



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 3, 2020

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** August 31, 2020
From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Thornton-Joe
Subject: Additional Policing Resources to Support Public Safety

Background

The September 3rd Committee of the Whole meeting contains a number of agenda items with proposals to help better manage the experience of all members of the public who are using public spaces for various purposes, from recreation to sheltering. Staff are bringing forward recommendations with respect to bylaw changes. Councillors Alto and Potts are bringing forward motions with respect to engagement of people living in encampments. This motion proposes to supplement the other two reports and addresses public safety.

Additional police resources will have the benefit of ensuring greater public safety for everyone, from members of the public recreating in parks, to staff working in parks to vulnerable people living in parks who can and have been preyed upon by others.

The Victoria Police Department has provided the following estimate:

- September 11th to December 31st
- 2 officers 4 hours per day – assuming deployment would be for the morning schedule.
 - 7 days a week = \$94,528
 - 5 days a week = \$67,520
 - 3 days a week = \$40,512

Having VicPD provide additional assistance in the form of a special duty would provide significant relief to Patrol and the Community Services Division and allow them to focus on their primary duties and projects. A continued collaborative and consistent approach with special duty officers, while maintaining police response to all other calls for service, will be beneficial to all our residents.

Section 5 'Optional Resources' clause of the Framework Agreement is applicable to this request. In the Framework Agreement that governs policing between Victoria and Esquimalt, a municipality has the ability to increase police resources outside of the Framework Agreement but cannot direct/recommend the police budget be spent in a

manner that only benefits one municipality. Any request generated for additional policing resources must come through section 5 of the Framework Agreement since the police budget is a joint budget with ESQ paying 14.7%.

Recommendations

That Council allocate \$94,528 from the Financial Stability Reserve* to provide additional policing resources in the City of Victoria for the remainder of 2020.

*The proposed revenue source is the financial stability reserve, as the 2020 Contingency was used for COVID related expenses. Some of these expenses may be recoverable through federal-provincial funding for municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Helps



Councillor Thornton-Joe