

2010 July 19

URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: RE-CONFIRMING THE 2011 CALGARY POLICE SERVICE BUDGET

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart
Alderman John Mar

WHEREAS Council has approved the CPS Business Plans & Budget for 2009-2011, and the Calgary Police Service (CPS) is entering into the third and final year of the approved in the 2009 – 2011 City Budget;

WHEREAS if current positions are eliminated and growth positions are not funded, all the accomplishments achieved to date with gains in crime reduction through deployment of “boots on the streets,” would be jeopardized;

WHEREAS the approved City Council 2011 CPS budget has resulted in the following commitments being made by Police Chief Hanson in the first six months of 2010:

- Selection of 48 new recruits for the two fall classes in September and November 2010;
- An increase in personnel to accommodate the growing workload in the investigative areas including the Domestic Conflict Unit, Child Abuse Unit Sex Crimes Unit, the Fugitive Apprehension Detail and the High Risk Offender Program;
- The provision of additional resources to support the Major Crimes Section in the form of enhancing undercover and Forensic Crime Scene Unit capacity;
- Acquiring more personnel for the Technical Crimes Unit which has seen its workload double between 2008 and 2009;
- CPS Commitment of 10 positions to the Public Safety Communications Centre; and
- Contractual obligations with the Government of Alberta who currently allocates funding for a variety of programs through the Safe Communities funding scheme.

WHEREAS the referral of the 2011 CPS budget by Council to the November budget deliberations has resulted in Police Chief Hanson and the Calgary Police Commission having to take the following actions:

- Cancellation of two scheduled recruit classes (48 officers) that were to be hired in September and November 2010. Any delay of these classes will require most recruits to re-qualify through the physical abilities, polygraph and psychological testing stages. These tests are time sensitive and are Provincial Standards established by the Solicitor General. CPS does not have the latitude to extend the timelines. This will have resource, cost, and time implications for the CPS.

- Elimination of 120 positions (65 growth positions and 55 current positions)

WHEREAS the consequences of a reduction to the CPS approved 2011 budget would have a significant negative impact on enforcement and investigative capacity along with crime prevention and reduction initiatives and impact the planned:

- Increase in District front-line officers and provide Special Duties Teams to more districts;
- Expansion of the beat patrols to other areas of the city;
- Investment into the growing workload in investigative areas, including the Domestic Conflict Unit, Child Abuse Unit, Sex Crimes Unit, the Fugitive Apprehension Detail and the High Risk Offender Program;
- Increase in personnel for the Technical Crimes Unit which has seen its workload double since 2008, and
- Continued investment in our gang disruption and suppression efforts.

WHEREAS the current ranking of police officer to population ratio in the Calgary Police Service (CPS) when compared with other major Canadian cities is 8th out of 10, with the CPS officer to population ratio at 1:619 compared to the Edmonton Police Service ratio of 1:535. Even with the personnel growth we have already experienced over the years we are losing ground.

WHEREAS approximately 93% of the 2011 CPS budget is associated with fixed costs, with 82% allocated to salaries, and with only 5% of police officers in a support/administration role, any budget cuts would be at the expense of front line officers and investigative personnel which would diminish the impact that the CPS can have on crime;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Calgary City Council:

1. Reconsider its 2010 July 5 decision to defer the pre-approval, without amendment, of the budget allocations to the Calgary Police Service (Program # 070) outlined in The City of Calgary Approved Business Plans and Budgets 2009 – 2011.
2. Reaffirm the pre-approval of the CPS 2011 budget without amendment, and allow Chief Hanson, with the support of the Calgary Police Commission, to move forward with hiring and training of new recruit classes in fall 2010, and further, that the 2011 approved CPS Business Plan continue to be implemented.



Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

Alderman John Mar