



CITY OF LANGLEY

MOTION

Taking Action for Mental Health / MICR Unit Pilot - Councillor Wallace

THAT Council direct staff to work with the Langley RCMP to develop a budget to fund a Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit pilot program for a period of one year, which would include one regular RCMP member, once specialty equipped police cruiser, and one psychiatric nurse.

THAT Council direct staff to develop an evaluation criteria to measure the outcomes of the one-year Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit pilot program, to be endorsed by council.

THAT Council direct staff to work with the Township of Langley to optionally co-fund the Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit pilot program for a period of one year.

THAT Council affirms that the Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit shall respond to calls in both Langley City and the Township of Langley.

THAT staff present a one-year Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit pilot program proposal to Council for consideration during the upcoming fall budget cycle.

THAT if a one-year Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit pilot program is funded, staff present an outcome report to council based on the one-year Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit pilot program evaluation criteria endorsed by council, within six months of the conclusion of the pilot program.

(see background below)

Background:

Mobile Integrated Crisis Response team (MICR) partnering with a psychiatric nurse to respond to mental health emergencies.

Car 67 is a mobile specialized crisis response unit operating in the Fraser Health region, including areas surrounding Abbotsford, which pairs a police officer with a registered psychiatric nurse. They provide on-site mental health assessments, crisis intervention, and referrals aimed at reducing emergency room visits and connecting people to the care they need.

Many communities smaller in population than Langley already have Car 67, or the MICR unit program. Chilliwack, estimated at 112,000 people and Squamish, at approximately 24,000, both have a program. Langley City & Township have a combined population of approximately 190,000.

The Langley RCMP have already bought an equipped unmarked car for the program, and the detachment's mental health liaison unit is ready to go.

Langley RCMP already take part in the Langley Interagency Frontline Table, "LIFT", a regular meeting with other local agencies advocating for individuals and families at risk. Similar to LIFT, there have been many individuals, groups, and organisations advocating for better outcomes, serving the community and helping to create safe spaces for those struggling with complex mental health needs, to receive the help they need and deserve.

Langley City's Citizens' Assembly also called for a MICR program.

Though there has been ongoing advocacy from community organizations, our local MLA, Jody Toor, and local governments for the provincial government to fund this program in Langley, the province has not yet committed to funding. A pilot program would serve a few purposes: it would get this critical program started more quickly and it would support the development of a business case to strengthen future provincial funding requests.

Fraser Health defines a Mobile Integrated Crisis Response unit as: a unit which responds to individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis, provides crisis intervention, risk assessments and referrals to mental health professionals and/or victim services. A MICR unit also provides assistance to RCMP officers dealing with situations involving domestic violence and serves residents of Surrey and the Semiahmoo and Tsawwassen First Nations.