

Making Choices That Matter Phase 3 Community Conversation Cafes May 2012 Calgary Police Service

Total Number of Participants: 203

Note: Not all respondents answered ALL of the questions.

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY POLICING	Increases: 18	Decreases: 4	Leave as Is: -	Eliminate: -	N/A: 2
COMMENTS RELATED TO INCREASES:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to have a good police force and the more money spent the better. • Increase bike and beat patrols in inner city communities. • To enforce within small communities in Calgary. Increase inner-city communities and create more draws to Calgary downtown. • Improving these services would help prevent crime instead of having to react to it, which would certainly make Calgary a better place. • Need more community policing to reduce vandalism - car prowling and graffiti. • Outstanding service & needs more to keep us safe. • Not proposing an increase, just give back the 4 million you took away. The police service was funded appropriately before the cuts. • Our police are doing a fine job and they need the funds to continue keeping our communities safe. • The increase should relate to a rate of policing required so the population of persons residing in the city. Some thoughts are some people never need front line support across their lifetime. • Community policing is known to positively impact crime rates, lowering them substantially and contribute to citizen's sense of trust and safety. Our clients live in communities that are perceived to be less safe and may come from places where police are feared & distrusted. Many benefits flow when people feel safe. • Need for additional positions so education & enforcement can be provided. We need greater presence @ the community level. Early intervention may pay off in the end. • Community policing in newcomer communities to increase their knowledge understanding of purpose and role of police service. Bureau of organizational support to maximize their diversity program to ensure the ethnic communities are sufficiently represented in the police force. • Community policing should work more closely with community associations & resident groups. • Diversity Unit - increase • Crime reduction is primary concern. Eyes, ears & boots on the street increase both real and perceived safety in communities. *Foot/bike patrols over car patrols. 					
COMMENTS RELATED TO DECREASES:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community policing is important, but the need for police increases when communities have problems. As we feel alienated from our neighbours, fail to adequately welcome our newcomers, increase the inequity among citizens as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and lack programs such as quality before and after school services, we are asking for trouble. If the police budget was decreased to put millions into community services, we would see a tremendous positive change in our city and a safer, healthier, happier community. • Could United Way or other organizations get involved in some of these areas. 					

- This week a shooter (goose shooter to be precise) was spotted on the roof of a neighbouring building. At least 8 police cars & 2 police vans responded to the 911 call. Given that I live in a generally safe neighbourhood this appeared to be overkill to me. More cops walking the beat & fewer driving around in cars Please!!
- I believe there should be a little less funding for CPS because more funds should be placed in preventative services such as community services and protective services.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- We need more "police presence" in the winter months especially to look out for speeding traffic in school zones. Example: Southland Drive, Anderson Road, Bonaventure Drive, Elbow Drive, Acadia Drive.
- Traffic law enforcement .We should continue getting uniformed officers away from traffic enforcement. We are beginning to see the benefit of "machines" in traffic enforcement. Our uniformed officers don't need to be making money; they need to be fighting crime.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES	Increases: 5	Decreases: 3	Leave as Is: -	Eliminate: -	N/A: 6
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COMMENTS RELATED TO INCREASES:

- To enforce within small communities in Calgary. Increase inner-city communities and create more draw to Calgary downtown.
- Forensic services appear to be a bottleneck, which slows down investigations. Can Volunteers be used in fraud & identity-theft?
- In light of a hideous crime, which took place 2 or 3 weeks ago in which the victim was mutilated before being murdered, it is imperative that the bureau of investigative services has to its disposition all the required resources to pursue the perpetrators and make the city safer for all.

