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VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT PLANNING, RESEARCH & AUDIT SECTION

September 22, 2010

Report Prepared by the Organizational Planning Unit

Subject: *Evaluation of Vancouver Police Department's Beach Patrol Program*

Assignment

The Planning, Research & Audit (PR&A) Section was asked to complete an evaluation of the Vancouver Police Department's (VPD) Beach Patrol program for the summer of 2010. The evaluation was to provide an assessment on the overall effectiveness of the increased police presence on Vancouver's beaches as well as to gather and assess results from the public opinion and Vancouver Park Board employee surveys. A specific focus on the use of Beach Patrol's All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) was also to be included.

Background

In the summer of 2003, in response to increasing levels of violent crime and disorder issues, the VPD initiated a dedicated Beach Patrol unit to establish and maintain a strong visible police presence on the beaches in District Four. The deployment of ATVs, as well as bike patrol was implemented as part of the Beach Patrol program as an innovative method of patrolling areas not normally accessible by traditional patrol vehicles. The Beach Patrol program was an overwhelming success and was repeated in 2004. However, the program could not continue as a permanent initiative due to a lack of manpower and resources as a result of a large number of unanticipated retirements. As a result, the program was not implemented again until 2007 after intense criticism in the fall of 2006 resulting from an increase in public disorder on Vancouver's beaches.

The Beach Patrol program has operated in five of the last eight years, providing a visible and proactive police enforcement initiative to maintain order on Vancouver's beaches. Beach Patrol is a dedicated policing unit that deploys officers on horses, bikes, boats, and ATVs. The Beach Patrol program's primary geographic responsibility is Vancouver's West Side beaches, with ATVs deployed only on District Four beach areas. The Beach Patrol unit not only increases public safety through regular patrol, they educate the public on issues such as fires, parking and public drinking of liquor. As well, Beach Patrol can respond to calls for service on and around the beaches which frees regular patrol members to respond to calls in District Four. The Beach

Patrol unit also liaises with the Vancouver Park Board to assist with any related matters on the beaches and surrounding areas.

Research and Analysis

The beaches in Districts One and Four present a challenge to the VPD as the terrain in the area varies greatly from smooth concrete to uneven grass, loose gravel and sand. As a result, some areas are not easily accessible by traditional patrol vehicles and bicycles. As well, the beaches in District Four extend from Science World to the University of British Columbia's Endowment lands; therefore foot patrol is not practical as the time to respond to calls would greatly increase.

To assess the impact of VPD's Beach Patrol data was extracted between 2007 and 2010. Although the deployment of ATVs was implemented in 2003 and continued for five of the past eight years, the VPD implemented the Versaterm Computer Aided Dispatch in 2005; therefore the Department has reliable calls for service data from that point. As well, ATVs were not deployed again after 2004 until 2007 and continued in 2008 and again in 2010. An analysis across 2007-2010 will provide an assessment of whether the deployment of ATVs has made a positive impact given that ATVs were not utilized in 2009.

CAD data was extracted from 2007 to 2010 to determine whether calls for service have changed as a result of an increased police presence on District Four beaches. Given the specific geographic location of the Beach Patrol program, data was extracted for the atoms¹ in which the District Four beaches are located. The utilization of atoms is essential when extracting data given coverage and proximity to the areas of interest. This method ensures that the analysis will be most representative to the units of study.

The following table demonstrates the total number of calls for service across the five beach areas in District Four between 2007 and 2010.

Table 1: District Four Beach Areas – Calls for Service

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kitsilano Beach | 185 | 180 | 200 | 191 |
| Jericho Beach | 125 | 116 | 97 | 99 |
| Spanish Banks | 115 | 149 | 84 | 91 |
| Locarno Beach | 49 | 55 | 19 | 43 |
| Vanier Park | 54 | 40 | 54 | 39 |
| Total Calls | 528 | 540 | 454 | 463 |

¹ The atoms included in the District 4 Beach Patrol program include: 'VA0035', 'VA0252', 'VA2259', 'VA3181', 'VA4338'

Results demonstrate an inconsistent trend between the years the ATVs were deployed and when they were not utilized (2009). Although there are increases in calls for service in 2009 compared to 2007 and 2008 for Kitsilano Beach and Vanier Park, total calls for service decreased in 2009 compared to the years the ATVs were deployed. One potential factor to the decrease in calls is the assumption that on-view calls are expected to be higher in years the Beach Patrol program is in effect given the proactive nature of the program. To gain a better understanding, total calls for service are separated for on-view calls and total calls for service.

Table 2: District Four Beach Areas – Calls for Service Differentiating On-View and Regular Calls

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Calls for Service (All Beach Areas) | 528 | 540 | 454 | 463 |
| On-View | 317 | 399 | 258 | 317 |
| Excluding On-View | 211 | 141 | 196 | 146 |

Table 2 demonstrates total calls for service across all five beach areas including a breakdown of on-view calls and exclusion of on-view calls. These results are more representative of the Beach Patrol program given the expected increase of on-view calls with a more visible police presence on the beaches. In 2009, the number of on-view calls was significantly lower than other years that deployed the ATVs. The number of on-view calls will ultimately increase the total number of calls for service; therefore, differentiating between on-view and regular calls is more representative to the program study.

By examining the number of regular calls compared to on-view calls, results demonstrate a 39% increase in 2009 from 2008 and a subsequent 26% decrease in calls in 2010. This decline coincides with the re-deployment of ATVs in 2010. The increased police presence in beach areas is likely a strong deterrent for individuals causing disorder thereby increasing the number of calls received in 2009. To control for citywide trends in calls for service, CAD data was extracted for all four districts to determine whether the increase in 2009 was experienced citywide.

Figure 1: Citywide Calls for Service

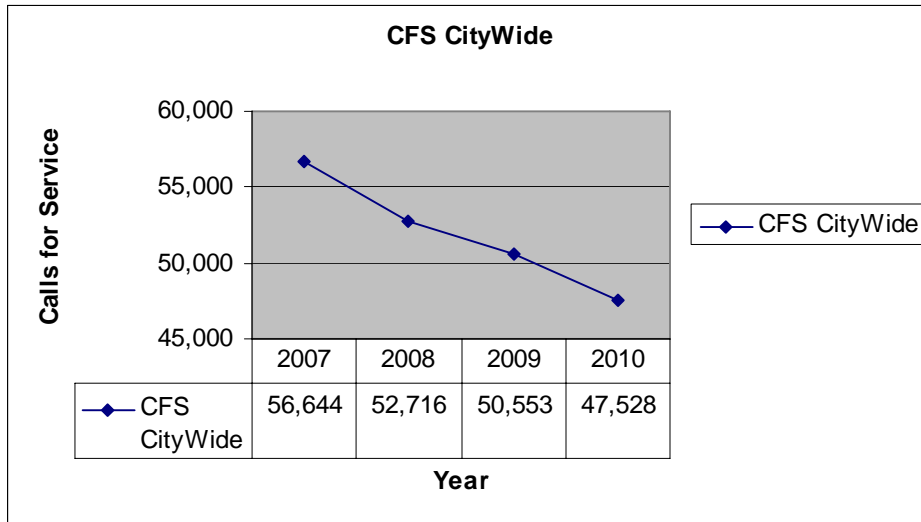


Figure 1 provides citywide calls for service data in the study period from 2007 to 2010. Results demonstrate that calls have been decreasing consistently between 2007 and 2010. More specifically, calls for service decreased 4% from 2008 to 2009 and subsequently decreased 6% between 2009 and 2010. In controlling for citywide trends in calls for service, these results are indicative that ATVs have likely made a positive impact on calls for service across the District Four beach areas.

Disturbance Related Calls for Service

A further examination into specific calls types is valuable to the program study given the types of disorder that are most prevalent on the beach areas. Given that a substantial amount of police resources are spent handling these types of calls, a detailed examination is necessary to determine whether Beach Patrol has had any effect on these call types. The following tables present the most common call types that are responded to on beach areas.

