

The City of Thomson Community Safety Officer Pilot Program



Outline

- Background of the program
- Legislation and Agreement
- Funding
- Hiring Process/Training
- Challenges
- Successes



Downtown Strategy

- The City of Thompson; together through community partnerships identified actions that will attract citizens, visitors and business to a clean, safe and active downtown
- Thompson has adopted a downtown strategy referred to as Main Street North and is modeled from the Main Street Project in Winnipeg



Background

- To help deal with the social issues in affecting our downtown area, the City of Thompson contracted Prairie By-Law Enforcement 2009-2012 (excluding 2011)



Background

- In 2013 & 2014 the City of Thompson took on full responsibility of the By-law program and hired four seasonal By-Law Officers.
- The main focus of both the Prairie By-Law Officers and the City of Thompson By-Law Officers was the downtown social issues affecting our community.



Background

- The presence of the By-Law Officers helped deter individuals from activities that were in contravention of our City Behavioral By law and other activities covered under other jurisdictions.
- However, the By-law Officers had limitations; one of which was the limitation to arrest and transport people, which falls under the Intoxicated Persons Detention Act (IPDA)



Legislation

- In June 2014 Manitoba amended The Police Services Act to allow municipalities to create Community Safety Officer (CSO) Programs to enhance public safety in their communities
- The City of Thompson was selected to partner with Manitoba on a two-year pilot CSO Program. Making Thompson the first municipality to have CSO's



Legislation

Community Safety Officers have been granted increased authority under 6 Provincial Statutes:

Highway Traffic Act

The Off Roads Vehicle Act

The Liquor and Gaming Act

The Intoxicated Persons Detention Act

The Mental Health Act

Child and Services Act



Agreement

Manitoba Justice, The City of Thompson and the Thompson RCMP worked closely together to developed and implement a plan for the CSO program including:

- Provincial Statute enforcement powers
 - Mandatory training
 - Communications
- Qualification requirements



May 25, 2016, eight Community Safety Officers were hired in the City of Thompson



FUNDING

The CSO program was cost shared with Manitoba under a two year funding agreement

- The City of Thompson has allocated \$300,000.00 per year for the first 2 years
- The Province of Manitoba has allocated \$300,000.00 per year for the first 2 years
- Training and Employment Services provided wage subsidy, totaling \$42,935.00
- Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries allocated \$15,000.00



Set-up Cost

- Training \$26,817.07, facilitated by University College of the North (UCN) from The Pas
- Clothing Kits \$27,688.48, including fully equipped duty belts and safety ballistic vest
- 2 New Vehicles \$61,860.91, including the safety partition and window bars, lighting and decal package



Provincial Regulation Candidate Qualifications

- 18 years of age or over
- Canadian Citizen
- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Valid class 4 drivers license



City of Thompson's Hiring Process

- Written test
- Physical abilities test
- Hearing test
- Vision test
- Security screening
- Interview
- Training as set out per regulations



Provincial regulated training requirements

- Public safety and crime prevention
- Victim services and social services
- Enforcement of provincial enactments
- Arrests, searches and seizures
- Use of force and officer safety
- Note-taking, interview basics and court preparation
- Aboriginal awareness and community diversity



Major Success

- Statistics
- Crime severity Index
- RCMP Partnership
- Community Relationships



Noteworthy Statistics

- The number of cause disturbance files opened by the RCMP have decreased by 333 files or 16.9%
- The number of individuals lodged at the RCMP under IPDA in the same time period have increased by 546 files or 9.6%



Crime Severity Index

- Overall crime severity values for Thompson has decreased 19.5%
 - Violent crime severity value decreased 29.1%
 - Non-violent crime severity value decreased 14.7%



RCMP Partnership

- Provides continuous support and mentorship
- Participates in ongoing discussions and meetings regarding the program
- The CSO program allows the RCMP to focus on other criminal matters
 - Continues to be a positive advocate for the program



Community Relationships

Multiple support letters have been received from the downtown businesses, government agencies and community groups. Highlights include:

- Increased presence in the downtown area
 - Support system to business
- Proactive solution in regards to crime prevention
- Positive relationships and report with community groups/agencies



Challenges

- Agreement with the province
 - * Funding
 - * Training
 - * Unknown Authority
- Overtime coverage
- Resources in the Community
- Community knowledge of the program



Future Growth of the CSO program

- Expand the scope of the duties of the CSO's
- Generate revenue through additional initiatives
- Continue to expand the hours to accommodate the community



Thank you
Questions?

