of reference between the Detachment and School District will be drawn up.

A letter from the Richmond Detachment indicating the success their program is enjoying is attached.

The Committee's support in this policing initiative is requested.



B.A. Beaudreau Supt.
Officer In Charge
Burnaby Detachment RCMP



August 25, 1994

Suprintendent Bruce Beaudreau
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
6355 Deer Lake Avenue
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 2J2

Dear Superintendent Beaudreau:

The support for our secondary schools by the R.C.M. Police is becoming increasingly important as Burnaby experiences increased urbanization. The excellent cooperation between your current two school liaison officers and our youth services staff is having positive results. The school district is most appreciative of your direct interest, the initiative of your senior staff and the response of your members.

The trend towards criminal activity, including sale of drugs, extortion and violence within the youth community, is alarming. Unfortunately, the community around secondary schools and the large concentrations of young people who naturally congregate there provides fertile ground for victims and recruits for a small but potent criminal element. A recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Education indicated that over one-half of grades 4-7 students reported "being afraid" and older students (grades 8-12) cited gangs as a serious social issue.

The proactive measure taken by your emerging Community Policing Model, and the School District's newly established Youth Services, coordinated by Mitch Bloomfield, are having a salutary preventative effect. There are strong indications that the close cooperation between youth preventative initiatives in the schools and community law enforcement can avoid the deterioration so evident in youth culture in other major centres.

The Burnaby School Board has now established six Youth Services Workers (one in each school) coordinated by Mitch Bloomfield, Manager Youth Services. Our secondary school principals, while highly complimentary of your two School Liaison Officers, have strongly expressed the need for more school liaison support - even to the extent of indicating that one member per secondary school zone is required.

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George Miller
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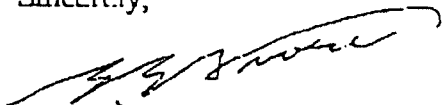
R. D. (Bob) Ingram
Secretary-Treasurer

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The approach of community policing where School Liaison Officers are able to engage elementary students in preventative education and provide prompt law enforcement support to secondary schools is very timely. If the R.C.M. Police were able to dedicate one member to each secondary school feeder zone to support and complement our Youth Services Workers and school staff, there is every likelihood that the trend toward fear could be reversed and a positive youth culture could be maintained in our community.

I certainly endorse what has already been expressed by our school administrators - that being a visible commitment to the assignment of a school liaison officer to each secondary school community - the model to be determined as your community policing process becomes more clearly defined.

Sincerely,



Elmer E. Froese,
Superintendent of Schools

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TO
A → O.I.C. BURNABY DETACHMENT

FROM
DE O.I.C. RICHMOND DETACHMENT

SUBJECT
OBJET SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER PROGRAM

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE 1994-08-30

This September Richmond Detachment will begin its fourth year in the School Liaison Program. Initial planning, implementation, and ongoing refinement have produced a program that enjoys immense public support.

A School Liaison Officer is assigned to each of Richmond's Senior Secondary Schools on a full time basis; the member is always in uniform and always on site with his shift scheduled around the hours of operation of the specific school. In essence the school becomes the Detachment area for the School Liaison member. The S.L.O. is the primary investigator for crimes reported upon or associated with the School. As well the S.L.O. maintains a proactive crime prevention role tailoring programs to the needs of the students. Participation in student activities and adopting a leadership role greatly facilitates acceptance of the S.L.O. within the student body.

The Richmond School Liaison Program is heartily endorsed by City Council and the School Board. Administrators, Principals, Counsellors and Parent Groups extol the virtues of the Program. The most important level of acceptance is that of the student. Queries of students continually demonstrate a high level of acceptance of the S.L.O. Program: amongst their favourable commentary is a theme of unbiased and fair enforcement. Students greatly desire a safe environment and they rely upon the S.L.O. as the facilitator to such an environment. Students feel much more protected from bullying, petty extortion, and gang recruitment.

(R.B. Giesbrecht) Supt.
O.I.C. Richmond Detachment