Table 3: Calls for Service – Disorder Related Call Types

| | FIGHTS | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| District 4 | 102 | 65 | 96 | 65 |
| Beach Areas | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 |

| | ASSAULTS | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| District 4 | 223 | 164 | 184 | 139 |
| Beach Areas | 9 | 1 | 8 | 4 |

| | DISTURBANCES | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| District 4 | 1274 | 1263 | 1340 | 1200 |
| Beach Areas | 42 | 46 | 47 | 40 |

| | LIQUOR | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| District 4 | 263 | 302 | 157 | 200 |
| Beach Areas | 175 | 234 | 115 | 183 |

| | SIP | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| District 4 | 115 | 134 | 89 | 100 |
| Beach Areas | 19 | 9 | 4 | 9 |

| | ANNOYING CIRCUMSTANCES | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| District 4 | 754 | 692 | 655 | 456 |
| Beach Areas | 28 | 20 | 24 | 14 |

Results demonstrate increases in certain disorder types such as assaults, fights, disturbances, and annoying circumstance calls on District Four beaches in 2009 compared to years that deployed the ATVs. The decrease in SIP and liquor calls is likely due to an increase in on-view calls in years with the increased police presence. Deploying more officers on the beaches, particularly on the ATVs, will increase the number of on-view calls related to liquor related disorder as more enforcement for individuals consuming alcohol or are intoxicated on the beaches is provided.

A further examination into the incidence of liquor related calls is valuable given that a significant number of calls responded to on District Four beaches are liquor related. The following table provides a breakdown of liquor CAD calls, separating on-view liquor calls to all liquor calls.

Table 4: Liquor CAD Calls – All Beach Areas

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Liquor Calls | 175 | 234 | 115 | 183 |
| On-View | 158 | 233 | 111 | 179 |
| Excluding On-View | 17 | 1 | 3 | 4 |

When comparing the years ATVs were deployed, liquor calls in 2009 were substantially lower than 2007, 2008 and 2010. One of the primary complaints of disorder on or around the beaches is public consumption of alcohol and intoxication. The deployment of the ATVs provides additional police presence on and around the beaches, particularly patrolling areas that are traditionally inaccessible by vehicle or foot patrol. These areas are attractive to individuals wishing to party and consume alcohol given the lack of accessible terrain for foot or bicycle patrols. The ATVs overcome terrain obstacles and are able to respond to calls or disrupt parties in more discrete areas.

Summary

Overall, the VPD's Beach Patrol program had a positive effect on calls for service on District Four beaches. Although total calls for service data have shown inconsistent trends between 2007 and 2010, differentiating on-view calls and total calls for service is more representative to the program study. Given that the increased police presence on District Four beaches will ultimately increase total calls for service from a proactive standpoint, results have shown significant trends that likely are a result of the Beach Patrol program. By excluding on-view calls, results demonstrate a 39% increase in calls for service in 2009 compared to 2008 while citywide trends have shown a consistent decrease in calls for service between 2007 and 2010. The subsequent decrease of 25% in 2010 is likely due to the increased presence of Beach Patrol members, including the re-deployment of the ATVs.

Beach Patrol Daily Incident Reports

In addition to positive impacts on calls for service on District Four beach areas, VPD's Beach Patrol program has also contributed to increases in proactive activities for issues such as liquor pour-outs, by-law tickets, extinguishing fires, and assisting patrol in Districts One and Four. These proactive measures were tracked daily by Beach Patrol members in 2010 by completing Beach Incident Reports at the end of their shifts. The Beach Incident Reports were utilized to track a number of activities specific to Beach Patrol including: liquor involved incidents and violation tickets, liquor pour outs, by-law tickets, fires extinguished, patrol assists, etc. The results of these reports are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5: Beach Patrol Incident Reports

| | Liquor Involved Incidents ² | Liquor VT | Liquor Pour Outs & Destroyed | MV VT | 215 ³ | By-Law Tickets | Fires Extinguished | Patrol Assists | GOs |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| June | 55 | 7 | 1815 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 66 | 53 | 2 |
| July | 45 | 45 | 3626 | 10 | 2 | 127 | 72 | 38 | 80 |
| August | 4 | 10 | 1571 | 18 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 52 | 73 |
| September | 0 | 6 | 117 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| Totals | 104 | 68 | 7129 | 31 | 3 | 158 | 149 | 151 | 160 |

² These incidents are based on Beach Patrol member's contact with liquor involved incidents on the beaches; it does not necessarily reflect CAD or General Occurrences data.

³ A 215 is a 24-hour roadside suspension for impaired driving.

Overall, VPD’s Beach Patrol has completed 7129 liquor pour-outs, issued 158 by-law tickets, extinguished 149 fires and assisted patrol with 151 calls, among other activities. These measures contribute to maintaining order on Vancouver’s beaches by removing a significant amount of liquor and likely preventing a large number of liquor related offences from occurring. As well, the use of Beach Patrol for calls specific to the beaches frees up more resources for use in the rest of District Four.

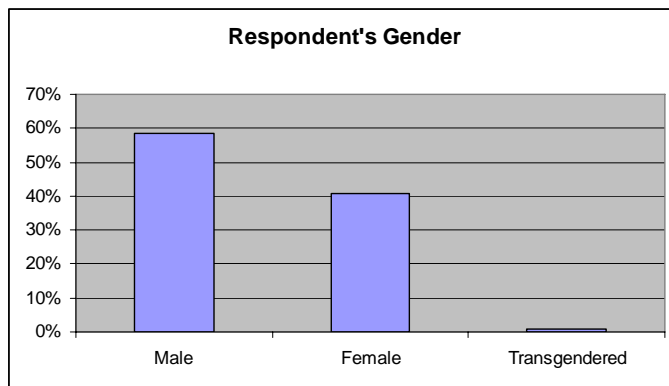
Public Opinion Survey

In evaluating the overall effectiveness of the Beach Patrol program, PR&A developed a public opinion survey to determine the level of public support. The survey was made available online on VPD’s external website, a copy of which can be found in Appendix A. A poster was also created and posted at concessions stands and washrooms at Vancouver’s beaches to encourage the public to visit the VPD’s website and complete the survey. Beach patrol members were also requested to inform members of the public of the survey through public interaction during their shifts. As well, a crime alert was disseminated to select postal codes⁴ across the City of Vancouver to residents surrounding the beaches in Districts One and Four.

The survey contained a total of 10 questions focused primarily on past and current issues of beach disorder and personal feelings of safety, along with a section for additional comments. As well, a number of questions specifically focused on the deployment of ATVs and whether or not the public would like the Beach Patrol Program to continue. The survey was available online for the public to participate between August 5, 2010 and September 7, 2010. Overall, there were 950 individuals that completed the public opinion survey.

The general demographics of the respondents are as follows:

Table 6: Survey Respondent’s Gender



⁴ A crime alert was disseminated to the following postal codes: 'V6G', 'V6E', 'V6Z', 'V6J', 'V6K', 'V6R', 'V6T'

