

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: November 25, 2024
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Anne Berry, Director, Planning & Development Services
SUBJECT: Waterfront Security Patrols Debrief Report

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council:

1. Receive the November 25, 2024, corporate report from the Director of Planning & Development Services, titled “Waterfront Security Patrols Debrief Report;” and
 2. Direct staff to budget for summer security patrols at the waterfront starting with the 2025 budget.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the Waterfront Promenade security patrols over the course of August and September 2024.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Motion # & Meeting Date	Motion Details
2024-265 July 29, 2024	THAT Council direct staff to hire two (2) security guards for a two (2) month trial period (August to the end of September, 2024) from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. (6 hours per day).

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

At the July 29, 2024 Regular Meeting, Council gave direction to staff to hire two security guards to patrol the City’s waterfront promenade area for the months of August and September. This report presents a summary of these activities.

The security guards began patrolling on August 1, 2024, and patrolled nightly between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. through to September 30. Following the first weekend of patrols an automated daily reporting system was implemented by the security company, enabling automatic daily reports to the City.

Incident Type	August	September	Total
Days w/out incident	11	9	20
Intoxication	7	6	13
Noise	11	2	13
Violence/Intimidation	5	6	11
Vehicle related	1	4	5
Beach Fires	5	14	19
Train Tracks	11	4	15
*Miscellaneous (dog, lost child, vandalism, diving from pier, persons experiencing homelessness)	9	0	9
Total	60	45	105

*Miscellaneous includes incidents in which there were 2 or fewer occurrences of each type

Generally, the security guards did not see a proliferation of undesirable activities. Typical evenings were spent patrolling the promenade and the Pier, offering education regarding City regulations where required. The security guards do not have authority to issue violations, only to observe and report activities. Over the course of the two-month period the RCMP were called a total of 22 times, primarily related to issues of noise and intoxication.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost for the waterfront patrols was \$16,836. This initiative is not budgeted for in the 2024 Financial Plan and was funded from operating contingency. If Council wishes to consider this initiative moving forward budget will need to be allocated in the 2025 Financial Plan.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The presence of security guards along the waterfront during the late evening/early morning hours helped deter undesirable activities, helping to enhance the quality of life for waterfront users and area residents.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

As noted earlier in the report there were 22 incidents where the RCMP were called to respond to matters beyond the scope of the authority of the security guards.

The security company also provided support to the custodial contractor by being present for the washroom closing procedures.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

While there is no specific strategic priority for this activity, hiring security guards for the waterfront promenade supports the Council's vision for a prosperous and vibrant waterfront.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following alternative option is available for Council's consideration:

THAT Council:

1. Discontinue waterfront security patrols moving forward.

CONCLUSION

This report summarizes the August and September night-time waterfront security patrols. Based on the number and type of incidents reported, staff considers that the patrols were a success and seek Council's support to budget for summer security patrols at the waterfront starting with the 2025 budget.

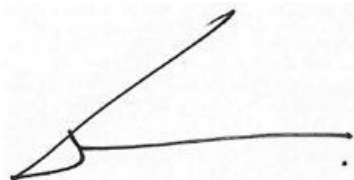
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Berry", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Anne Berry
Director, Planning and Development Services

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendations of this corporate report.

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Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer