



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

850 CALEDONIA AVENUE VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V8T 5J8 T: 250.995.7217 F: 250.384.1362

February 15, 2018

Esquimalt Mayor and Council

Via Email

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Council:

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: FEB 16 2018		
Referred:		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

On February 1, 2018, the Township of Esquimalt wrote a letter to Minister Darcy purporting to remind the Ministry "of their responsibility towards funding of community mental health services". The letter also stated that "The Victoria Police Department has requested a substantial increase for 2018 for additional resources, including 6 additional officers and 2 civilian staff..." and that "this increase in staffing is required in order to adequately deal with several issues directly related to mental health, including homelessness, drug use and addiction, and increased crime."

The purpose of this letter is to clarify for you that the Township of Esquimalt's characterization of the Victoria Police Department's budget request is inaccurate. At no time did I state that the requested increase of six officers was directly related to issues relating to mental health.

Managing and administrating a police department is a complex task. There are many demands that must be met, including ensuring an adequate organizational structure that supports front line policing operations. My 2018 budget presentation noted that there are many functions within the Department that are necessary to support the uniformed police presence that is readily observable by the public. These functions also require police personnel, and include our investigative services (detectives), forensic examination personnel, domestic violence specialists, and community resource officers, as well as officers assigned to administrative tasks such as recruiting and training.

Accordingly, our request for additional officers reflects what is required to adequately enforce municipal bylaws, the criminal law, the laws of British Columbia, and to maintain law and order throughout our entire service area, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 15 of the *Police Act*. Our request was also mindful of our obligation to satisfy the Minister for Public Safety and Solicitor General that we are providing an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement for the municipalities of Victoria and Esquimalt.

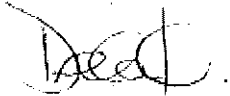
To reiterate, the Department is not of the view that our 2018 budget request for additional staffing is tied to any particular policing issue. Rather, it reflects our ongoing commitment to respond to the many and varied demands that the communities of Victoria and Esquimalt place on us, mindful of the need to be fiscally responsible. Although mental health and its associated complications, such as

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homelessness, drug use and addiction present significant challenges to policing, those challenges are certainly not the only ones we face. The requested increase to staff is intended to provide the Department with increased capacity overall, distributed among a wide variety of policing tasks that enhance our service delivery to Victoria and Esquimalt.

Please note that I will be sending Minister Darcy a similar letter next week providing the same clarification.

Yours truly,



Del Manak

DM/ct

c. Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board



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February 15, 2018

Esquimalt Mayor and Council

Via Email

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Council:

On January 31, 2018, the Township of Esquimalt wrote a letter to Minister Farnworth, asking the Province to take the initiative on the issue of regionalizing policing services within the Capital Region. The letter also stated that *"The Victoria Police Department has requested a substantial increase for 2018 for additional resources ... for 6 additional officers and 2 civilian staff ..."* and that the request *"is directly related to additional policing required due to downtown core issues ..."*

The purpose of this letter is to clarify for you that the Township of Esquimalt's characterization of the Victoria Police Department's budget request is inaccurate. At no time did I state that the requested increase of six officers was directly related to downtown core issues.

Managing and administering a police department is a complex task. There are many demands that must be met, including ensuring an adequate organizational structure that supports front line policing operations. My 2018 budget presentation noted that there are many functions within the Department that are necessary to support the uniformed police presence that is readily observable by the public. These functions also require police personnel, and include our investigative services (detectives), forensic examination personnel, domestic violence specialists, and community resource officers, as well as officers assigned to administrative tasks such as recruiting and training.

Accordingly, our request for additional officers reflects what is required to adequately enforce municipal bylaws, the criminal law, the laws of British Columbia, and to maintain law and order throughout our entire service area, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 15 of the *Police Act*. Our request was also mindful of our obligation to satisfy you that we are providing an adequate and effective level of policing and law enforcement for the municipalities of Victoria and Esquimalt.

To reiterate, the Department is not of the view that our 2018 budget request for additional staffing is tied to any particular policing issue. Rather, it reflects our ongoing commitment to respond to the many and varied demands that the communities of Victoria and Esquimalt place on us, mindful of the need to be fiscally responsible. Although downtown core issues present significant challenges to policing, those challenges are certainly not the only ones we face. The requested increase to staff is intended to provide

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the Department with increased capacity overall, distributed among a wide variety of policing tasks that enhance our service delivery to Victoria and Esquimalt.

Please note that I will be sending Minister Farnworth a similar letter next week providing the same clarification.

Yours truly,



Del Manak

DM/ct

c. Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board