Table 7: Age of Respondents

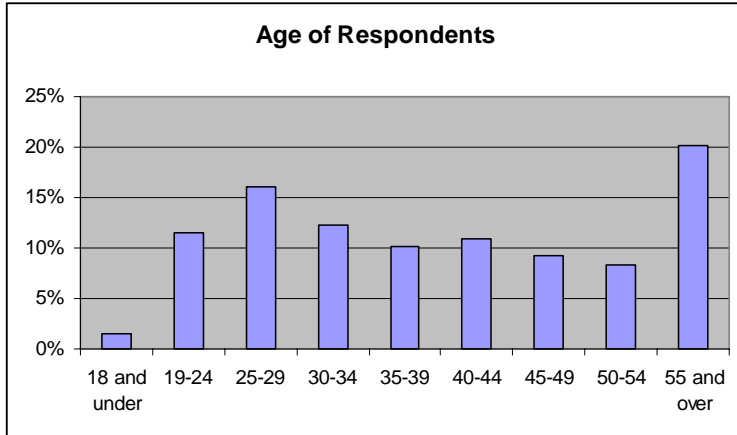


Table 8: Frequency of Beach Use

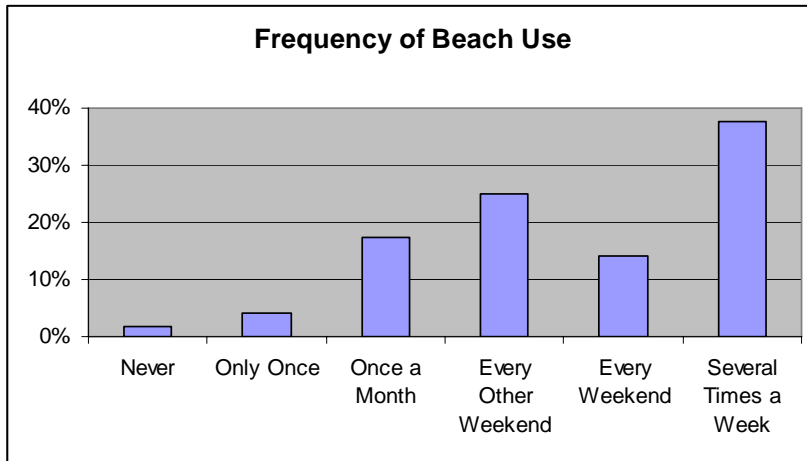
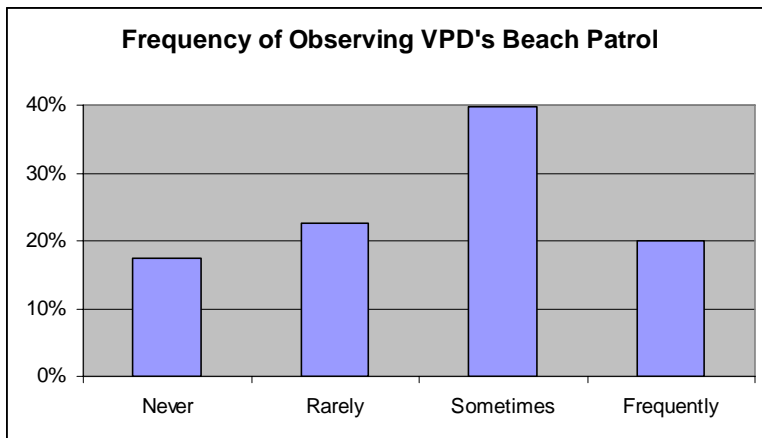


Table 9: Frequency of Observing Beach Patrol



Opinions on Beach Disorder

Survey respondents were asked to assess the frequency in which they have observed the following types of disorder on Vancouver's beaches:

- Drunk and disorderly conduct
- Violence (assaults, fights)
- Property Damage
- Drug-related Offences
- Littering
- Harassment (begging, panhandling)

Individuals responded they have never observed incidents for four out of the six disorder types. For the remaining disorder types, 36% of individuals responded they rarely observed incidents of drunk and disorderly conduct and 52% responded they frequently observed littering on Vancouver's beaches. Littering is likely to be observed frequently given the considerable increase of residents and visitors attending Vancouver's beaches over the summer months. These results are positive given that the types of disorder that police resources usually respond to are incidents involving liquor, violence, property damage, and drug related offences.

Table 10: Public Perception of Beach Disorder on Vancouver Beaches

| | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Unsure |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Drunk and Disorderly Conduct | 24% | 36% | 27% | 12% | 1% |
| Violence (assaults, fights) | 62% | 28% | 7% | 1% | 2% |
| Property Damage | 53% | 28% | 13% | 3% | 3% |
| Drug Related Offences | 37% | 25% | 20% | 15% | 3% |
| Littering | 6% | 13% | 28% | 52% | 1% |
| Harassment (begging, panhandling) | 29% | 28% | 26% | 16% | 1% |

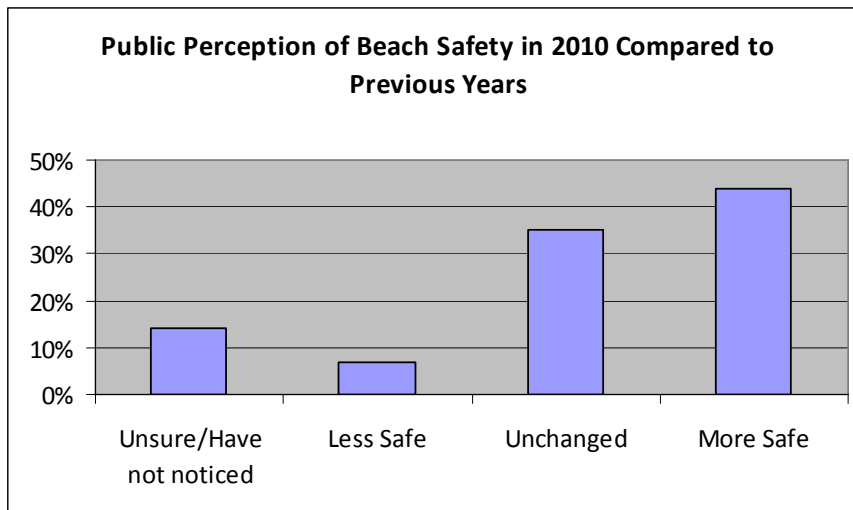
When asked about their perceptions of beach disorder on Vancouver's beaches in 2010 compared to previous years, the majority of individuals felt that all types of disorder were unchanged in 2010. These results are noteworthy given that the majority of individuals responded that four of the six disorder types were never observed on the beaches to begin with, with drunk and disorder conduct rarely being observed. As mentioned, littering is likely to be observed frequently given the higher concentration of individuals on Vancouver's beaches. Results are summarized in Table 11.

Table 11: Public Perception on Beach Disorder This Year Compared to Previous Years

| | Significantly Decreased | Slightly Decreased | Unchanged | Slightly Increased | Significantly Increased | Unsure | Did Not Attend Beaches in Previous Years |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|
| Drunk and Disorderly Conduct | 7% | 14% | 48% | 8% | 4% | 15% | 5% |
| Violence (assaults, fights) | 8% | 10% | 48% | 4% | 2% | 24% | 5% |
| Property Damage | 6% | 11% | 50% | 5% | 3% | 21% | 5% |
| Drug Related Offences | 5% | 9% | 48% | 8% | 5% | 20% | 5% |
| Littering | 4% | 8% | 45% | 15% | 11% | 12% | 5% |
| Harassment (begging, panhandling) | 5% | 10% | 48% | 10% | 6% | 17% | 5% |

Survey respondents were also asked specifically whether their perception of safety on Vancouver’s Beaches had changed in 2010 compared to previous years. Of the total 950 respondents, 44% felt that Vancouver’s beaches were safer in 2010 compared to previous years, 7% felt that the beaches were less safe, 35% felt that safety was unchanged, and 14% responded they were unsure. These results are summarized in Table 12.

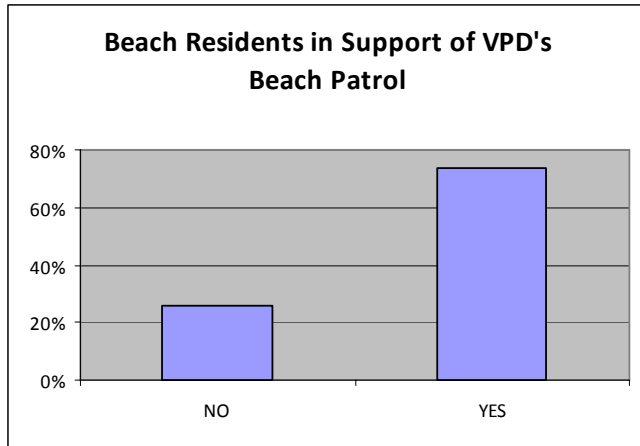
Table 12: Public Perception of Beach Safety in 2010 Compared to Previous Years



With respect to the continuation of VPD’s Beach Patrol program, 68% of respondents are in favour of the continuation of Beach Patrol. More specifically, given that the survey was completed by anyone that was aware of the program evaluation, examining the level of support of nearby beach residents is valuable given their direct exposure to beach disorder. Survey results were filtered to include only those postal codes that were used in the dissemination of the crime alert: residents surrounding the beach areas in Districts One and Four. Of the 478

respondents in these postal codes, 74% of individuals support the continuation of the beach patrol program. These results are summarized in Table 13.

Table 13: Beach Residents in Support of VPD’s Beach Patrol



To focus on the deployment of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), one question specifically asked respondents to comment on the following statements:

- The ATVs make police more visible on the beaches
- The ATVs are noisy
- Police on ATVs respond more quickly to incidents on the beach compared to police in vehicles or on foot

Overall, the majority of respondents agreed with all three statements. These results are positive given that the primary purpose of the ATV deployment is to create a visible presence on the beaches and that they are able to respond more quickly to incidents on the beach. Specifically, 48% of respondents strongly agreed that the ATVs make police more visible on the beaches and 32% strongly agreed that police on ATVs respond more quickly to incidents on the beaches than police in a vehicle or on foot. Although 36% of individuals responded that the ATVs are noisy, 49% of respondents either disagreed or felt neutral with regards to this statement. Results are summarized in Table 14.

Table 14: Public Perception of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on Beaches

| | Strongly Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Neutral | Somewhat Agree | Strongly Agree |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| The ATVs make police more visible on the beaches | 8% | 6% | 13% | 25% | 48% |
| The ATVs are noisy | 10% | 15% | 24% | 15% | 36% |
| Police on ATVs respond more quickly to incidents on the beaches than Police in a vehicle or on foot | 12% | 12% | 23% | 22% | 32% |

Respondents were also provided an open-ended question to provide additional feedback and comments with regards to the Beach Patrol program. A total of 385 individuals responded with additional comments specific to Beach Patrol. Overall, of the 385 comments, 38% of respondents provided additional support for the Beach Patrol program and the ATVs. The following are a few examples of the comments that were provided (the remainder of supportive comments can be found in Appendix C):

“It is wonderful to have the VPD on ATVs on the beaches. They can get right onto the beach and see things behind logs that officers up by the walkway cannot spot -- e.g. beer and fires. Just their presence on the beach deters big drunken parties, and they are able to diffuse and disband problem groups with greater efficiency than the beach lifeguards. The officers are careful to keep the bikes quiet and not stir up the dust when it is very dry. There is a great PR value, too -- kids love seeing the officers on the ATVs. Keep them -- they make a difference!”

“ATV's make the police far more efficient on the sand and in surrounding park areas. I'm disappointed not to see them on English Bay and Stanley Park as well as their return to only Kits. They are significantly quieter than older models and the officers are quite respectful with the operation, unless they seem to be responding to an emergency call when they have to speed up.”

“I am disabled and for many years never went to see the fireworks. This year I felt very safe going to the beach because of the ATV patrolling the beach - we were at Spanish Banks..... I do believe that the police patrolling the beaches kept it a very safe place for young and old to enjoy the event. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.”

As for the use of ATVs, 62% of the 385 comments were not supportive of ATV deployment. The following are the most commonly stated reasons for those opposed to ATVs:

- ATVs are disruptive, polluting, and aggressive (25%)
- Tax dollars should be allocated to more important issues (22%)
- Respondents prefer patrol on foot, bicycle or horseback (15%)

The following are a few examples of the comments that were provided (the remainder of non-supportive comments can be found in Appendix D):

“While I understand the beach patrols are well-intended I have found that these patrols are the single most disruptive presence on Vancouver's beaches. There is nothing that can more quickly ruin a tranquil sunset on the beach than the sight and sound of the ATVs approaching. They are incredibly noisy and aggressive - they pollute and they are a disruptive and unsightly presence. I have never been bothered by whatever disruptive behaviour these patrols are intended to root-out but I am consistently disturbed by the patrols themselves. Thank you VPD for the efforts that you make in keeping our city safer

but it's time to leave the beach to be enjoyed by the beach-goers and start redirecting your valuable services where they are needed...and wanted."

"The beach patrols are noise, intrusive, polluting, and make ordinary people enjoying the beach uncomfortable. When the ATVs pass by, we all feel under surveillance. Valuable police resources and manpower should be allocated elsewhere in the city, where they are really needed. Regular police cruisers stationed in a couple of key places off the beach, or occasional foot patrols, would do to prevent petty crime and disturbances. Overall, the regular presence of the beach patrol has negatively affected my family's enjoyment of Vancouver's wonderful beaches. Thank you for giving us ordinary citizens the possibility to voice our opinions. Best regards."

Summary of Public Opinion Survey

The results of the survey demonstrate that the general public felt safer on Vancouver's Beaches in 2010 compared to previous years. Although respondents found that incidents of the six specific disorder types were for the most part unchanged in 2010 compared to previous years, they also stated they generally did not observe the disorder to begin with. Of the 950 individuals that completed the survey, 68% are in support of the continuation of the Beach Patrol program with 75% of residents living in areas surrounding the beach areas.

With regards to the use of ATVs, the majority of respondents agreed that ATVs create a visible police presence on the beaches and that officers on ATVs are able to respond more quickly to incidents on the beach than officers in a vehicle or on foot. Although a number of respondents consider the ATVs as noisy, 49% disagreed or felt neutral in relation to this statement. Overall, although the general public did not observe the incidence of disorder as decreasing, respondents generally feel that beaches were safer in 2010 compared to previous years.

Vancouver Park Board Employee Survey

In addition to the public opinion survey on Beach Patrol, a survey was also distributed to Vancouver Park Board employees to collect their opinions on VPD's Beach Patrol. The survey was accessible online on the Vancouver Park Board employee intranet site, a copy of which can be found in Appendix B. A poster was also created and posted at work sites within the Park Board to encourage employees that normally do not have computer access to visit the intranet site and participate in the survey.

The survey contained a total of ten questions focused specifically on beach disorder and employee's perception of safety on Vancouver's beaches. Overall, a total of 65 Vancouver Park Board employees completed the survey.

The general demographics of the respondents are as follows:

Table 15: Respondent's Work Division

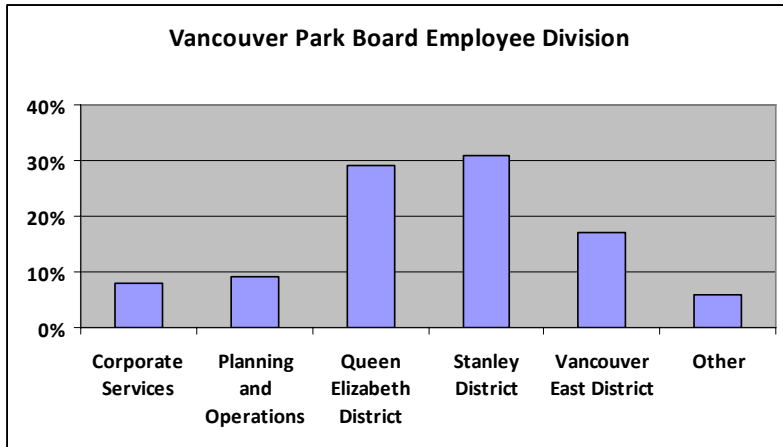
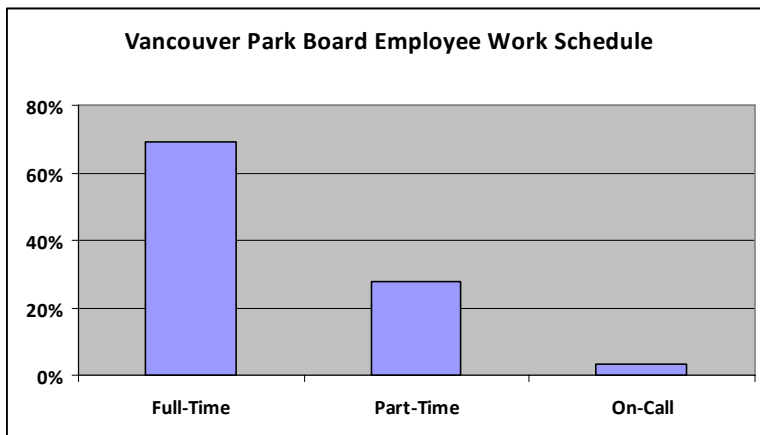
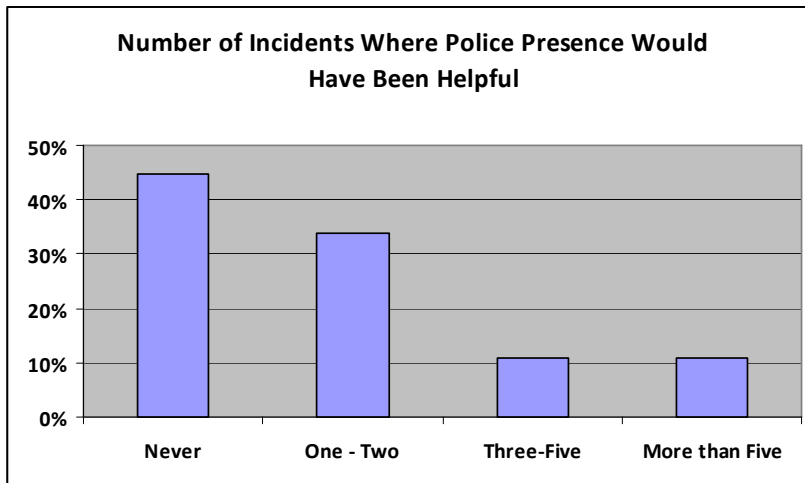


