



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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| DATE: | January 24, 2022 |
| MEMO TO: | Victoria City Council |
| FROM: | Chief Cst. Manak |
| SUBJECT: | 2022 Budget: ACT and CRT Business Cases |
| ACTION: | For Decision |

BACKGROUND

Ms. Keva Glynn, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use at Island Health, attended the Special Committee of the Whole meeting on January 17, 2022 and provided Council with an overview of the joint initiatives between Island Health and VicPD for the Co-Response Team (CRT) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team. VicPD's earlier budget presentation to Council included a request for three CRT officers and one ACT officer; Island Health recently advised that their proposal is for two CRT officers and two additional ACT officers. As a result of the conflicting information, Council requested clarification and confirmation as to how each team will be resourced.

Co-Response Teams

The CRT are crisis response teams who attend to calls for instances where the client is experiencing a mental health crisis. The team attends to assess, support and mitigate risks. This team includes a specialized police response to persons in crisis to improve police interactions and divert individuals away from the criminal justice system or emergency hospital services. CRT ensures timely, effective, client centered service delivery in response to crisis and to support connection with the continuum of mental health and substance services. Police have an essential role on this team to ensure the safety of all involved, complete risk assessments, utilize de-escalation skills, assess criminality, and support mental health clinical interventions.

Original VicPD Ask: Three officers

Revised VicPD Ask: Two officers

Rationale:

- Island Health has received funding for 2.4 FTE for CRT staff which means that VicPD requires two CRT officers and allows the third requested CRT officer to be deployed to ACT instead.
- The two CRTs would provide coverage seven days per week, 12-hours per day.
- Shift vacancies will be backfilled by ACT officers ensuring the CRT remains operational during CRT officer holidays and training.

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams

The ACT teams are proactive interdisciplinary teams that focus on individual clients and their long term recovery. This evidence based internationally recognized program facilitates community living, psychosocial rehabilitation, and recovery for persons with serious and persistent mental health challenges. ACT clients receive intensive, team-based treatment and support. Although police are not required in all circumstances, they have an essential role on the team to ensure the safety of the client, staff, and public. The officers support client compliance to their community care plan including locating ACT clients when necessary. Officers also participate in joint decision making, supporting improved client outcomes.

Original VicPD Ask: One officer

Revised VicPD Ask: Two officers

Rationale:

- Island Health has received funding for 2.4 FTE for CRT staff which means that VicPD requires two CRT officers and allows the third requested CRT officer to be deployed to ACT instead.
- The additional ACT officers will provide backfill for CRT when CRT officers are on holidays and/or training allowing CRT to remain operational seven days a week, 12 hours per day.
- The additional ACT officers will also be able to support the fifth ACT team which will be introduced in mid-February.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is a zero net financial impact to the total VicPD budget.

Based on Island Health's recommendation, the VicPD CRT request will shift from three officers to two officers while the ACT officer request will increase from one officer to two officers. The below figures are based on an estimated hire date of May 2022.

Impact on 2022 Request:

Request for CRT will change from \$446,233 to \$347,488 (Victoria \$299,986, Esquimalt \$47,502)

Request for ACT will change from \$98,745 to \$197,490 (Victoria \$170,493, Esquimalt \$26,997)

SUMMARY

Taking the lead from Island Health, VicPD supports the adjustment of resources for CRT and ACT. This will support ongoing collaboration between Island Health and VicPD to provide high quality care, service integration and safety for mental health and substance use clients, the public, and health service providers.