

TO: CITY MANAGER **2000 July 14**
FROM: OFFICER IN CHARGE RCMP **BBY 265-13**
SUBJECT: NEW BURNABY AUXILIARY CONSTABLE PROGRAM
PURPOSE: TO UP-DATE COUNCIL ON ISSUES REGARDING
THE NEW BURNABY AUXILIARY CONSTABLE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Mayor and Council support the recruitment of up to 43 volunteers to fill Burnaby's complement of Auxiliary Constables.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby citizens have long been beneficiaries of countless hours of service provided by the volunteers of the Auxiliary Constable Program. In 1997, the Auxiliary Program, and the manner in which it delivered services, underwent a thorough review by the Attorney General's office. As a result of this review, there are significant changes to the duties and responsibilities of an Auxiliary Constable.

One of the most controversial decisions made by the Commanding Officer, "E" Division, was to disarm all Auxiliary Constables. While change to the program was necessary, the order to disarm the auxiliary members produced most of the negative reaction to date, resulting in a number of members resigning outright or remaining with the program but refusing to attend for duty assignments.

New Provincial and RCMP policies were drafted for the Auxiliary Constable Program and came into effect November 1999. A provincial recruiting call for auxiliary constables was recently issued by the RCMP to rebuild the program within the new policy framework and the response to this solicitation of interest has been overwhelming.

2.0 CURRENT STATUS

Under the new Provincial policies and guidelines (attached) the purpose of the Auxiliary Program of British Columbia is to ***“strengthen community and police partnerships by providing an opportunity for citizen volunteers to perform authorized activities in support of strategies to address the causes of, or reduce the fear of, crime and disorder”***.

Burnaby has 28 Auxiliary Constables who remain on the “active” duty list, however, due to the change in policy, not all of these members have been providing services within the community. Duty assignments for these members now come from the four (4) District Community Policing Offices. Those auxiliary members who have accepted the program changes, and continue to perform their assigned duties, are providing a high level of service to the community.

A new 96 hour training course has been developed to familiarize existing, as well as new, auxiliary constables with the current program requirements. As an alternative to attending the full training course, existing members can choose to write a challenge exam to assess their skills, knowledge and ability to perform their assigned duties. In order to bring all auxiliary members to a common starting point, they must either take the new course of training or pass the challenge exam or they will not be permitted to continue within the program. Burnaby Detachment is planning to hold a training session in the month of September, 2000.

Correspondence will be sent out, before the end of July, to invite the existing Burnaby auxiliary constables to state their interest in continuing with the program. In order to continue being an Auxiliary Constable, each will be required to indicate the method by which they will confirm their skills, knowledge and abilities. If the choice made by the member is not to continue with the program, or if we do not receive a response to the correspondence by mid August, then those members will be asked to resign from the program. It is anticipated we could lose up to 50 % of the current complement of auxiliary members leaving only 13 or 14 members on the active duty list.

A maximum complement of Auxiliary Constables supporting Burnaby Detachment may be established by the Commanding Officer of the RCMP, “E” Division, in consultation with the non-police managing partners. For the purposes of this report, non-police managing partners include the Province and local governments in RCMP contract jurisdictions. The formula created to establish the maximum complement is as follows:

1. One (1) auxiliary constable per every two (2) regular members for the first ten (10) regular members on detachment strength; and
2. One (1) additional auxiliary per every six (6) additional regular members on detachment strength.

Using this formula, the maximum complement of Auxiliary Constables for Burnaby is 43.

Not including training, each Auxiliary Constable is required to participate in program duties a minimum of 160 hours per year. Assuming a full complement of 43 members, this equates to 6,880 hours of service to the citizens of Burnaby. Under either direct or general supervision of members of the RCMP, Auxiliary Constables will “enhance” the overall, community based policing services that the RCMP deliver to the City of Burnaby. The new duties and responsibilities expected of them include, but are not limited to:

- enhancement of the Community Policing Philosophy.
- active participation in the promotion of new and innovative Crime Prevention Programs.
- assisting with problem solving through the use of C.A.P.R.A. (Clients, Acquire & Analyse, Partners, Response, Assessment)
- working with existing Community Programs including: Block Parent; Block Watch; Citizens Crime Watch; Merchant Watch, Crime Free Multi Housing etc.
- participating in community events such as Hats off Day, Discovery Days etc.
- assisting with traffic control at major community events
- bicycle and foot patrols where they are the “eyes and ears” to report incidents to the police
- making presentations on a variety of topics
- home security checks

Operational command of the Auxiliary Constables remains with the Commanding Officer of the RCMP, “E” Division, or his/her delegate. For Burnaby Detachment this responsibility falls to the Office in Charge of the detachment.

3.0 BUDGET

The cost to train and equip a new member for the British Columbia Auxiliary Constable Program is \$2,000. The annual cost to maintain an Auxiliary Constable is \$150.00. Given that there is a potential shortfall of 29 - 30 positions, the total funds required to train and equip the new members next year is \$58,000 to \$60,000.

Two (2) City owned vehicles are on strength to support the Auxiliary Constable Program. The annual costs to operate and maintain these vehicles will depend on usage, however, the estimate of costs is between \$3,600 and \$6,000. Vehicle replacement is scheduled through annual contributions to capital.