Table 16: Employee's Schedule



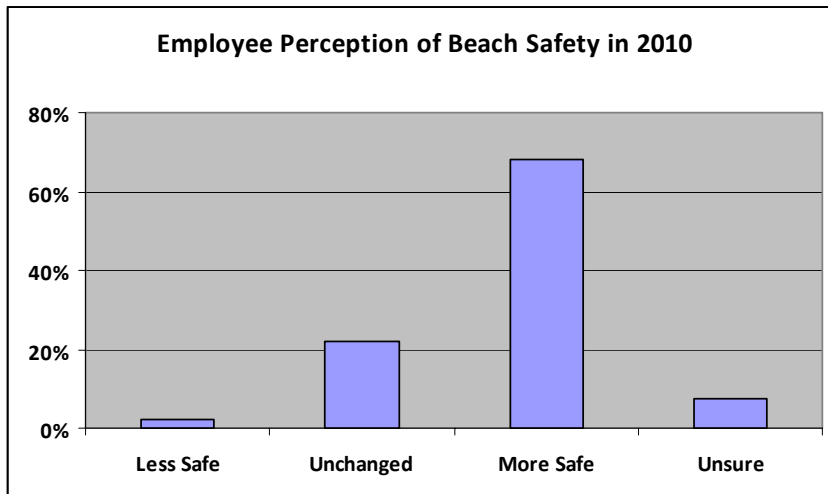
Survey respondents were asked to provide their feedback on the number of incidents they had been involved in at Vancouver beaches where the VPD was not in attendance but police assistance would have been helpful. Overall, 45% of individuals have never been involved in any incidents, 34% have been involved in one or two and 11% have been involved in three to five and more than five incidents. Results are summarized in Table 17 on the following page.

Table 17: Number of Incidents Where VPD Was Not in Attendance but Would Have Been Helpful



Vancouver Park Board employees were also asked their perceptions of beach safety in 2010 compared to previous years. Overall, 68% of respondents felt that the beaches were safer in 2010 compared to previous years whereas 3% believed the beaches to be less safe than previous years. Results are summarized in Table 18.

Table 18: Vancouver Park Board Employee's Perception of Beach Safety in 2010 Compared to Previous Years



With regards to the use of ATVs, survey respondents were also asked their opinions on the following statements:

- The ATVs make police more visible on the beaches
- The ATVs are noisy
- Police on ATVs are able to respond more quickly to incidents on the beach compared to police in a vehicle or on foot

Overall, 49% of employees strongly agreed that ATVs make police more visible on the beaches and police on ATVs respond more quickly to incidents on the beaches than police in a vehicle or on foot. 34% of individuals were neutral on the statement that the ATVs are noisy. Results are summarized in Table 19.

Table 19: Employee Perception on ATVs

| | Strongly Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Neutral | Somewhat Agree | Strongly Agree |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| The ATVs make police more visible on the beaches | 3% | 15% | 14% | 19% | 49% |
| The ATVs are noisy | 12% | 9% | 34% | 23% | 22% |
| Police on ATVs respond more quickly to incidents on the beaches than Police in a vehicle or on foot | 8% | 5% | 20% | 19% | 49% |

Finally, survey respondents were asked whether or not they support the continuation of the Beach Patrol program. Of the 65 employees that completed the survey, 91% of respondents are in favour of continuing the Beach Patrol program. A number of employees also provided additional comments that reflect their experiences with beach disorder and interactions with Beach Patrol members. The following are a few of the comments in support of the program:

“Great program, makes a huge difference in having the beaches orderly and enjoyable for all. The program is especially beneficial from 10 pm onwards when most Park Board staff is done working and when a majority of the problem activities (beach fires, drinking, drugs, raves, etc.) occur. Please keep the Beach Patrol!!!!”

“I think having the VPD on the beach is one of the best things Vancouver has done. It makes the environment much safer for beach users and I think it would draw in more beach users and families to enjoy.”

In addition to increasing public safety on Vancouver’s beaches, the Beach Patrol unit has also made a safer work environment for the Park Board staff that maintains and operates the beaches in Districts One and Four. Vancouver Park Board employees overwhelmingly support the continuation of the Beach Patrol program and strongly agree that ATVs increase police presence as well as provide a faster response to incidents on the beach.

All Terrain Vehicle (ATVs) Deployment

Since 2003, the VPD has deployed ATVs in five of the eight years that Beach Patrol has been operational to increase mobility on the beaches and surrounding areas. The ATVs have generally been short term donations to the VPD or leases. Compared to foot or bike patrol,

VPD officers on ATVs are able to patrol a large area of the beaches in a fast and efficient manner. Due to terrain challenges on and around Vancouver beaches, ATVs enable rapid response to incidents as well as attend locations that normally are not accessible by foot or even bicycle patrol. ATVs are particularly effective in patrolling large crowds at public events such as the Celebration of Light fireworks that are held every summer on Vancouver's beaches. Members are able to respond efficiently through large crowds as well as to effectively disperse large groups at the end of the shows.

Members on ATVs have received considerable support from the public as well as from lifeguards on District One and Four beaches. Lifeguards particularly support Beach Patrol members on ATVs given their assistance with issues directly on the beaches such as dispersing large groups of party goers as well as controlling individuals causing disorder on the beaches. Beach Patrol also assists the Fire Department by extinguishing fires before the public has the opportunity to call for assistance. This ultimately results in less resources being required to respond to calls on the beaches.

Beach Patrol members on ATVs are able to respond to incidents that traditionally would not have been as efficient if responded to on foot or bike. For example, in 2010, Beach Patrol was called by Locarno Beach lifeguards regarding two boys that had gone missing. The two boys had been missing for approximately three hours before the lifeguards called the VPD. The boys were then located by Beach Patrol members on ATVs within 40 minutes of the call. Apparently the boys had been further west on the beach in the bushes building a fort. This is one of many examples in which members on ATVs responded to a call more efficiently than officers on foot or bike patrol.

Environmental Impact

One of the primary complaints against the use of ATVs is that they are noisy and are not environmentally friendly. The following will provide an assessment of Beach Patrol's current ATVs as well as a carbon footprint analysis and noise pollution assessment.

2010 Leased ATVs

All new and replacement equipment in the City of Vancouver's fleet go through an environmental and right-sizing review process. This is to ensure that the equipment will meet the user's operational needs and that the selected equipment has the best combination of fuel efficiency and cost effectiveness. This has been the procedure with the ATV acquisition for the VPD. Vendors were requested and encouraged to provide alternative power plant options such as bio-diesel or electric during procurement.

As a result of that process, the VPD leased three 2008 Honda Fourtrax (4x4) Ranchers. The ATVs have 420 cubic centimetre engine to meet the operational requirements of the Beach Patrol unit and meet current California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) off-road emissions standards. The United States emissions standards are harmonized with those of Japan and the European Union, which have some of the most stringent requirements in the world. Canadian manufacturers also abide by the EPA standards as a result of a memorandum of understanding. As the standards are tiered, each year brings tougher requirements. Given the current technology, the ATVs leased by the VPD are among the most fuel efficient off-road vehicles.

Noise Pollution

Honda advises that this unit is one of their quieter ATV models. Two of the ATV units were tested for their noise levels. To give some context to the results, it might be helpful to know that sustained exposure at the 90-95 decibel levels may result in hearing loss, and normal conversation generally registers around 60-70 decibels. The results of the two ATVs are below; it is clear that the VPD ATVs have a lower decibel level than the upper thresholds for the tests.

| Test | ATV 1 (dBA) | ATV 2 (dBA) | Upper Threshold |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Set rpm test (idle) | 79.1 | 79.6 | 92 |
| Swept rpm test (high rpm) | 92.0 | 93.2 | 100 |

Although the VPD's ATVs are one of the quieter models, one option to reduce noise levels is to use a device which reduces the noise level by 6-10 decibels. The device is inexpensive and requires minimal effort to install. However, once the device is installed in the tailpipe, the ATV would experience a reduction in power output. Honda advises that this reduction could be as much as 10 percent. This may mean that the ATVs would become less fuel efficient as a result. The VPD will need to further examine options to reduce the level of noise associated with the ATVs without compromising the fuel efficiency.

