



CITY OF ST. ALBERT
ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: Alberta Environment and RCMP – Investigation into Moose Incident in St. Albert

On March 31, 2017 Councillor Hughes provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that she intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

That the Mayor submit a letter on behalf of the City of St. Albert calling for a full investigation from Alberta Environment and the RCMP into the killing of the mother moose in St. Albert on March 29, 2017, a copy of all related investigation reports is shared with the City of St. Albert, and that administration review and make improvements to all relevant policies and procedures to reflect the investigation outcomes.

BACKGROUND:

Should this motion be moved and debated it would be more appropriate to replace Alberta Environment with Alberta Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General as the Fish and Wildlife officers do not fall under Alberta Environment and Parks.

Although there is nothing that specifically prohibits a Council from requesting the above noted investigation and review, it should be noted that the Alberta Government and the RCMP are independent agencies governed by the applicable Federal and Provincial Legislation (Wildlife Act, Peace Officer Act and RCMP Act). There are currently no known provisions within that legislation that would require the above noted agencies to comply with Council's request. If the Alberta Government and the RCMP choose not to review and/or provide the details of the review to the City, it would limit Administration's ability to review Administrative policy.

The Officer in Charge of the St Albert RCMP Detachment has advised Administration that the RCMP has already conducted an internal review of their response to this matter and have stated that their response was compliant with their policy which included handing the incident scene management over to Alberta Fish and Wildlife when they arrived. The RCMP has advised that they do not have any plans to review this matter further unless the lead agency (Fish and Wildlife) requests them to do so.

Administration believes that it is also important for Council to review the information provided in IR 578.2017 where it provides some details around the jurisdiction a Municipality has in wildlife matters. In addition, article 6 of the Municipal Police

Services Agreement (contract that the City has with the Government of Canada for police services) states that *“the internal management of the RCMP, including its administration and the determination and application of professional police standards and procedures, will remain under the control of Canada.”*

Administration submitted a letter to Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks on April 3, 2017 which was forwarded to the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, which has oversight of Fish & Wildlife Officers. The letter requested that a review be undertaken and the results, recommendations and implementation plan be provided to the City of St. Albert. The Ministry has subsequently indicated to Administration that a review is underway. A letter from the Mayor, authorized by Council, to Minister Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, requesting the results of the review, would emphasize the importance that St. Albert and its residents place on the natural environment, minimizing wildlife conflicts and maximizing non-lethal options when they do occur.

Report Date: April 18, 2017
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