



STAFF REPORT

Title: Request for Increased Security - January 14, 2020 Delegation

Meeting Date: February 18, 2020

Executive Summary:

Ms. Eleanor Evans and numerous business owners attended the January 14, 2020 regular meeting of Council as a delegation.

Ms. Evans brought forth concerns of the safety and security of Cold Lake citizens, businesses and properties, and the cost of the criminal activity affecting such, and requested an increase in security to curb the ongoing criminal activity which is having a very frightening impact on the City.

Ms. Evans advised that up until now, many businesses have been reacting to criminal activity, at a huge expense, by installing cameras, alarm systems, lights, barriers, gates, bars, fences, etc. and bearing the increasing cost of insurance. The safety and security of Cold Lake citizens needs to become a number one priority.

Background:

The Cold Lake RCMP along with the City of Cold Lake will be hosting a public Town Hall meeting Wednesday February 26, 2020 at the Lakeland Inn from 7: p.m. to 9 p.m. The purpose of the Town Hall meeting will be to present statistical information as well as discuss several issues related to crime impacting the community.

The information attached to this report offers some insight as to what will be presented at the Town Hall meeting February 26th.

Administration has not stopped there. Administration has completed preliminary background work with respect to night patrols, incentive/rebate programs for security improvements in the downtown business district, and lobbying upper levels of government on measurable steps for crime reduction.

Any overall strategy may be developed for security. This could include the following:

- Implementation of surveillance cameras at major intersections and “Hot Spots” such as Kinosoo Beach and the Cold Lake Marina.
- Incentive/rebate programs for security improvements to all residential and business properties.



- E.g. The City could offer a cash incentive for the installation of security cameras and/or other security measures (similar to other municipalities providing programs for green improvements to home and businesses such as high efficiency furnaces, faucets, etc.).
- Subject to FOIP legislation, develop a repository for residents to upload information to a server.

It should also be noted that the M.D. of Bonnyville will be launching the Crime Reduction Task Force for the region. The process of establishing the RCMP task force and hiring positions takes time.

We've also attached the stats for the Cold Lake Detachment RCMP Police Dog Service (PDS) which is a borderless regional service provided by the City of Cold Lake.

As for the Policing Open House, Guest speakers will be Mayor Copeland, Staff Sergeant Scott Buchanan and other RCMP representatives. Invitation letters have been sent out to our MP David Yurdiga, MLA Dave Hanson, Reeve Greg Sawchuk, MD of Bonnyville, and other agencies, partners and stakeholders.

Alternatives:

At this time, administration is not presenting any alternatives on this matter for Council's consideration.

Recommended Action:

That the Corporate Priorities Committee pass a motion to place this issue on the Corporate Priorities Committee meeting of March 17, 2020, after the public open house scheduled for February 26, 2020, for further discussion.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer