

TO: CITY MANAGER

2002 April 04

FROM: ACTING OFFICER IN CHARGE
BURNABY DETACHMENT RCMP

File: BBY 265-9

SUBJECT: RCMP EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM PROTOCOL

PURPOSE: To reply to Council's request for a report on the circumstances of a joint RCMP/Vancouver Police Department training session in the 7000 block Stride Avenue on Sunday, 2002 March 03.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Council, during the "Closed" Council meeting held on 2002 March 11, discussed a recent police training session that involved four (4) abandoned houses in the 7000 block Stride Avenue. Council were concerned that neighbours were not notified that these exercises were scheduled which caused some alarm.

2.0 RCMP EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING


An Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a group of police officers specially trained in the use of various tactical procedures and weapons. The police service in Burnaby includes a part time ERT made up of Burnaby officers who respond on a "call out" basis. Operational ERT activation requires the Detachment Commander's approval. ERT members undergo a stringent selection process. Upon completion of their initial five week ERT training in Ottawa, Ontario and in addition to their daily personal conditioning, two working days per month are allotted for ongoing practice to ensure physical and mental preparedness to cope with the extraordinary demands of deployment and to minimize the risk of injury or death to police and/or the public. Often during monthly training, facilities are shared with ERT's from other police jurisdictions to reduce training/travel costs and to share best practices. A joint training seminar was planned for Saturday and Sunday, 2002 March 02/03 between the hours of 09:00 a.m. and 03:30 p.m., in the 7100 block Stride Avenue to provide practical experience in standard forced entry techniques utilizing six (6) vacant residential buildings that were slated for demolition during the week of 2002 March 04. I had been made aware of these plans. On the weekend prior, a typed "Notice to Residents" was distributed to homes

in this area, placed on vehicle windshields and posted on utility poles. A copy of this notice, authored by Vancouver Police Constable McCARDELL, is attached.

To facilitate potential inquiries from the public for the period of the weekend training days in response to his "Notice to Residents", Constable McCARDELL programmed his office voice mail to alert his pager between the hours of 09:00 a.m. and 08:00 p.m. from Friday, 2002 March 01 until Monday, 2002 March 04. On the morning of each training day, perimeter police tape and sandwich boards identifying "Burnaby RCMP - Training Exercise" were placed. In addition, outer perimeter police monitors were positioned to field public inquiries at the site. Corporal MAYNARD, in charge of the Burnaby RCMP ERT, had one inquiry from a woman resident at scene. He explained police presence, answered her questions and provided his business card. A number of area residents watched the training from beyond the outer perimeter.

Live ammunition is never used in such training sessions however, on Sunday, 2002 March 03, two small explosive entry charges were detonated, the first, at approximately 11:00 a.m. and the second, a short time after that.

I am satisfied that these officers took necessary and reasonable steps to both inform and safeguard residents and passers-by prior to and throughout these two days. There was no excessive noise and, to my knowledge, no public inquiries were received at either the Burnaby Detachment or the Vancouver Police Department. In future joint training exercises, I have requested supervisors ensure that a contact name and phone number within the police of jurisdiction be included on any public notice.


K.R. HANDY, Inspector
Acting Officer in Charge
Burnaby Detachment

KRH/nh
Attachments

cc: Mr. Chad TURPIN, Deputy City Manager



Terry E. Blythe
Chief Constable

To Residents in the Area of the 7100 Stride Avenue, Burnaby.

Please be advised that the Vancouver Police Emergency Response Team i/c of the Burnaby RCMP and other Lower Mainland Teams will be running training scenarios at 7106 through 7134 Stride Ave on March 2nd and 3rd. These scenarios will run between 0900 am and 0330 PM on the above-mentioned dates. For your information 7106, 7112, 7118, 7124, 7132 and 7134 Stride Avenue are slated for demolition during the week of March 4th. We will have monitors in the area please feel free to approach them with questions but we would appreciate you staying away from the training sites. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact myself at 604-717-3349 local 1317. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Police Constable 1317 McCardell,
Vancouver Police Emergency Response Team.

**CITY OF BURNABY
INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

DATE: 2002 MARCH 12

FROM: DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: RCMP SWAT TEAM PROTOCOL

Council, during the "Closed" Council meeting held on 2002 March 11, discussed a recent incident (Sunday, 2002 March 3rd) where the RCMP and the Vancouver City Police Swat Teams were conducting training in the 7000 Block Stride Avenue. Apparently there are four abandoned houses on this block which were used for swat team exercises. Council were concerned that neighbours were not notified that these exercises were scheduled which caused some alarm.

Arising from the discussion, Council requested staff to prepare a report on the circumstances of this incident and also the RCMP training policy relating to notification to neighbourhoods when training exercises are scheduled.

Col MAYNARD

*f. y. i. +
return to me
with particulars.*



Maryann Mantel
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

MM/bz

Copy: Officer-In-Charge
RCMP, Burnaby Detachment

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A.O.K
02.03.12*