Impact to the Environment

Very little research has been devoted to examining the impact of ATVs on the environment directly. However, some researchers have pointed out that the ATVs have potential to damage small plants and animals and to carry contaminants through the off-road area. For example, the ATVs could carry seeds from invasive plants to new areas or move a pesticide from an area it's needed/used, to an area that cannot tolerate the pesticide. In addition, research in Alberta (2002) showed that there was an increase in the number of fires in Alberta forests that were ignited by an ATV. Ignition can occur as a result of sparking, or a hot engine being placed too close to dry plant life.

In the case of the ATV use by the VPD for Beach Patrol, these concerns are generally not warranted. The areas patrolled are high traffic areas, with the exception of one end of Locarno Beach. However VPD calls to this area are typically the result of callers complaining of larger groups of people gathering with bonfires etc. As a result, there is little chance for the ATVs creating environmental damage. There is little wildlife or plants on the beaches directly and it is

less common that the ATVs would be parked near dry grasses. The Honda ATVs are equipped with a spark arrester exhaust system thus sparking should not be an issue. Instructions to the riders can also mitigate the risks of fires associated with dry grasses/plants or other flammables that may be on the beaches.

Carbon Footprint

It is important to assess the use of the ATV from a carbon footprint standpoint as well to give an overall picture of its environmental impact, particularly in comparison to patrol vehicles. If the ATVs were not being used, the three ATV officers would be travelling in two Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (two officers in one vehicle and one in the other) to get around, and then walking the beaches when necessary. However, they would be on general patrol, not dedicated to the beaches. The ATVs are currently used in place of the Crown Victoria patrol vehicles.

Carbon footprint analysis using the formula developed by the VPD Audit Unit and Equipment Services shows that the ATVs have a significantly lower carbon footprint than the Interceptors. The three Beach Patrol ATVs drove roughly 6,715 kilometres and consumed a total of 745 litres of gasoline over 165 officer-shifts in 2010. This corresponds to an average fuel consumption of 11.09 L/100 km or 10.6 kg of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per shift. The total carbon footprint attributable to the Beach Patrol ATVs would be 1.8 metric tonnes.

If each Beach Patrol officer had driven a Ford Patrol Crown Victoria Police Interceptor instead of an ATV (each in a single-officer unit), they would have generated an average of 48 kg of CO₂ per shift. Over 165 shifts, this would have represented 7.9 metric tonnes of CO₂. If Beach Patrol officers had been divided into a 60-40 deployment split with 60% riding in a two-officer unit and 40% riding in a single-officer unit, the total carbon footprint would have been 5.5 metric tonnes.

Alternatives to the ATV

The ATV allows for the best coverage of the beaches in Vancouver because it is able to handle the terrain better than a bicycle or a person walking or running down the beaches for patrol purposes. It is able to cover more territory than an officer on a bicycle or on foot. In addition, foot patrols and bicycle members are limited in terms of the equipment that can be carried. This limitation does not apply to officers on an ATV. One of the three ATVs has a laptop computer connected to police systems to allow on the "road" report writing and access to information that is otherwise more difficult or time consuming to access. Moreover, the ATVs allow officers to carry equipment that allows them to be self-sufficient. For example, they carry ticket books, by law manuals for parks, rope, rain gear, and tools to destroy fires like shovels and extinguishers.

In fact, the officers on ATVs are often able to put out fires before the Fire Department arrives on scene. This results in the Fire Department being available for life threatening calls for

service, and reduces the time a fire truck sits idling near the beaches to deal with smaller fires. As discussed above, the environmental impact of the ATV is minimal and the VPD has made every effort in concert with Equipment Services to ensure that the vehicles acquired by the VPD are the most efficient. However, there are other types of vehicles that have been considered, apart from the gas powered ATVs. Unfortunately, at this time none are operationally feasible for the VPD.

Electric or hybrid ATVs would be the best alternatives. In a purely electric model, the ATV would use no gasoline or diesel and thus emissions would be non-existent. Environmentally speaking, the electric versions would be much improved over the gasoline or diesel versions. However, depending on the source of the electricity, there could be significant carbon footprint implications (e.g. coal sourced electricity versus hydro). Hybrids would also improve the fuel efficiency of the ATV, however, would still have some tailpipe emissions and would have similar considerations regarding the source of the electricity. In addition, use of an electric or hybrid ATV would address many of the noise concerns from the public. Though electric ATVs are currently manufactured and available for purchase, they do not currently meet operational need. At this point, the average battery life is approximately two hours, though they may last longer depending on the type of riding being done. Improvements in battery technology will make this option more feasible from an operational perspective.

Given that the VPD abides by a sustainable replacement vehicle strategy, it is expected that at the time of replacement for the 2010 ATVs (if purchased), technology will be in place to make the electric or hybrid ATVs a viable option for the VPD. In the meantime, Equipment Services strongly advocates for the VPD to test the electric models currently available to better assess their strengths and limitations from a policing perspective. This is something that the VPD will be examining in the future.

Conclusion

VPD's Beach Patrol program provides a visible police presence on Vancouver's beaches thereby producing a safer environment for Vancouver residents and visitors to enjoy. The use of ATVs enables quick response to calls on or around the beaches, specifically in areas not easily accessible by traditional police vehicles or foot and bike patrol. Liquor related incidents are prevalent on the beaches with many remote areas along the beaches being used as gathering places for individuals to party. ATVs are able to overcome obstacles such as bushes, trails and sand which normally are considered challenges by officers on foot or bike. The Beach Patrol unit has received overwhelming support from the public, Vancouver Park Board employees, and lifeguards on District One and Four beaches.

By examining calls for service data between 2007 and 2010, it is apparent that Beach Patrol is making a positive impact on beach disorder, particularly through proactive measures. The years in which the ATVs were deployed demonstrate increases in on-view incidents as well as officer initiated activities such as liquor pour-outs and extinguishing fires. Calls for service increased significantly in 2009, the one year in our analysis that did not deploy the ATVs, with a

subsequent 25% decrease in 2010. This decline in calls is likely due to the re-deployment of ATVs in 2010 given that citywide trends in calls for service have consistently been declining from 2007 and 2010.

Results from both the public opinion and the Vancouver Park Board employee surveys demonstrate overwhelming support in favour of continuing the Beach Patrol program. Survey results indicate that the majority of respondents felt safer on Vancouver's Beaches in 2010 compared to previous years. Although a number of respondents provided comments opposed to the use of ATVs, a large number of individuals strongly agreed that the ATVs provide an increased police presence on the beaches as well as provide a faster response to incidents on the beaches compared to police in vehicle or on foot.

Alternatives to VPD's current ATVs as well as a carbon footprint and noise pollution analysis indicate that our current deployment provides the best option for the Beach Patrol program. Results show that the ATVs produce a considerably lower carbon footprint than traditional police vehicles that would be deployed if ATVs were removed from our fleet. As well, the noise levels produced from our ATVs are lower than the threshold for the tests. A comparison of electric and hybrid models was also provided however, the emission levels and battery life of these alternatives is not conducive to VPD's operational needs. Overall, VPD's current models provide a quiet and environmentally friendly model for the Beach Patrol program.

The considerable success that the Beach Patrol program has experienced should encourage the Department to continue with the Beach Patrol unit. The ATVs provide an efficient alternative to traditional patrol deployment and are able to overcome the challenges of a beach environment. The Beach Patrol unit provides a strong proactive police presence on Vancouver's beaches with overwhelming support from the public to continue.

Appendix A

VPD's Beach Patrol Public Opinion Survey

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has implemented a Beach Patrol Program at Vancouver beaches to decrease beach disorder and increase public safety. This program includes VPD members patrolling the beaches using horses, boats, bikes, foot patrol and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

The VPD is seeking your opinion on VPD's Beach Patrol at Vancouver's beaches. Your opinions are valuable and necessary to assess and determine the continuation of this program, and we would appreciate your participation in a short survey.

