

Priorities Committee Meeting_May14_2024

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

RCMP Community Advisory Committee – 2023 Update

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the activities of the RCMP Community Advisory Committee for 2023.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence
Governance Requirement

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful and productive

Report

The RCMP Community Advisory Committee or CAC, is a hybrid governance committee that includes two elected Councillors, Council-appointed urban and rural representatives, and twelve community members appointed by the RCMP representing local schools, faith-based organizations, community groups and various cultural perspectives and interests. The CAC's guiding philosophy is "the police are the community, and the community are the police". The Committee is aligned with the spirit of the Alberta Government's 2022 amendments to the *Alberta Police Act*, which seeks to create municipal policing committees as a mechanism to provide input and allow municipalities more control over local policing.

Committee members are responsible for:

- Fostering open communication with community organizations;
- Provide insight and offer suggestions on opportunities for presentations by community organizations and individuals;
- Express viewpoints and opinions on behalf of their respective communities;
- Disseminate and communicate information obtained;
- Provide feedback to the RCMP and Enforcement Services on matters regarding current policing and safety issues; and
- Evaluate the implementation and impact of the RCMP strategic plans and programs.

The RCMP Community Advisory Committee convened on:

- January 26, 2023
- March 23, 2023
- May 25, 2023
- September 28, 2023
- November 30, 2023

On October 24, 2023, Councillors Berghofer and Hartwick were reappointed for new two-year terms. Council-appointed urban representative, Roxy Shulha-McKay, notified the chairperson she was unable to complete her appointed term and on June 6, 2023, Linda Giesinger was appointed by Council as the Committee's new urban representative. The Committee operated the year with only one seat vacant. The vacancy representing the business community resulted from the resignation of Chamber of Commerce Executive

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Director, Todd Banks, in September 2022 and remained unfilled throughout 2023. A new business community representative was recruited in early 2024. On September 28, 2023, Tracey Arbuthnott was re-elected unopposed, as the CAC chairperson.

Themes identified by the committee during the year included rural crime, urban vehicle and garage property thefts, financial frauds and community safety in response to protests and public discourse regarding parental rights and gender identify. The RCMP shared information on the prevalence and local response to financial frauds. Of note, from January to June 2023 there were 205 frauds and attempted frauds in Strathcona County. Of those, 136 were successful with losses ranging from \$5 to \$800,000. The total financial loss was \$1,966,906. In Alberta 22 per cent of residents have reported being the victim of fraud in the last five years, while the national average is 17 per cent. In 2021, Canadians lost nearly \$30 million to fraud.

The Committee reviewed various public safety initiatives and campaigns including the Community Assisted Policing Through the use of Recorded Evidence (CAPTURE) program which encourages the voluntary registration of home/business-based surveillance cameras, and the RCMP mobile alerts RAVE program. In addition to the planned community events in recognition of the RCMP's 150-year anniversary in 2023, Community Policing highlighted the success of the Detachment's Youth Diversion Program. Youth offenders participating in the program are required to complete between 25-40 hours of Community Service at either the Boys and Girls Club, Heartland Church or Silver Birch Lodge.

The RCMP and Enforcement Services Annual Policing Priorities for 2023-24 were reviewed at each meeting; input for the 2024-25 priorities will occur in March 2024 (in previous years it occurred the November prior). A fulsome year, 2023 encompassed many successes and several community engagement opportunities. In April 2023 however, the detachment lost a member killed in the line of duty. The outpouring of support was greatly appreciated and recognized by Strathcona County's RCMP given this tragedy and the loss experienced by the entire detachment.

Council and Committee History

November 21, 2023	Priorities Committee was provided the 2022 RCMP Community Advisory Committee update.
June 7, 2022	Priorities Committee was provided with the RCMP Community Advisory Committee updated Terms of Reference.