A rate of attrition will have to be anticipated in the annual budget for this program. With a complement of 43 members, it is reasonable to anticipate the need to replace four (4) to five (5) Auxiliary Constables annually, at a cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Two Regular Members of the RCMP will conduct the 96 hour basic training module as well as the periodic local training courses. This equates to approximately \$6,000, in person hours, per basic training session. If we run two basic training sessions per year, the total person hour cost will be \$12,000. Add to this approximately 30 hours of local program training, equal to \$2,000 per annum, and the total annual person hour cost for training is approximately \$14,000. While the amounts shown will not require additional funding, it is necessary to include them as part of the total program costs.

Unforeseen costs of a program of this size ie. equipment replacement, purchase of additional equipment, uniform replacement etc. is estimated to be \$4,300 per year.

The current annual budget allocation, provided by the City of Burnaby, is \$13,000 and based on the remaining funding, we will only be able to train and equip three (3) to four (4) new Auxiliary Constables and the 13 to 14 Auxiliary Constables expected to remain with the program.

Based on the above projections, it will be necessary to increase the annual Auxiliary Constable budget from \$13,000 to \$20,000 in order to maintain the program on a continuing basis.

Provincial policy states, ***“Auxiliaries must not wear police uniform as defined in the Police (Uniforms) Regulation, but may be permitted to wear a uniform similar to a police uniform provided that the Auxiliary uniform is clearly distinguishable from the uniforms of the police agency the Auxiliary assists, as authorized by the Commanding Office RCMP “E” Division or Chief Constable and the Attorney General”***. RCMP policy sets out the following which will distinguish the Auxiliary Constable’s uniform from the one worn by regular Members of the RCMP:

- it must bear clear, publicly visible “auxiliary constable” markings
- hats must display a blue hat band, not yellow

In order to effect the necessary changes to the existing auxiliary uniforms, ie. patrol jackets, vests, rain gear, the total estimated cost will be \$2,800. For fiscal year 2000/2001, these costs will be absorbed by the Province.

While the City of Burnaby is responsible to provide the basic funding to support the Auxiliary Constable Program, upon application, the Province will provide an annual grant to assist with the financial support of our local program. At present, the Provincial Government has not indicated how much funding will be available for these grants, however, Council will be advised once this amount is known. Additional funding can be sought from community sponsors of special events and programs in respect of Auxiliary Constable participation in the delivery of police services at those events.

4.0 FUTURE

Concerns have been raised, through correspondence from one Mr. GENAC, regarding the future of the Auxiliary Constable Program should there be a change in Provincial Government. The new policy and guidelines issued by the Attorney General's Office already address most of Mr. GENAC's concerns, specifically:

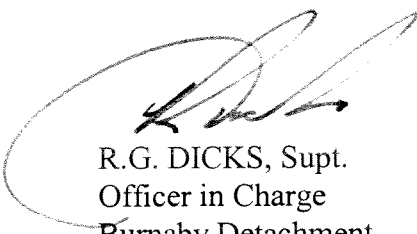
- 1) The authority to have armed Auxiliary Constables remains in the policy, Section 1.2, however, it is at the discretion of the Commanding Officer of the RCMP, "E" Division, and not the Attorney General, whether or not the Auxiliary Constables will carry firearms.
- 2) Auxiliary Constables are volunteers, not police officers, and, as such, should not be placed in a position to "back-up" a member. While they will not be permitted to perform law enforcement duties, Auxiliary Constables will be permitted to accompany regular RCMP members as a part of a "ride-a-long" program. This is outlined in section 8.4 of the Provincial policies.
- 3) The Auxiliary Constable program will allow these members to perform a variety of duties, in non-enforcement, crime prevention type programs under "general supervision". This means that they can perform the duties without having a regular Member of the RCMP present. The result of allowing Auxiliary Constables to take on these duties, in place of a regular RCMP member, is that there will be a freeing up of resources to perform front line policing.
- 4) The difference in the amount of time required to train Auxiliary Constables for the new program vs the old program results from the discontinuation of firearms training. The information imparted during the 96 hour course is required and, should the Commanding Officer decide to allow Auxiliary Constables to be re-armed, the additional training required can easily be reinstated.
- 5) One of the best ways to reduce crime, and the fear of crime, is to prevent criminal activity in the first place. Every regular member of the RCMP is charged with the responsibility of delivering policing services within the Community Policing Philosophy. This means that we will strive to problem solve and deliver our services based on the needs of our clients.

Integral to solving our community's crime related problems, and/or the implementation and maintenance of a successful crime prevention program, is the education of the general public. While "handing out pamphlets in [a] shopping [mall]" is one method of educating the general public, it is not the only method and members of the Auxiliary Constable Program will be expected, not only to take an active role in promoting existing crime prevention programs, but to actively problem solve and participate in the research, development and implementation of new crime prevention programs, which is definitely worth the expense.

5.0 CONCLUSION

If we are to move forward with the Auxiliary Constable Program, it is necessary for us to work within the framework established by the new policies and guidelines. To once again become a viable community program, **all** of the volunteers must be willing to take an active role in delivering service to the community. To meet this challenge the RCMP solicits the support of Mayor and Council.

In order to achieve the above, a one time funding allocation increase, from \$13,000 to \$60,000, will be sought for calendar year 2001. This will allow the Burnaby RCMP to train and equip up to 30 new Auxiliary Constables bringing their strength up to 43 members. This amount will decrease to an annual allocation of \$20,000 in calendar year 2002 to maintain a program of this size.



R.G. DICKS, Supt.
Officer in Charge
Burnaby Detachment

BB/del

Att.

Note: The Provincial Policy on the Auxiliary/Reserve Constable Program is available in the Clerk's Department.