This survey will ask your opinions about beach disorder and public safety. Responses are entirely confidential, and the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

1. **What are the first three digits of your postal code?** _ _ _ _ _

2. **What is your gender:**
 - Male
 - Female
 - Transgendered

3. **What is your age:**
 - 18 and Under
 - 19-24
 - 25-29
 - 30-34
 - 35-39
 - 40-44
 - 45-49
 - 50-54
 - 55 and Over

4. **In general, what statement best describes how many times you visited Vancouver beaches this summer?**
 - I've never visited the beaches
 - Only once
 - Once a month
 - Every other weekend
 - Every weekend
 - Several times per week

5. **If you have visited Vancouver beaches, which statement best describes how many times you have seen VPD's Beach Patrol?**
 - I have not visited Vancouver's beaches this summer
 - I've never seen VPD's Beach Patrol
 - Rarely

- Sometimes
- Frequently

6. How frequently have you observed the following types of beach disorder at Vancouver beaches?

Never Rarely Sometimes Frequently Unsure

- Drunk and disorderly conduct
- Violence (assaults, fights)
- Property Damage
- Drug related offences
- Littering
- Harassment (begging, panhandling)

7. Compared to previous years, how do you think the following types of beach disorder have changed on Vancouver beaches this summer?

Significantly Decreased Slightly Decreased Unchanged Slightly Increased Significantly Increased Unsure

- Drunk and disorderly conduct
- Violence (assaults, fights)
- Property Damage
- Drug related offences
- Littering
- Harassment (begging, panhandling)

8. As a result of this year's Beach Patrol, do you think that Vancouver beaches are:

- Significantly more safe
- Slightly more safe
- Unchanged
- Slightly less safe
- Significantly less safe
- Unsure/Have not noticed

9. Thinking of Beach Patrol's use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on the beaches, please state how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

The ATVs make police more visible on the beaches
The ATVs are noisy
Police on ATVs respond more quickly to incidents on the beaches than Police in a vehicle or on foot

10. Would you like to see the VPD's Beach Patrol continue in the future?

Yes

No

11. Additional Comments:

Thank you for your participation!



Appendix B

VPD's Beach Patrol – Vancouver Park Board Opinion Survey

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has implemented a Beach Patrol Program at Vancouver beaches to decrease beach disorder and increase public safety. This program includes VPD members patrolling the beaches using horses, boats, bikes, foot patrol and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

The VPD is seeking your opinion on VPD's Beach Patrol at Vancouver's beaches. Your opinions are valuable and necessary to assess and determine the continuation of this program, and we would appreciate your participation in a short survey.

This survey will ask your opinions about beach disorder and public safety. Responses are entirely confidential, and the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

1. What area of the Park Board do you work in?

2. What statement best describes your employment with Vancouver Park Board?

- Full-Time
- Part-Time
- On-Call
- Volunteer

3. In your current position, what statement best describes your current working hours.

- Only Weekdays
- Weekdays and Weekends
- Only Weekends
- On-Call

4. In general, what statement best describes how many times you interact with VPD's Beach Patrol this summer?

- Never
- 1-2 times per week
- 3-5 times per week
- Daily
- Several times per day

5. How frequently have you observed the following types of beach disorder at Vancouver's beaches this summer?

Never Rarely Sometimes Frequently Unsure

Drunk and disorderly conduct
Violence (assaults, fights)
Harassment (begging,
panhandling)
Property Damage
Drug Related Offences
Littering

6. Compared to previous years, how do you think the following types of beach disorder have changed on beaches this summer?

Significantly Slightly Unchanged Slightly Significantly *Don't*
Decreased Decreased Increased Increased *Know*

Drunk and disorderly conduct
Violence (assaults, fights)
Harassment (begging,
panhandling)
Property Damage
Drug Related Offences
Littering

7. How many incidents have you been involved in at the beaches where the VPD was not in attendance but police assistance would have been helpful?

- None
- 1-2 times
- 3-5 times
- More than 5

8. As the result of this year's Beach Patrol, do you think that Vancouver beaches are:

- Significantly more safe
- Slightly more safe
- Unchanged
- Slightly less safe
- Significantly less safe

9. Thinking of the Beach Patrol's use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on the beaches, please state how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree

The ATVs make police more visible on the beaches

The ATVs are noisy

Police on ATVs respond more quickly to incidents on the beaches than Police in a vehicle or on foot

10. Would you like to see the VPD's Beach Patrol continue in the future?

Yes

No

11. Additional Comments:

Thank you for your participation!



Appendix C

Supportive Comments on Beach Patrol and the use of ATVs

- As a long time Jericho Beach goer, I would have to say that 2009 was the very worst year we have ever seen in terms of day time drinking, drug use and rowdiness. The improvement this year over last year is incredible! Jericho Beach is once again a family friendly place and I have no doubt that the high visibility of the VPD has everything to do with this change. I have talked to A/Sgt. Steven Vanenberg and congratulated him and his team members on a job well done.

I can only hope that the Beach Patrol "Project" becomes a permanent program to ensure that all visitors to the westside beaches can confidently enjoy a safe visit to the beach.

- As residents of the Jericho neighbourhood, we definitely see less property vandalism while the beach patrol is on compared to when it is off. I think the beach patrol presence prevents the large groups from congregating and perhaps is a deterrent to some who may decide to go elsewhere. Living in this neighbourhood brings with it the reality that people will come to enjoy the beaches - the beach patrol gives us an assurance that a sense of order will be maintained before things get out of hand. The beach patrol rocks!
- ATV's make the police far more efficient on the sand and in surrounding park areas. I'm disappointed not to see them on English Bay and Stanley Park as well as their return to only Kits. They are significantly quieter than older models and the officers are quite respectful with the operation, unless they seem to be responding to an emergency call when they have to speed up.
- As someone living relatively close to the beach I have noticed an increase in safety in the neighbourhood and a decrease in noise after midnight. A welcome change from other years. As a senior it is important to feel safe in my house and neighbourhood. I really appreciate the police being visible and patrolling the beaches as well as moving people off the beach after 11:00 pm when the beaches are closed to overnight parties. Thank you
- We live close to the beach and we dread every weekend with the number of kids walking back from the beach past our house. They are often drunk, and frequently loud and disorderly. We see them walking to the beach with their cases of beer - many underage - with the sole purpose of partying on the beaches.

Anything the police can do to deter this kind of activity is greatly appreciated. I'm not sure what hours they are on the beach, but hopefully during the late evening so that

they can send the kids home before they start waking up the entire neighbourhood as they leave the beach.

Thanks so much for continuing with this program. I think it makes a big difference in keeping our beaches safe and quieter.

- The beaches are out of control with drinking, loud excessive noise, violence from drunkenness and aggressive behaviour. Parties attract drugs and related problems. The only deterrent to these problems are the police on ATV's. Please do not discontinue this form of patrols.
- Our bedroom window faces Jericho Beach parking lot. Every spring and summer we have witnessed the mass movement of young people leaving the beach after their parties. Drinking, breaking bottles, loud arguments, loud conversations, weeping, noisy mufflers, racing car engines, fight threats, have all been part of the ritual of leaving.

Over these past years may I say how impressed we have been with the police in handling this scary group. Dispersal happens amazingly with only 2 officers. At least I only see 2.

However, this year there have been no massive migrations. The first time since 1993 that this has not happened. We will see small groups in various places when we are walking in our neighbourhood, back to our home later at night but nothing that causes nervousness. Something is working well.

- The Beach patrol also responded quickly when a child went missing in our neighbourhood. They could scour our neighbourhood more effectively than police in patrol cars. They were very effective in this "non-beach" response. Thanks!
- I am disabled and for many years never went to see the fireworks. This year I felt very safe going to the beach because of the ATV patrolling the beach - we were at Spanish Banks. Unfortunately I do not understand what it will take to teach the public to pick up their garbage. The cost of cleaning up the mess is substantial and I wish that people would be a little more conscientious. This is such a beautiful city and it would be wonderful if people would appreciate the fact that we are very privileged to live here. I do believe that the police patrolling the beaches kept it a very safe place for young and old to enjoy the event. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.
- We have lived at 4XXX NW Marine Drive for 20 years. Most of the summers have been noisy and we have been unable to sleep for several nights in the summer because of drunken people partying till early in the morning. This is the first summer, that the beach has been quiet after midnight and yet there have been many, many people enjoying the beach. Thank you so much Vancouver police, we appreciate you!

