

CITY OF BURNABY

COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

B

SUBJECT: AUXILIARY AND RESERVE POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION OF BC

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive the attached report from the Acting Officer in Charge, Burnaby Detachment RCMP for information

REPORT

The Community Policing Committee, at its meeting held on 2003 June 12, received and adopted the attached report providing comments on a resolution adopted by the City of Coquitlam concerning the Auxiliary Police Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Doug Evans
Chair

Councillor Colleen Jordan
Vice Chair

Councillor Pietro Calendino
Member

COPY: CITY MANAGER
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
OIC, RCMP

TO: COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

2003 JUNE 02

**FROM: ACTING OFFICER IN CHARGE
BURNABY DETACHMENT RCMP**

BBY 2540-3

SUBJECT: AUXILIARY AND RESERVE POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION OF BC

PURPOSE: To reply to a request from the Deputy City Clerk for a report on a letter, dated April 21st, 2003, received from the Auxiliary and Reserve Peace Officer Association of British Columbia.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Community Policing Committee of Council receive the attached report for information purposes.

REPORT

As background, let me advise that the Auxiliary and Reserve Peace Officer Association of British Columbia (ARPOA) is an organization which promotes a political agenda and they hold no status with "E" Division (RCMP) or any other law enforcement agency in British Columbia.

The RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program, a long standing, voluntary community policing initiative throughout the province, has been totally restructured over the last few years. While the new operational policies and procedures were developed through the previous Attorney General, direct operational command of this program remains with the Commanding Officer, "E" Division. Under these existing policies, there are provisions to allow for the establishment of an armed Auxiliary Constable Program (Tier 2). The decision whether or not to activate the Tier 2 Program rests solely with the Commanding Officer, "E" Division and it is her direction that this option will not be adopted by the RCMP. The reason for taking this position is the extreme liability issues involved with arming volunteer peace officers when they are not trained to the same level as a regular member of the RCMP or a member of a Municipal Police Force.

To put this into perspective, Auxiliary Constables receive 90 hours of basic training on all aspects of law enforcement and are required to provide 160 hours of voluntary time per year. Statistics show that a large number of the Auxiliary Constables, under the old program, did not complete these required hours. It is estimated, based on 160 hours per year, that it would take more than ten (10) years for an Auxiliary Constable to gain the same amount of work related experience a regular member attains in one (1) year. The Auxiliary Constable is not only a volunteer of the RCMP, but also the City of Burnaby and there remains a vicarious liability for their actions on both entities.

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The letter from ARPOA states: "The volunteer Auxiliary Police **were** an extremely valuable asset in the delivery of policing services in your community." In my opinion, this statement should read: "The volunteer Auxiliary Police **continue** to be an extremely valuable asset in the delivery of policing services in our community". Contrary to what the ARPOA letter may have lead Council to believe, no Auxiliary Constables were stripped from the community, they either resigned, or, due to inactivity, were released from the Program.


The current Auxiliary Constable Program is very active throughout the Province of British Columbia. Within the past year, in Burnaby, we recruited and trained 25 new Auxiliary Constables and, when added to the ones who remained, brought the total to 38 members. Our maximum compliment is 42. These people do not carry sidearms and are currently providing Burnaby with valuable community services in compliance with the provincial policies. The 25 people who are new to the Program, joined with the knowledge they would never be armed. The Auxiliary Constable Program has evolved and it is the dedicated people, both new and long time members, who are helping this evolution to occur.

The contracting of services of retired RCMP members as Reserve Officers is being explored by our "E" Division HQ. While ARPOA would lead you to believe that this is going to cost BC municipalities more for policing, this is simply not the case. The reality is 40 percent of the Regular Members of the RCMP are in a position to go to pension over the next few years and attrition is expected to be high. Recruitment is a challenge. In an effort to maintain consistent levels of policing services, consideration is being given to contract retired RCMP members, on a temporary basis, when shortages to establishment occur. Retired officers already possess the required training and experience. These contracted services will not be in addition to the current full time equivalents (FTE's) but, rather, they will be temporary replacements to fill positions which are vacant, for a variety of reasons, with no impact to the established policing budget.

The disarming of Auxiliary Constables was a decision that was not taken lightly. It was a decision of the Commanding Officer, "E" Division, after a thorough review of the potential risks and accompanying liability. No other RCMP jurisdiction in Canada has ever operated an armed volunteer Auxiliary Constable Program and the revised British Columbia program is now aligned with our national standard.

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Change often brings anxiety and resistance. It is clear members of ARPOA have not accepted the changes made to the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program. They are certainly entitled to their opinion. Given our philosophy of forming police/public partnerships at Burnaby Detachment, I am committed to this revised program where volunteers from the community can participate in the delivery of community policing services to the City of Burnaby.



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

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