COMMENTS RELATED TO DECREASES:

- Bureau of Investigative Services 30 M, Bureau of Organizational Support 25 M, Office of the Chief 5M. Police budget has grown in isolation of the rest & the City budget. There needs to be more accountability to the citizens of Calgary. The police commission, like Enmax needs to be more connected to the city's financial accountability system. Police under the commission, have developed as a silo from other city services. I think their planning, development & delivery of services need to be more integrated into the city departments they could work with - e.g.: Community & Neighbourhood Services, Bylaw, Fire, Calgary Emergency Management agency.
- Too much emphasis on homicide investigations. Focus less on the department's needs. Focus more on cops on the beat, including vulnerable population & neighbourhoods, schools.
- Decrease "after the fact" services like homicide investigations. Increase preventive community building strategies. - More cops on the street, vulnerable pops & neighbours, schools.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- I think the budget for policing could stay the same, but perhaps a shift in priorities and strategies is required. For example: would like to see police pay more attention to white-collar crime investigation. Also, recognize that "street level" crime is often a symptom of poverty, and the root causes of poverty and money spent on poverty reduction and prevention up front would reduce police costs down the line.

BUREAU OF ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT	Increases: 5	Decreases: 7	Leave as Is: -	Eliminate: -	N/A: 9
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COMMENTS RELATED TO INCREASES:

- Too often I notice our patrol cars with officers pre-occupied with computer interaction or phone calls. If we have these vehicles on the road removed/reduce distractions, officers can observe more effectively.
- With the Federal change, with the vulnerable police checks, it has severely affected our ability to effectively screen volunteers working with children. It can take anywhere from 3-9 months to receive the security check back. If increased resources are needed to support the administrative barrier, then increased resources should be provided. Otherwise, the voluntary sector that we pride ourselves with will be lost.
- Specifically for the Fitness Training Unit/Recruit Training to ensure health, wellness, fitness for CPS employees.
- Increase support for Police checks. Decrease investigative services.

COMMENTS RELATED TO DECREASES:

- Bureau of Community Policing and Investigative Services are probably less able to absorb reduced dollars and still deliver essential services. Bureau of Organizational Support and Office of Chief can probably gain efficiencies and/or

reduce some services. "External" roles of Calgary Police Services are more critical to success of overall unit - crime prevention/investigation, public presence/education, etc.

- I strongly believe that educational programs for crime prevention and early intervention is key. I do not want to see a decrease within the Bureau of Community Policing. I often question the need for helicopter and Hemi-powered dodge charges within the CPA fleet. Those exorbitant expenses are unnecessary. The city needs to focus on community engagement. As the citizens become more engaged and more active in their communities, crime will decrease as a result. Walkable neighbourhoods reduce crime. Police helicopters don't.
- The problem is the sustainable future of city finances. The fineness should reflect what is happening in the "real world" and realize how city finances, including police affect the future costs.
- The proportion of the police budget in comparison to the total appears unsustainable. There must be some administrative efficiencies to be found or some work that can be outsourced (FOIP not withstanding)
- Focus on prevention.
- Goal to require less admin staff & more physical presence on the street. When \$ is allocated to ensure healthy families & healthy communities, less \$ will be needed to fight crime & law infringements. More effective & efficient use of resources. Wage freeze for ALL union employees.

OFFICE OF THE CHEIF	Increases:	Decreases:	Leave as Is:	Eliminate:	N/A:
	1	8	-	-	10

COMMENTS RELATED TO INCREASES:

- The 10% increase for the office of the Chief is necessary in order to broaden, through dissemination of information, an understanding of what it is that the Calgary Police does to solidify the foundation of a free and safe city.

COMMENTS RELATED TO DECREASES:

- Seems very top heavy - way too much administration, too much overtime.
- Bureaus of Community Policing and Investigative Services are probably less able to absorb reduced dollars and still delivery essential services. Bureau of Organizational Support and Office of the Chief can probably gain efficiencies and/or reduce some services. "External" roles of Calgary Policing Services are more critical to success of overall unit - crime prevention/investigation, public presence/education, etc.
- We have been sold a myth. The city is a crime ridden unsafe place. This is not true. Crime is down. There is no need for the expensive services of many police to guard as a global-fest or anti-racism rally. There seems to be a large police presence in many swarms. Is this necessary or is it a show? Cut them off.
- Too big of communications budget - fear mongering in the media about how dangerous our city is & promotes a perceived need for greater policing costs. Much of police budget seems to be in administration VS in community direct policing. Much of policing is in revenue generation anyway (e.g.: red light cameras, speed traps) which perpetuate additional "taxes" to citizens. Court costs of challenging tickets are an unnecessary expense to taxpayers as well.
- What good policing really means (prevention, not after the fact)

