

City of Maple Ridge

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

December 14, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Virtual Online Meeting including Council Chamber


ADDENDUM

700 **CONSENT AGENDA**

703.1 **Financial Impact of Surrey Police Service on Lower Mainland Municipalities**


Letter from the National Police Federation dated December 8, 2021.

PREPARED BY:


DATE: December 13, 2021

APPROVED BY:

DATE:


Dec 13, 2021



**NATIONAL
POLICE
FEDERATION**

**FÉDÉRATION
DE LA POLICE
NATIONALE**

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December 8, 2021

Mayor Mike Morden and Council
City of Maple Ridge
11995 Haney Place
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6A9
Email: mmorden@mapleridge.ca

Dear Mayor Morden and Council,

Re: Financial Impact of Surrey Police Service on Lower Mainland Municipalities

I am writing once again regarding the City of Surrey's proposed police transition and the implications we are now seeing it have on municipalities throughout the Lower Mainland. You may recall I wrote to you earlier this year about the potential implications due to a lack of plan on the part of the City of Surrey and I write to you now as there is still no plan, and the implications are being felt. This transition is creating a broad risk to community safety and increasing costs at a time when all levels of government are experiencing unprecedented financial and community safety pressures.

As the British Columbia *Police Act* makes clear, decisions regarding the policing of a municipality must ensure public safety is maintained or enhanced. There continues to be no transparency regarding the full cost of this transition which considers impacts within Surrey and on other B.C. municipalities.

The NPF believes there needs to be a thorough review and consideration of all potential risks and implications to other municipalities if this process is to continue:

Recruitment and retention issues across the region: This transition has increased police recruitment and retention pressures on your municipality and thereby worsened the existing shortage of officers. The report on the Surrey Police Transition relied heavily on the notion that Surrey RCMP Members would "patch-over" to the new force. RCMP management indicated very early on to the City of Surrey that less than 14% of serving Surrey RCMP Members were even interested in transitioning.

This has resulted in the SPS poaching trained officers from jurisdictions outside of Surrey to such an extent that the province has stepped in and capped SPS hiring in 2022 to 160 officers. However, we all know this transition has been highly politized and after missing yet another deployment target (only managing to deploy 29 out of a promised 50 positions by November 30) we can expect the SPS will ramp up aggressive recruitment in the coming months.

Additional Increased Costs for Municipalities and Taxpayers: Earlier this year, at a legislative committee to discuss B.C.'s Main Estimates, Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth confirmed that current provincial Surrey Police Service (SPS) transition costs of an estimated \$600,000 will rise by roughly 30 percent to an estimated \$840,000 in 2021-2022.

These new cost increases are in addition to a request made earlier this year by the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner for an increase of \$1.4 million in operating and \$112,000 capital funding to support the Surrey Police Service's transition oversight responsibilities, which was approved.

This provincial funding increase for 2022, to the tune of \$3.08 million, means that all British Columbian taxpayers will fund the new Surrey Police Services.

The failure to complete a full feasibility study as recommended by PriceWaterhouseCoopers in 2019 as well as develop and share a detailed transition plan has financial and public safety ramifications for your jurisdiction and residents. The Union of BC Municipalities [wrote to the Provincial government](#) this past June highlighting all the aforementioned financial impacts for municipalities and asked the Provincial government to share details regarding the Evaluation Framework. The UBCM has still not received this information. For these reasons, we believe it is time to halt the transition until all costs and all potential implications for municipalities are shared. Others should not have to bear the costs of the Surrey Police Service transition or operation, especially during these uncertain times.

Municipal counterparts should be consulted and have a say on the increased costs they are being forced to absorb, not to mention the police shortage they may face due to SPS recruiting. B.C. and Lower Mainland area municipalities are and will continue to be impacted both directly and indirectly by the SPS and deserve to have been included in all consultation phases, including current and future planning of risk impacts of the SPS.

I am always available should you wish to speak further or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Brian Sauvé
President