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September 20, 2019

Craig Hodge
Co-Chair
Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC)
60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9

Dear Craig Hodge:

Thank you for your August 22, 2019 letter, outlining the concerns of the LGCMC, regarding the City of Surrey establishing its own municipal police department. Additionally, I would like to thank you for meeting with my team on July 11, 2019, to discuss the development of an Evaluation Framework to support the provincial assessment of proposals from municipalities wishing to transition their policing model. As a representative for local governments, I value the insights and considerations you have provided.

Prior to making a decision to establish a police board, which is the next major milestone for the City of Surrey in establishing a municipal police department, to ensure all key issues are addressed and all complex details are in place to facilitate an orderly transition, a joint committee has been struck to work on the next stages of a transition. The Provincial Municipal Policing Transition Study Committee is comprised of representatives from the Province and the City of Surrey as well as independent consultants with expertise in local government, finance, independent municipal policing and the provincial police service. The committee will promote a cooperative process and provide the City of Surrey with the necessary support to ensure a robust transition plan is developed prior to the province applying any formal evaluation and eventual decision.

If you have any further concerns or would like to connect with the project team, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Anderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch and Project Lead of the Policing Model Transition Project, by email at: Lisa.R.Anderson@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for your contribution to this initiative.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

