

COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION

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_____ Dept. Manager	_____ Director	_____ Municipal Manager
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**The District of North Vancouver
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

January 9, 2002
File: 7610-01/--
Tracking Number: RCA – 2002-00031

AUTHOR: Councillor Ernie Crist

SUBJECT: Integration and Restructuring of Police Services in B.C.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the matter of the proposed Solicitor General's plans to "quickly" integrate and restructure police services in B.C. as outlined in his correspondence to Gary Forbes, Assistant Commissioner Lower Mainland District Officer "E" Division, as well as other related correspondence and reports be put on a public agenda.

REASON FOR REPORT:

In a letter to RCMP Deputy Commissioner Beverley Busson, received in the District on December 19, 2001, Solicitor General Rich Coleman told Deputy Commissioner Busson that the RCMP should discontinue its current structure of separate detachments for each RCMP policed community.

Such a step would have a considerable potential impact on the District of North Vancouver currently served by the North Vancouver RCMP detachment. Unlike smaller communities in British Columbia, the District of North Vancouver pays 90% of the RCMP policing cost. The remaining 10% does not affect the District directly since these costs arise out of federal responsibilities of the local RCMP detachment.

In another letter received in the District office addressed to Gary Forbes, Assistant Commissioner Lower Mainland District Officer "E" Division, the Mayors of the Lower Mainland are being made aware of the proposed changes regarding the delivery of police services.

In yet another letter addressed to Mayor Don Bell received on December 4, 2001 pertaining to this matter, Chuck Gale, General Manager, Community Safety/Chair, LMPAC, refers to a letter received by the "E" Division that dealt with the delivery of police services in this province and particularly in the Lower Mainland.

The essential proposal by the Solicitor General is to consolidate Policing Services to save money and make the delivery of services more efficient.

Several questions of interest arise for District residents:

1. Since the Province does not contribute any funding to offset policing cost in the District what stance, other than the welfare of District residents, should be considered by District Council regarding this issue?
2. Why is a matter of such importance not being dealt with as an agenda item by District Council when it has already been dealt with by other Councils in the Lower Mainland, including the City of North Vancouver?
3. Why was a recent motion submitted to Council by Councillor Crist proposing to deal with correspondence as part of the agenda under correspondence and any business arising there from and which would automatically deal with such issues not endorsed by the present District Council?
4. Who, if not the Council of the District of North Vancouver will make a decision about this matter during meetings with the relevant bodies?
5. Should the public be invited to have a say regarding this issue since this is not just a matter of the "whole" community, but also of specific neighbourhoods who presently benefit from local neighbourhood police services?
6. Would the proposed changes mean that the District of North Vancouver, which currently enjoys an above average per capita police coverage, be diminished in favour of services to jurisdictions with a higher crime rate such as Surrey, for example?
7. Why is it that, according to published press reports, the City of North Vancouver has already dealt with this item in public while the District has not? What does it say for the political leadership of the District?
8. What authority does the Manager of the District, who is the liaison person with jurisdictions affected by this issue, have about making decisions on this matter or, in fact, what authority does he have to make any kind of statement, when this matter has not been brought forward as a public agenda item or has not officially been dealt with by Council?

Submitted by:



Councillor Ernie Crist

Xc: Gord Howie, Municipal Manager
Supt. Gordon Tomlinson, OIC – NV RCMP