- It is wonderful to have the VPD on ATV s on the beaches. They can get right onto the beach and see things behind logs that officers up by the walkway cannot spot -- e.g. beer and fires. Just their presence on the beach deters big drunken parties, and they are able to diffuse and disband problem groups with greater efficiency than the beach lifeguards.

The officers are careful to keep the bikes quiet and not stir up the dust when it is very dry.

There is a great PR value, too -- kids love seeing the officers on the ATV s.

Keep them -- they make a difference!

Appendix D
Non-Supportive Comments on VPD's Beach Patrol and the use of ATVs

- I think police officers patrolling the beaches should be on foot. This is more consistent with the idea of community policing and engaging with the public vs. the distancing/menacing tone of the ATVs.
- Use of ATV further isolates the police from the community. They sit in their cars, they sit on their ATVs, they sit in their offices. Do the police actually get out and engage with the community? Riding up and down on ATV does little since they can be seen to come and go.
- I believe that there are other options for the VPD to make a presence on the beach -- to ensure that all who at the beach will continue to be able to enjoy their time without the compromise of their comfort and safety.
- On foot patrol - certainly personalizes the approach - and promotes for more community engagement -- which leads to promoting citizens to take more responsibility for both their own actions and to be able to feel comfortable and confident in reporting inappropriate social conduct to an officer they have just seen walk by. A more rapid form of transportation may be required occasionally -- and that could be performed by either horseback or a less environmentally disturbing means. Again I think that the primary goals of the ATV beach patrol is for presence and relatively quick response. As I do not know how many rapid responses have been logged over the summer I would not be able to comment on the necessity of a rapid response that could not be met by VPD - car/motorcycle patrol to be dispatched.
- I personally find the image of our VPD on ATVs -- somewhat disturbing -- besides being noisy and not at all environmentally sound. The image of the ATVs can conjure up thoughts of the police simply playing with a seasonal toy -- as well as images of our Vancouver Beaches become similar to American beaches -- where even the citizens are driving their 4 wheel drives on the shore.
- I appreciate the VPD's beach patrol however I believe the ATVs are unnecessary for them to be effective. The ATVs cost a lot of money to operate, kick up dust everywhere and are noisy. In my opinion they are very obnoxious and dangerous. I believe the VPD on foot or on mountain bikes is the best way for the beach patrol to be effective. Anyone breaking the law can see the ATVs coming a mile away and it gives them time to vacate the area. The VPD on foot or mountain bike blend into the crowd which will cause anyone breaking the law to be constantly looking over their shoulder. That's my opinion anyways... Keep up the good work!

- Get rid of the patrols! My 3 year old daughter is terrified of the beach patrols and frankly I don't blame her - so noisy! Every time they come around she runs over and hides her head in my arms. Is it really necessary to have atvs for this!!? It seems like a tremendous waste of resources. It's ironic that whatever "bad behaviour" they appear to be finding is far less disruptive than the patrols presence themselves. Please leave the beaches in peace!
- While I understand the beach patrols are well-intended I have found that these patrols are the single most disruptive presence on Vancouver's beaches. There is nothing that can more quickly ruin a tranquil sunset on the beach than the sight and sound of the atvs approaching. They are incredibly noisy and aggressive - they pollute and they are a disruptive and unsightly presence. I have never been bothered by whatever disruptive behaviour these patrols are intended to root-out but I am consistently disturbed by the patrols themselves. Thank you VPD for the efforts that you make in keeping our city safer but it's time to leave the beach to be enjoyed by the beach-goers and start redirecting your valuable services where they are needed...and wanted.
- The beach patrols are noise, intrusive, polluting, and make ordinary people enjoying the beach uncomfortable. When the ATVs pass by, we all feel under surveillance. Valuable police resources and manpower should be allocated elsewhere in the city, where they are really needed. Regular police cruisers stationed in a couple of key places off the beach, or occasional foot patrols, would do to prevent petty crime and disturbances. Overall, the regular presence of the beach patrol has negatively affected my family's enjoyment of Vancouver's wonderful beaches. Thank you for giving us ordinary citizens the possibility to voice our opinions. Best regards.
- I would much rather see horses than ATV's. I don't believe police should be given special rights to drive ATV's on Vancouver's beaches. Most beaches are small enough that the use of ATV's is unnecessary as they can be easily patrolled on foot.
- Seeing friendly police officers patrolling on foot or bicycle is reassuring and makes it feel as though they are part of the community. However, officers on ATVs are much more intimidating and do not seem to be there as a reassuring force. This is coming from someone who does not drink or do drugs, and has no reason to be nervous about a police presence. When the police are aggressive or driving their loud vehicles, it seems to undermine all the community building efforts the VPD has been engaged in over the years.
- I have a very negative reaction to the ATVs. They disturb the natural surroundings that we all seek when we go to the beach. They are very intrusive even if you only hear them. They leave tracks. I worry about impact to the shoreline and wildlife because of their travel on the beach. They give an atmosphere of machoism which I think is counter to the reputation that the VPD wants to convey, especially at the beach. They encourage

others to use motorized vehicles in and out of the water at the beach because their presence makes a motorized vehicle more acceptable. I live close to Jericho and I hear them buzz by loudly and regularly on the road to the beach. I am glad that the VPD has a presence at the beach, but if ATVs or other motorized off-road vehicles are part of this, I do not support the Beach Patrol. If ATVs are taken out of the program, I support the program. Bikes are good -- not too intrusive, high mobility, low on the power/macho scale, blend in with other bike traffic, etc. Walking is good -- people are approachable, good for increasing the community feeling of the Beach Patrol.

Appendix E

Comments Received from the Public to Beach Patrol Members

- “At Spanish Banks, PCs were approached by one family who took pictures with PCs on the ATVs and commented “I’m thrilled to see you out here”. The woman explained that last year she was at the beach with her son, who was two years old at the time, and there were some rowdy, drinking volleyball players who were verbally aggressive and physically intimidating. The lifeguard on duty had trouble persuading the group to behave and the woman was prepared to call police for assistance. The incident put her off from going to the beach. She provided strong feedback in support of the unit.”
- “One of the lifeguards at Spanish Banks stated how much he appreciates the presence of VPD Beach Patrol. Mere presence of Beach Patrol at Spanish Banks beaches makes rowdy crowds clean up their acts”
- “Beach Patrol attended Kits Beach after the fireworks to assist in clearing out the beach. ATV very useful in moving crowds from the Beach.”
- “Numerous groups of university-aged students that we dealt with were very supportive and pro- Beach Patrol. We were often thanked for the work that we do.”
- “PCs observed male in the parking lot at Spanish Banks with a flat tire. PCs drove the male to an ATM to withdraw cash for Busters. Busters called and transported the male from the area.
- “Beach Patrol was flagged down by a pedestrian reporting man down. PCS attended the seawall at Cornwall/Balsam and called EHS for a rollerblader who had fallen down suffering minor injuries. EHS transported male to St. Pauls Hospital for treatment.”
- “Beach Patrol located a 14 year old male, heavily intoxicated and semi-conscious lying on the sand at Kits Beach. Male could not care for himself so Beach Patrol called EHS and the male was transported to Children’s hospital.”
- “A group of 10-15 people were celebrating a birthday party at Jericho beach when they were accosted by the suspects. The suspects initially tried to join the party and began to steal some of the victim’s belongings. The suspects became violent, assaulting members of the birthday party group. The suspects produced knives and threatened that they had mace. The suspects robbed four members of the birthday party group of their belongings (cell phones, wallets, id, etc). The victims called police and the suspects were arrested by Beach Patrol members. Some of the victim’s belongings and knives were found on the suspects at this time. Charges are being sought for robbery.”

- “Approached by resident of Jericho beach area who wanted to personally thank us for our presence as she felt it made a huge difference with fires, alcohol, and the people.”
- “Beach Patrol assisted young male who had broken his ankle at Jericho beach. Officers provided basic first aid until EHS arrived.”
- “Jericho citizen told PCs she had noticed a huge difference between this year and last. Jericho is now much quieter and better behaved.”