



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

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BOARD MEETING DATE: 2014-02-20
BOARD REPORT # 1402V03

Regular

TO: Vancouver Police Board
FROM: Staff Sergeant Earl Andersen
SUBJECT: Real Time Intelligence Centre - BC

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Vancouver Police Board (VPB) receives this report for information relating to plans to implement the Real Time Intelligence Centre – BC (RTIC-BC), commencing in May 2014, which will serve all police agencies in Metro Vancouver.

SUMMARY:

Starting in May 2014, law enforcement agencies across the Lower Mainland will launch the RTIC-BC, providing a coordinated regional response to serious crimes. Over the next 9 months RTIC-BC will grow until it is fully staffed and operating 24/7. The RTIC-BC will provide immediate analytical support relating to crimes that pose a substantial risk to public safety, such as armed robberies, high risk missing persons or gang violence. By providing the equivalent of five employees, Vancouver will gain the benefit of a team of 43 resources that will be available anytime during a significant incident impacting public safety. The RTIC-BC will also provide a high level of situational awareness across the region and will share information on serious crime between agencies and forward information to principal decision makers. Resources will be acquired incrementally during Phase I of implementation and will be completed by January 2015. Phase II will commence the following year and real time support will expand to include the Victoria Capital Regional District. During the 2016/17 fiscal year, Phase III will be completed and it is anticipated that real time support will be provided province-wide.

The Centre will be staffed by 43 sworn and civilian members and require an annual operational budget of approximately \$5.8 million. Extensive stakeholder consultation concluded that the most equitable cost sharing format was one where municipalities funded 50% of operating cost, provincial policing business lines funded 30%, and federal policing business lines funded the remaining 20%. Each municipality's share was calculated on a formula that combined a five year average of criminal code offences and population of the city. This equates to the City of Vancouver being responsible for approximately 12% of the total budget, or \$700,000. For the VPD, costs will be offset through the contribution of human resources to the Centre. In the 2014/15 fiscal year, resources will be added incrementally and the provincial policing business line will fund all lease costs. Therefore, the first year's operational budget is reduced to \$4.4 million, or \$395,000 for the City of Vancouver.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2010, VPD Deputy Chief Constable Warren Lemcke requested an internal report to assess whether an RTCC serving Metro Vancouver would be viable for the region. Concurrently, RCMP A/Commissioner Craig Callens requested a review of the operations of the Provincial Intelligence Centre (PIC) to determine if its scope could be expanded to meet a similar objective. The present PIC was established in 2010 with a mandate to provide intelligence products relating to threats posed by gang violence, primarily in the Lower Mainland, but acts as a resource for all agencies in the province. The PIC-BC is staffed by 22 members funded through provincial and federal policing business lines and operates 14 hours per day, 7 days per week. The products it produces focus on gang-related tactical enforcement priorities.

In 2010, a working group of representatives from both the RCMP and independent municipal police departments formed to conduct a needs assessment to determine the feasibility and capacity for creating a regional real time policing centre. The Steering Committee visited eight facilities in the United States and Calgary Police Service's Real Time Operations Centre. The Steering Committee produced a report to the BC Chiefs of Police and recommended that the capabilities of the PIC be significantly increased by implementing a model that incorporates a real-time policing centre.

In 2012, the RTIC-BC Steering Committee was formed to oversee the implementation of the Centre. The Committee is comprised of two A/Commissioners of the RCMP, the Chief of the Vancouver Police Department, the Chief of the New Westminster Police Service (representing the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police), and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Police Services Division, Ministry of Justice (in a non-voting capacity).

The Steering Committee established a Finance Subcommittee comprised of financial representatives from the VPD, RCMP E Division Integrated Teams, and Police Services, Ministry of Justice. The finance team considered six various funding models and recommended that 50-30-20 cost-sharing structure describe above would be the most equitable.

