



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS, LEAD CO-CHAIR

MAYOR LISA HELPS, DEPUTY CO-CHAIR

September 20, 2019

Ms. Brenda Butterworth-Carr
Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services
Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
Policing and Security Branch

Via Email

Director Butterworth-Carr:

RE: Request for Review – Section 27 Police Act

We are writing to request a Director's review of the decision by the municipal councils of Victoria and Esquimalt to decline specific budget line items in the Victoria Police Department's 2019 budget as recommended by the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board. This request is under section 27(3) of the *Police Act*.

The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board included a number of expenditures related to additional staffing in the provisional 2019 budget for the Victoria Police Department; however, our request for a Director's review is specific to the following resource requests:

- 1) Funding to maintain police involvement in the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams
- 2) Addition of a police officer position to implement VicPD's Cybercrime Strategy and to form the foundation of a future regional Cybercrime Unit
- 3) Addition of a Data/Research Analyst to assist in providing additional policing related performance and planning information to police management, the Police Board, and both communities.

The Esquimalt Council supported the continuation of the ACT program but declined support for the other positions. The Victoria Council did not support any of these positions.

The Police Board considered input from both municipal councils during budget deliberations. At the conclusion of the budgeting process, we have determined that not funding these positions does not meet the test of providing adequate and effective policing in the Victoria Police Department's service area.

We note that the *Police Act* does not set out a specific test for a Director's review under section 27(3). In 2018, the former Director, conducting a similar review at the request of the Township of Esquimalt and the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board, noted that the appropriate test relates to the "*broader provisions and purpose of the [Police] Act*". More specifically, resourcing levels must consider the necessity for "*proactive and preventative work*" that is a "*necessity*" under the Act. Included within this is a police organization's "*strategies that seek to engage the public, build relationships, reach out to the vulnerable groups and thereby prevent crime.*" The budget requests noted above are intended to help meet expectations in this and other areas of our policing responsibilities.

The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board would be pleased to provide additional information in support of the requests as needed. As part of the process, we encourage you to consider the results of the independent University of Victoria IMPACT report regarding ACT teams as well as previous processes supported by your office that have examined resources levels at the Victoria Police Department. These include the previous review conducted under Section 27(3) of the *Police Act* completed on February 26, 2019, and the Efficiency and Effectiveness Review conducted with the assistance of MNP LLP completed on March 15, 2017.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours truly,



Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Lead Co-Chair



Mayor Lisa Helps
Deputy Co-Chair

c. Chief Cst. Del Manak, Victoria Police Department