



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: Bylaw 28/2017 Policing Committee Bylaw – Public Consultation

On May 1, 2017 Mayor Crouse provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that he intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motion, the motion must be formally moved.

That through newspaper and on-line advertising, Police Committee public consultation be undertaken and the consultation results be provided to Council on July 10, 2017, prior to consideration of 3rd reading.

BACKGROUND:

If this motion passes, Administration would take this as direction to seek out public feedback within existing resources.

With the above mentioned in mind, Administration has proposed two options for consideration.

Option 1

Administration would send out a press release and advertise on the website, City Lights section of the St. Albert Gazette as well as through social media, the draft Policing Committee Bylaw and invite residents to contact Administration and provide comments on the Bylaw. Administration would compile the comments and provide the report to Council.

If this option is desirable, Administration would recommend adding the following words to the above motion, *“As identified in Option 1 in the May 15, 2017 Backgrounder titled Bylaw 28/2017 Policing Committee Bylaw – Public Consultation”*

Option 2

Administration would develop a short online survey tool and invite residents to participate by advertising through traditional and social media as well as on the corporate website.

The proposed survey has been added below.

The results of the survey would be compiled by Administration and reported back to Council.

If this option is desirable, Administration would recommend adding the following words to the above motion, *“As identified in Option 2 in the May 15, 2017 Backgrounder titled Bylaw 28/2017 Policing Committee Bylaw – Public Consultation”*

Proposed Online Survey Outline on Policing Committee

Dates: Open to public from May 29, 2017 – June 19, 2017 (22 days)

Format: Online survey tool link that will limit 1 response per household (IP address)

Background Information

City Council is looking for resident feedback related to the establishment of a formal Policing Committee. This survey has been drafted to garner some key resident opinions on this topic. This survey is limited to one response per household.

Should you wish to provide more information that was not covered in this survey, you can contact City Council directly at:

<https://stalbert.ca/cosa/contact/departments/city-council/>

The detailed background information on this topic can be found at:

<https://stalbert.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=8476&GUID=3F85153E-E0F5-4860-ACF6-6CE4FB4893C9>

The establishment of a formal Policing Committee is optional for a Municipality that has contracted the RCMP as their Police Service. It is generally accepted that the overall purpose of a Policing Committee is to maintain a proper balance between the independence and authority of the RCMP and accountability to the community and civilian authority through community input, increased transparency regarding policing operations, removal of political interference perceptions and assistance with dealing with local complaints.

The overall objective of the Committee is generally accepted as, to act as a liaison between City Council, the RCMP Detachment, the Policing Services Department and city residents.

There are currently five (5) municipalities in Alberta that have elected to establish a formal Policing Committee and they are: City of Fort Saskatchewan, Town of High River, Town of Canmore, Town of Blackfalds and the Town of Drumheller.

Administration estimates that the establishment of a formal Policing Committee in St Albert will have an ongoing operating cost of approximately \$50,000 per year.

Questions:

1. Who do you believe should set the annual local RCMP Detachment objectives, priorities and goals?
 - The Mayor as the representative of City Council, or
 - The Chairperson representing a Policing Committee (Policing Committee comprised of Council appointed volunteer residents and a City Council representative).
 - Not sure / undecided
2. Who do you believe should have input into the RCMP's appointment of a local RCMP Detachment commander?
 - The Mayor representing City Council, or
 - The Chairperson representing a Policing Committee (Policing Committee comprised of Council appointed volunteer residents and a City Council representative).
 - Not sure / undecided
3. Who do you believe the RCMP should provide statements and information to related to human resource make up including organizational charts, RCMP job functions and vacancies?
 - City Council directly, or
 - A Policing Committee (comprised of Council appointed volunteer residents and a City Council representative) who would provide the information to City Council.
 - Not sure / undecided
4. If a formal Policing Committee is established, there is a requirement to create a local RCMP Public Complaint Director. Currently, if a person was unhappy with the conduct of a local RCMP Officer they can make a formal complaint directly to the local RCMP, the Province of Alberta or the Independent (Non-RCMP) Federal Civilian Review and Complaints Commission.

Do you believe that City Council should establish an option for St Albert residents to have the ability to make a complaint through a local Non-RCMP Public Complaint Director?

- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure / undecided
5. Currently, if you are not satisfied with the services that the RCMP provide in St Albert, you can voice your concerns directly to City Council, City Administration or the RCMP.

Do you believe that City Council should establish another mechanism or process to allow for more resident feedback opportunities on police related service matters?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure / undecided

6. Based on what you know on the topic, do you believe that City Council should establish a formal Policing Committee?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / undecided

Report Date: May 15, 2017
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Committee/Department: Policing Services
Acting General Manager: Kevin Scoble
City Manager: Kevin Scoble