

2022 OKOTOKS RCMP MUNICIPAL DETACHMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

Issue

The 2022 Okotoks RCMP Municipal Detachment Annual Performance Plan is provided to Council for approval.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That the Okotoks RCMP Municipal Detachment be requested to include the local priorities of “Enhanced Visibility”, “Crime Reduction and Enhanced Public Confidence”, and “Engagement” in the 2022 RCMP Annual Performance Plan.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

Each year the RCMP deploy their resources based on an Annual Performance Plan (APP). The APP is a strategic blend of local priorities intended to reflect the public safety priorities of our community.

The Okotoks RCMP utilizes our Annual Performance Plan to focus efforts towards identified community priorities. Community priorities as identified through community engagement have locally identified objectives. Locally implemented initiatives are used to achieve local objectives.

RCMP in partnership with Town Administration and the Community Engagement Business Centre conducted a recent online survey focused on community perceptions of public safety during the 2021 calendar year. The survey had 618 participants and garnered a 78% completion rate.

Gathering community feedback was a strategic priority of the RCMP, which was provided through the survey questions and open-ended commentary. Discovering the common themes from the survey results helped to identify citizens' main priorities and concerns so that targeted strategies for 2022 could be developed.

The 2020 survey results indicated that 59% of residents were not concerned with safety in Okotoks and this was supported in the 2021 survey, with 81.73% indicating they felt the same as in 2020 and an additional 4.81% indicating they felt safer in the community. A slight shift was seen in the results of the 2022 survey, 74% indicated they felt the same or safer than in 2021. The percentage of residents indicating that they felt less safe rose from 11.5% in 2021 to 23.6% in 2022.

Additionally, 12.6% of survey respondents indicated that they were victims of property crime in Okotoks with only 55.6% reporting the incident to RCMP. Participants were asked to rank their most important concerns in their neighbourhoods and the top three were property crimes, person crimes and traffic safety. Complete survey results with feedback are attached for review.

The RCMP have recently reported the department's 2021 year-end statistics, in which the Okotoks Municipal Detachment generated 5,047 files between January and December 2021. This is a decrease of 10% when compared to 2020. Highlights from the 2020 vs 2021 year end reporting including: a 8% decrease in total criminal code offences, a 5% decrease in total property crimes, a decrease in all other categories excepting calls related to mental health act and motor vehicle accidents which rose 24% and 46%.

With the continued decrease in crime rates in Okotoks over the past few years, enhanced visibility, crime reduction & enhanced public confidence, and engagement are proposed as priorities for the RCMP Annual Performance Plan. These priorities allow for nimble flexibility in the RCMP's deployment to adapt to emerging trends and can be connected to building relationships with youth; attending community events; performing traffic safety initiatives; prolific offender monitoring; community policing initiatives; and focused community patrols.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input type="checkbox"/>	Manage Community Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Strong Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Quality Community Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance Organizational Excellence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Economic Vitality
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote Environmental Excellence

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

Contract management with the RCMP for the level of service and enforcement of federal and provincial laws with local priorities is established through an annual RCMP performance plan.

Public Participation Strategy

Targeted to the Okotoks Citizen Panel as well as the community at large.

Alternatives for Consideration

Alternative priorities may be recommended by Council to be added to the RCMP Annual Performance Plan

CAO Comments

The results from the survey are very interesting. As a Town we have some of the lowest crime rates in our history yet citizens are feeling less safe. Many of the comments provided by citizens speak to increased unreported property crime and a lack of visibility of officers. This feedback highlights that the priorities for the RCMP need to include visibility, engagement and public confidence in the RCMP. Ensuring a public campaign of why it is important to report property crimes is important and should also be completed.

Attachment(s)

n/a

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RCMP – Okotoks Detachment

April 01, 2022