

Proposed Resolution:

Whereas across the country 10 of 14 provinces/territories are serviced by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and auxiliary constable program comprised of over 1,600 Auxiliaries across Canada; and

Whereas each auxiliary constable gives at minimum 160 hours a year which equates to 256,000 hours and is equivalent to an additional 127 members across the country; and

Whereas based on these conservative estimates, 17.7 million dollars will need to be allocated to replacement members if the auxiliary programs is changes/eliminated resulting in a download to municipalities; and

Whereas across the province there are over 300 auxiliary constables with each member contributing a minimum of 160 hours per year for a minimum contribution of 52,000 provincial with minimal cost to the taxpayers; and

Whereas in Red Deer there are 14 current auxiliary constables (the second largest program in the province) contributing a minimum of 160 hours per year and many contributing up to 400 hours per year; and

Whereas changes to the auxiliary program have been introduced which propose to remove the Peace Officer status and focus on non-enforcement duties such as attending community events and assisting in training; and

Whereas Red Deer auxiliary constables are community members able to provide neighborhood and community insights and assist in peak periods as a second member in a police car which helps to reduce crime; and

Whereas auxiliary constables help to bring RCMP and the community together and provide Peace Officer services to events such as Canada Day, Westerner Days, bike rodeos, safety talks/events – anywhere in the province where there are RCMP, and provide key supports to events such as floods, fires, and tornados; and

Whereas auxiliary constables are trained to a high level to mitigate risks and desire to work with the national RCMP to respond to an mitigate the risks identified versus seeing the program reduced in scope; and

Whereas auxiliary RCMP members are no different than municipal Peace Officers, unarmed community policing members, who respond to many municipal enforcement matters; and

Whereas Red Deer, without assistance from the auxiliary constables, could see an increased demands on the RCMP and related budgetary requirements; and

Therefore be it resolved that The City of Red Deer:

1. Advocate to K Division to maintain the auxiliary program as is;
2. Encourage all municipal partners to advocate in support of the auxiliary program;

3. Request that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association adopt a policy position in support of the auxiliary program and advocate to the Solicitor General of Alberta to support the continuance of this program; and
4. Request that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities adopt a policy position in support of the auxiliary program and advocate to the federal government to maintain the program as is.

Background:

Notice of Motion as submitted by Councillor Paul Harris and Councillor Buck Buchanan at the April 25, 2016 meeting of Red Deer City Council.

Whereas across the country 10 of 14 provinces/territories are serviced by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and auxiliary constable program comprised of over 1,600 Auxiliaries across Canada; and

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Background:

Currently in Alberta the RCMP utilize volunteers under their Auxiliary Constable program to assist local detachments with community policing, crime prevention initiatives and assistance to general duty Members. These volunteers dedicate at minimum 160 hours per year to the program (and the majority are above 250 hours) for a provincial minimum of 52,000 hours of service. The men and women who serve in this program are not your ordinary volunteers; these dedicated people undergo a rigorous application process and training regimen to obtain Alberta Community Peace Officer status. In their home detachment they serve their community by participating in RCMP sponsored school activities, crime prevention activities, community events, providing crucial assistance to front line Members by sharing their local experience with new Members, acting as an additional set of eyes on patrol, and in some instances are the only backup available to Members in rural detachments.

In October 2014 a RCMP member in St. Albert was killed and an auxiliary member was injured. These events triggered a review of the auxiliary program. The auxiliary program is now proposed to be replaced by a Community Corps program which will see auxiliary members lose their Peace Officer status and change the role to that of public education and crime prevention activities.