



Corporate Administration
Staff Report to Council

File: 15-7960-05

DATE: September 19, 2017
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Mike Younie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Funding for Security at the Mission Library**

RECOMMENDATION: Council consider and resolve:

1. That \$3,000 from the Gaming Reserve Fund be used to increase security at the Mission Library from one hour per day to four hours per day 7 days a week for the remainder of 2017;
2. That the 2018 and subsequent years' annual budgets be increased by \$13,000 to \$25,000, funded by the Gaming Reserve Fund, to continue security at the Mission Library for four hours per day 7 days a week; and
3. That the District's Financial Plan be amended accordingly.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to report on the effectiveness of security at the Mission Library (Library) and to request additional funding for the remainder of 2017 and for 2018 and ongoing thereafter.

BACKGROUND:

Provision of security services at the library are the responsibility of the District under the operating agreement with Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL). The current budget for provision of security at the Library is \$12,000 per year which has been adequate to supply up to two hours per day near the end of the day to ensure staff can safely leave the building and access their vehicles.

Given a dramatic increase in incidents at the Library recently, in large part related to the opioid crisis, staff piloted a four hour per day security presence for the months of mid-May through September. This report presents the results of that pilot.

The Library is an open public facility and access is open to all provided the Code of Conduct is complied with. Security staff do not restrict people from entering the Library, they are there to deal with people who do not comply with the Code of Conduct.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

On average, prior to May 2017, there were greater than 10 serious incidents per month at the Library. The incidents range from drug use in the washrooms, overdoses requiring first responder attendance and disruptive behaviour. In at least one incident of an overdose, the person was resuscitated by first responders but later died. This was a very traumatic experience for staff and WorkSafeBC has advised that the Library needs to take steps to protect employees from these sorts of experiences. Security services at libraries are commonplace. Chilliwack's library, for example, is located in a similar area as Mission's and has all day security in place.

Incidents have been drastically reduced since the pilot project was initiated with 3, 0, 4 and 2 incidents in June, July, August and September, respectively. Consequently, the Library is requesting that the four hours a day security service be continued for the foreseeable future.

The Library has taken other steps to reduce the number of incidents such as installation of CCTV cameras, washroom door buzzers and continues to look at other improvements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Currently \$12,000 is budgeted annually for security at the Library with the funds coming from the Gaming Reserve Fund. That is adequate for about 2 hours per day 7 days a week for the year but only 1 hour per day has been in place for the last few years. Continuing with four hours a day for the remainder of 2017 will require an additional \$3,000 for a total of \$15,000. Moving to four hours a day on an ongoing basis will require an additional \$13,000 for an annual total going forward of \$25,000. Staff recommends that the additional funds come from the Gaming Reserve Fund, which currently has approximately \$530,000 uncommitted, and based on current projections has adequate funds to sustain this increase on an ongoing basis.

COMMUNICATION:

Staff will communicate Council's decision to Library staff.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

In response to an increase in security incidents at the Mission Library, staff implemented a pilot project in June whereby existing one hour per day security was increased to four hours per day using the existing budget. The pilot project resulted in a significant reduction in the number of serious incidents and staff recommends that security for four hours a day be implemented on an ongoing basis. Additional funds of \$3,000 for 2017 and an increase in annual funding of \$13,000 on an ongoing basis starting in 2018 are required and could come from the Gaming Reserve Fund.

SIGN-OFFS:



Mike Younie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer



Reviewed by:
Kris Boland, Director of Finance

Comment from Chief Administrative Officer:
Reviewed