DISCUSSION:

In the United States, there are currently more than 70 Real Time Crime Centres operating in metropolitan regions, such as New York, Boston and LA. Their success of these units in terms of reducing crimes and increasing efficiencies has been established. For example, in a recent study involving the Memphis Police Department, its Real Time Crime Centre recorded a 30% reduction in total serious crime and a 20% reduction in violent crime since its implementation in 2006 (Source: <http://www.managementexchange.com/story/managing-21st-century-crime-prevention-memphis>).

Although there is currently a Provincial Intelligence Centre in place in BC, it does not operate 24/7. Its mandate is violent gangs, and it does not have the capacity to offer real-time operational support to frontline officers.

Due to recent technological advancements police agencies now have the ability to store, search, retrieve and analyse vast amounts of data, and link seemingly unconnected criminal events. However, in BC there is only limited interoperability between various law enforcement databases. For example, the RCMP, VPD, federal and provincial corrections, and the BC Sheriffs each have their own human source intelligence databases.

The first 48 hours is the most critical period of any criminal investigation. Police frontload resources, so suspects can be identified at the earliest stages, before evidence is lost or destroyed. By mining intelligence resources through multiple databases, RTIC-BC will help frontline police officers quickly identify and locate dangerous criminals. This will assist Lower Mainland police in overcoming challenges associated with jurisdictional boundaries, fiscal restraint and limited resources. Analysts working within RTIC-BC will have a far greater breadth and depth of access to police and law enforcement databases that dispatchers, police officers and municipal police analysts simply do not have.

Additionally, BC police believe it is important to have the capacity to quickly assimilate the high volume of information and intelligence that would stream from the public and various government agencies, if a large scale criminal incident that crossed multiple jurisdictions was to occur.

The Report of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry recommended the creation of a regional Real Time Crime Centre, scalable to the province. The BC Ministry of Justice incorporated this recommendation in the 2013 BC Policing and Safety Plan.

In addition to providing real time support to front line members, the RTIC-BC will also produce:

- Regional daily serious crime bulletins, weekly crime bulletins, and special alerts;
- Regional project and investigation deconfliction;
- Regional duty to warn - intelligence and coordination;
- Internet and open source investigation assistance;
- Assistance with major investigations;
- Human source intelligence compilation and coordination; and
- Intelligence resource during major events / demonstrations.

The RTIC-BC's focus will be on occurrences posing a substantial risk to public safety such as: shots fired, murders and attempt murders, armed robberies, stranger sex assaults, AMBER alerts, active shooter situations, high risk missing persons, home invasions, hostage takings, acts of terrorism, gang violence, and urgent and emerging events that threaten public safety.

CONCLUSION:

The proposed Real Time Intelligence Centre-BC will replace the existing PIC and will provide a multi-agency policing support centre, which operates 24/7, and ensures a coordinated regional response to serious crimes.

The mandate of the RTIC-BC will be to enhance public safety through the delivery of real-time intelligence products and operational support to frontline officers and investigators. The Centre will accelerate criminal investigations by assisting in the identification of suspects at the earliest opportunity. The RTIC-BC will also provide a high level of situational awareness in Metro Vancouver by monitoring all significant criminal events in the region and offering immediate analytical support as these crimes occur. The goals of the RTIC-BC are to accelerate the efficiency of the investigation of serious crimes and increase the rate of arrest and charges against dangerous criminals.

The RTIC-BC will require 43 resources and have an operational budget of approximately \$5.8million. The Steering Committee supports the proposed 50% municipal, 30% provincial, and

20% federal funding structure as an equitable allocation of costs that reflects the anticipated services provided to RTIC-BC clients and workload.

The RTIC-BC is supported by the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, and other federal and provincial law enforcement agencies in BC. The RTIC-BC Steering Committee has received support and resource commitments from municipal governments in the Metro Vancouver region and funding through provincial and federal policing business lines in order to facilitate a May 2014 launch. Citizens of Metro Vancouver will be better served by providing their police forces with the ability to tap into the real-time resource capabilities of the RTIC-BC.

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Submitting Executive Member: DCC Warren Lemcke (name)

(signature) Date: _____