



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

REPORT DATE: December 1, 2009
VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD MEETING DATE: December 9, 2009
BOARD REPORT # 0981

Regular

TO: Vancouver Police Board
FROM: Chief Constable Jim Chu
SUBJECT: Digital Video Recording for Police Facilities

PURPOSE:

To update the Police Board regarding the actions taken by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) since being informed of the requirement to install video recording in police facilities.

BACKGROUND:

As a result of the Ian Bush inquest the Solicitor General in 2007, John Les, asked Police Services Division to develop a regulation to be added to the "Provincial Standards for Municipal Police Departments". This regulation would require the installation of video surveillance and recording systems in police buildings covering all interview rooms and areas where detained persons interact with the police. Mr Les went further to say that all costs associated with that would be borne by the policing jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION / IMPLICATIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

In November of 2008 I wrote a report to the VPD Executive in which I articulated why the coroners recommendations should not apply to us. I recommended that the VPD request an exemption from Police Services for our jail. The VPD Executive agreed, and a letter was written by Chief Chu to Police Services in December of 2008. A few months later we had yet to receive a response. After some considerable effort I was able to speak to the project director. I was

assured that our concerns would be brought to Mr. Kevin Begg's attention for consideration. The official response we received from Police Services Branch was that there would be no exemptions for any Police Department. The one concession was to allow for a three year phase in period in order to mitigate the costs.

In May of 2009 a report was written to the Police Board outlining the circumstances to date.

Once it became clear that we could not opt out I directed Inspector Laidler (he is in charge of our detention facility) to conduct research into determining the costs associated with implementing the system as mandated by Police Services.

It is important to note that the VPD leases the jail facility from the Province. Initially we were told that we needed to adhere to provincial project management protocols. The first step was that a consultant was to be hired to study the issue, for which we were quoted \$250,000. It became clear that if the province were to manage this project the costs would exceed 2 million dollars. Through negotiations we were able to reach an agreement that the VPD could proceed with this project utilizing the established COV processes for procurement. The result has been that Inspector Laidler has been able to provide IT with cost estimates based on the upgrades necessary and through research at other detention facilities.

In October a Supplemental Capital request was submitted to the city for \$990,000. It is not anticipated that we will know the outcome until January 2010. If this request gets approved we are ready to proceed with an RFP which is currently being prepared.

CONCLUSION:

As of yet the legislation has not been passed, however the current Solicitor General has informed us that the proposed legislation will be put forward at the next legislature sitting.

Regardless of the decision by the City to fund this through the Supplemental Capital request, the VPD needs to proceed with this project or we risk being non-compliant when the legislation passes.

If the Supplemental Capital request fails we will need to engage the City in discussions to determine how this will be funded.

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Submitting Executive Member (signature):

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