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**TO:** District 69 Community Justice Select Committee    **MEETING:** October 1, 2018

**FROM:** Daniel Pearce  
Director, Transportation and  
Emergency Services    **FILE:** 7580 01 PPR

**SUBJECT:** District 69 Police to Population Ratio

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the District 69 Police to Population Ratio report be received for information.
2. That the Board endorse a media campaign to reduce rural crime within District 69.

### **SUMMARY**

The Oceanside detachment has responsibility for community policing within Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Electoral Areas E, F, G and H of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN).

The police to population ratio for the electoral areas policed by the Oceanside detachment data shows a police to population ratio of 1:574, which is lower than the City of Parksville (1:736) and Qualicum Beach (1:1118).

Reduced rural crime prevention could be achieved by working with the Oceanside Police detachment on a joint media campaign. This would be done through social media, newspaper ads, the RDN website and radio ads.

### **BACKGROUND**

In response to concerns regarding traffic safety and the growth of criminal activity in the rural areas, at the March 27, 2018, Board meeting the following motion was passed:

*That staff report back to the D69 Community Justice Select Committee regarding options to decrease the Police to Population ratio in the rural areas for both traffic and crime prevention.*

Policing in Canada is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments. In rural areas, there is a police tax levy which contributes to the costs of police services but does not cover the full costs of the service. The unincorporated areas of the province receive a tax credit from the provincial rural tax and for District 69 in 2018 is:

- Electoral Area E \$0.0891
- Electoral Area F \$0.1776
- Electoral Area G \$0.1162

- Electoral Area H \$0.1081

### Oceanside Detachment

The Oceanside detachment provides police services on all roads within Electoral Areas E, F, G and H of the RDN, Parksville and Qualicum Beach.

The Oceanside RCMP detachment has thirteen (13) police officers are funded by the Province, eight (8) are funded by Qualicum Beach and sixteen (16) are funded by the City of Parksville.

Funding for RCMP officers is established Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) and the Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA). The terms of these agreements require municipalities under 15,000 in population, but over 5,000, to pay 70% of the policing costs and the Province pays 30%. For communities under 5,000, the Province pays 100% of policing and for those over 15,000 the municipality pays 90% of the costs with the province paying 10%.

According to Statistics Canada in 2016, Parksville had 12,514 residents compared to 11,977 in 2011. Qualicum Beach had 8,943 in 2016 compared to 8,687 in 2011. The RDN had 7,465 in 2016 compared to 7,158 in 2011.

According to Statistics Canada, in British Columbia (2017) the police to population ratio was 1:186. For District 69 the police to population ratio:

- Parksville 1:736
- Qualicum Beach 1:1118
- RDN 1:574

Recognizing the nature of policing issues in rural areas and to assist with rural crime reduction in District 69 it is recommended that the Board support a crime reduction media campaign. The campaign would be delivered by the RDN and would utilize social media, newspaper ads, the RDN website and radio ads. This campaign would help educate citizens that live in rural areas about keeping up their awareness about locking doors, securing vehicles and watching for suspicious behaviour in their neighbourhoods.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the report be received for information.
2. That the Board endorse a media campaign to reduce rural crime within District 69.
3. That alternate direction be provided.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A crime reduction media campaign will cost approximately \$5,000.00. This campaign will include newspaper ads, social media and radio ads. These costs could be included in the 2019 Financial Plan.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Ensuring the appropriate level of police resources in District 69 is consistent with key priorities of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, to offer partnerships with other local governments/community groups and advance our Region.



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September 17, 2018

Reviewed by:

- G. Garbutt, Acting Chief Administrative Officer