GENERAL COMMENTS (POLICE)

Increases: 5

- The police budget should logically increase proportionally, with the number of taxpayers.
- This service should be given the funds that are required to protect the citizens of Calgary in an effective and efficient manner. This does not mean that the service should not conduct an internal review regarding effectiveness.
- All business units and specific services listed above. The safety of our community is critical. It has to be a priority.
- It is very important for Calgarians to be safe.
- Pay a premium for faster reply for security check or any search. User Pay.

Decreases: 6

- See attached letter to the Chief (attached to the service bill May 14 folder). I wonder how much overtime was paid

out to cover the officer's absence? Similar unnecessary expenses must cease.

- According to the provided document, decreasing the budget by 20% would curtail police ability to focus on prevention. However, and I do not see prevention as a police role, I see prevention as a role that communities and educators have. Fewer dollars spent on police services give more dollars to allocate to community services, housing and transportation.
- Eliminate the police helicopter - loud and bad value
- It was hard to determine which department because there were no actual breakdowns. Diversity issues.
- Do we need so many heavy-duty riot squad type teams? It seems even a firecracker incident sends out a bunch of police with rifles.

Leave As Is: 5

- More prevention focus required in addition to more officers.
- Keep budget about the same but too many people at desks during administration so indicated by a report! Create a unit/patrol similar to the one that was used to clean up the mall. Clean up, sweep it! The Belt line area especially - the alleys behind, near Safeway and the Danish Canadian Club. Allocate funds for this project.
- They are essential services that should not reduce budget.
- Leave budget as is. I would like to make some shifts to other departmental budgets, and do not want to impact Calgary Police Services negatively, but my budget re-allocation limits my ability to increase funds for police.
- Calgary Police Service

N/A: 17

- Increase investment in Community and Neighbourhood Service and public service adjusting budget from other headings.
- What is the rationale for how they have been budgeted for - the Calgary Police Commission? It is not posted anywhere publicly.
- City is getting bigger: increase in serious crime, increase in environmental footprint to police, diversity issues. How can we decrease?
- Those going into the police force should be paying for their training and training should be longer. This would give the department more money.
- Should be less traffic tie-ups due to accident investigations.
- More focus on educational programs/prevention.
- There is no way to provide input regarding the budget for the specific business units was not provided. Therefore I cannot provide an educated comment into this aspect of the budget process.
- Have a commission of senior/retired police members to assist with planning the budget.
- 1 - Calgary police service (Leave as is). The fact that police are essential service does not mean increasing their budget will have any better results on crime since the courts, lawyers etc. decide who gets released and who doesn't. I believe Rick Hansen calls it catch & release so until laws are changed at a Federal level I'd call this throwing more \$ at the wind since police will come back to - we just catch the bad guys we don't get to decide how they are dealt with in the courts.
- More police will not prevent crime. Maybe downtown it could be better but police should not need to provide safety to all areas. People should regulate their own behaviour. Protective services to prevent issues (alcoholism, drugs, etc.). If issues arise we expect the police. Police should keep the peace, not intrude on other issues.
- Highest domestic abuse level in Calgary. Inform the police they know the issues. There should be records kept. Danger isn't preventable completely. More cops won't prevent crime.
- Reporting in different districts - follow up on reports. 911 must facilitate what they know and share that information between people and departments so that information is not repeated.
- Right away police intimidate. Keep good police records to maintain what the police are doing and why so that they are being monitored for doing the job they're supposed to. Accountability for police officers - there must be progressive reports with police employee changes - they must be updated. Only send out the necessary amount of officers to scenes.
- Police come for the same issues - the dispatcher isn't working. Different officers come but are not educated on

previous reports. Provide reports to citizens.