



January 17, 2021

Ref: 614421

Her Worship Barbara Desjardins
Mayor of the Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria BC V9A 3P1

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
850 Caledonia Avenue
Victoria BC V8T 5J8

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Mayor Helps:

I write to inform you of my decision in response to the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board's (the Board) application dated September 20, 2019 under section 27(3) of the *Police Act* (the Board's Application).

Section 27(3) states:

If a council does not approve an item in the budget, the director, on application by the council or the municipal police board, must:

- (a) determine whether the item or amount should be included in the budget, and
- (b) report the director's findings to the municipal police board, the council and the minister.

Issue

The Board's Application, the particulars of which are contained in the attached September 20, 2019 letter, relate to the following resource requests for the Victoria Police Department provisional budget:

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; and
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

.../2

Decision

I reviewed and considered the following in making this decision:

- All relevant correspondence with the Board and the municipalities;
- The *Police Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 367
- The Director's decision under s. 27(3) dated February 26, 2019, regarding the Township of Esquimalt and the Board's respective applications for a determination of whether the addition of six police officers should be included in the 2018 budget.
- Doug LePard's reports prepared under my authority in s. 42 of the *Police Act*:
 - Phase 1: Budget Allocation Formula for Policing in the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt, dated September 15, 2020; and
 - Phase 2: Analysis of "Framework Agreement" Issues Regarding Policing in the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt, dated November 24, 2020 (the Framework Agreement).
- Other relevant historical studies, reviews and audits conducted in respect of the operation and effectiveness of the Victoria Police Department.
- University of Victoria report: Integrating Municipal Police Officers onto Assertive Community Treatment teams (IMPACT): Social Service, Criminal Justice and Emergency Health Care Perspectives, University of Victoria IMPACT report regarding ACT, May 2019.
- The Victoria and Esquimalt Policing Framework Agreement, dated for reference April 17, 2014

While acknowledging the Board's position on the above noted resourcing requests as set out in the Board's Application, I was challenged after reviewing the relevant information. What remained unclear to me was what comprehensive research or analysis has taken place to address the absence of evidence-based data demonstrating the following: (i) the policing resource impact of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams; (ii) support for the Cybercrime Strategy; and (iii) a response to the previous request from the Director for an agreed upon resource model prior to funding a Research/Analyst.

However, I did consider the recent information contained in the reports from Doug LePard noted above. It is clear to me that further discussions in compliance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement related, for example, to Esquimalt's desire to reduce their current complement, will likely realize additional resources, that could be repurposed internally for or through new resources acquired through attrition. I do acknowledge the continued concern related to vacancy management and other related administrative challenges; and I would recommend implementing all of the recommendations within Mr. LePard's Phase 2 report,

.../3

Her Worships Helps and Desjardins

Page 3

as expediently as possible as I believe this should: resolve the issues identified in the Board's Application and realize greater flexibility with the current compliment; and address other budget and resourcing issues identified in my recent study conducted under s. 42 of the *Police Act*.

Accordingly, I make the following determination under s. 27(3) of the *Police Act*: that none of the resourcing requests contained in the Board's Application be included in the Victoria Police Department budget as stated.

Take Care,



Brenda Butterworth-Carr; Tr'injà shär njit dintlät
Assistant Deputy Minister
And Director of Police Services
Policing and Security Branch

Enclosure

pc: Chief Cst. Del Manak, Victoria Police Department