



STAFF REPORT

Title: City of Cold Lake Crime Open House

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.

Ms. Evans also advise that she would like to see the City retain a security company to patrol the community (emphasis on the downtown commercial district).

Background:

The Cold Lake RCMP along with the City of Cold Lake hosted a public Town Hall meeting Wednesday February 26, 2020 at the Lakeland Inn from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Town Hall meeting presented statistical information as well as questions and discussion on related activities impacting the community. This information is found attached to this report.

The focus of administration's report is to engage Council's on their perspectives from the Town Hall meeting and to garner feedback on recent initiatives relating to crime and law enforcement.

Service expectations respecting Community Peace Officers. Areas of focus rising from the Town Hall Meeting include:

- Community engagement.
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) program.
- Officer complement and hours of service.



As noted previously, the RCMP lost two (2) members when the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Association lifted the condition that enhance members were required as part the Casino approval. Subsequently, the funding seized and the members were reduce through attrition.

The Cold Lake RCMP detachment will be launching the Lakeland Crime Reduction Task Force (funded I.D. 349 via the Municipal District of Bonnyville). The process of establishing the RCMP task force and hiring positions takes time however we believe in the coming months, this unit will be standing up. We understand that this taskforce will include 3 additional RCMP members and administration support.

Subject to City Council passing the 2020 Budget the following initiatives has been supported:

- The City will be adding another RCMP member increasing the total to 28 RCMP Members (18 municipal and 10 provincial/rural).
 - 24 RCMP Members (inclusive of supervisory)
 - 3 General Investigations Section (GIS)
 - 1 Police Dog Services (PDS)
- \$90,000 has been included for crime reduction initiatives. This funding will be further deliberated opportunities however, some preliminary discussion have ensued on hours of operations of the City's Community Peace Officer Program (CPO's);
- \$200,000 has been included in the 2020 draft budget for lighting replacement and enhancements along mainstreet in Cold Lake South; and
- \$120,000 has been included for the implementation of surveillance camera's in strategic locations throughout the City.
- The City is developing a plan for visiting commercial property owners (increasing presence) throughout the community thru its CPO Program.
- The RCMP Police Dog Service (PDS) will continue to be funded. Attached are the stats for the Cold Lake Detachment RCMP PDS which is a borderless regional crime reduction initiative provided by the City of Cold Lake.

The City of Cold Lake has also successfully schedule a meeting with the Minster of Justice Doug Schweitzer in the coming weeks.

Alternatives:



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

Recommended Action:

That the Corporate Priorities Committee of Council accept the report as information.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer