

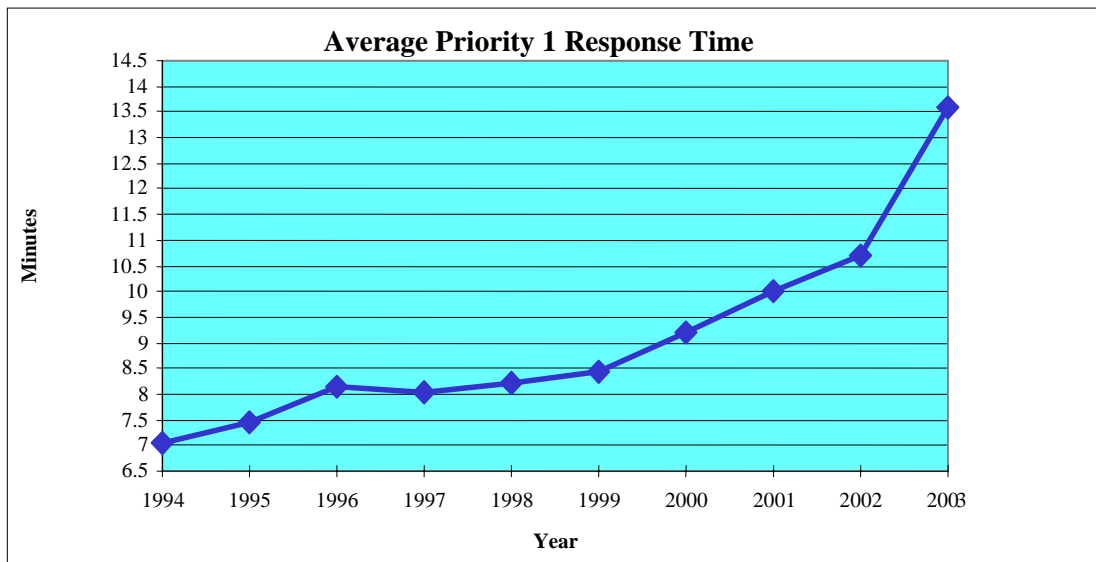
## Community Consultation Meetings for 2005 Budget Police Staffing Issues

### Quick Facts:

- Vancouver Police Department Budget for 2004 = \$140 million
- Current authorized strength = 1124 Police Officers (1994 = 1093)
- Current civilian support strength = 230 Support Staff (1994 = 269)

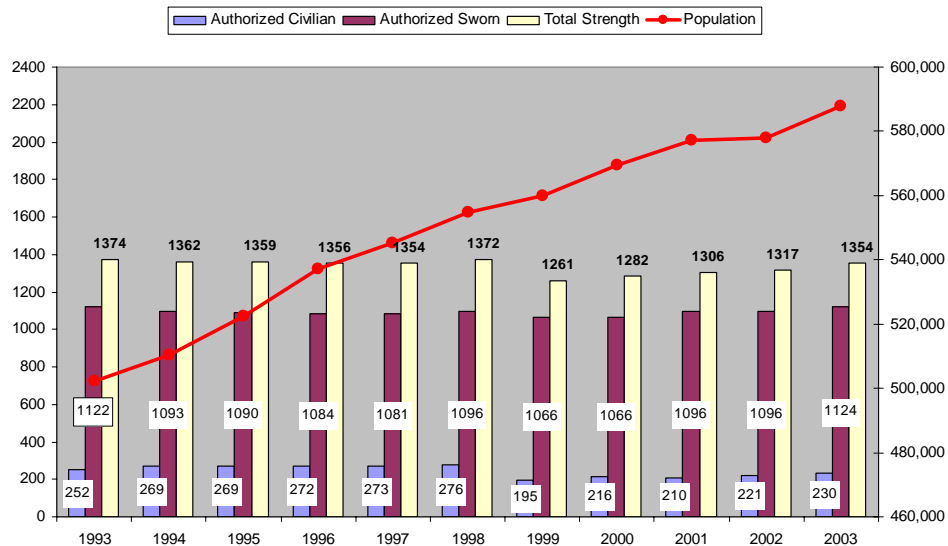
### A shortage of police officers is placing the public's safety at risk.

*In 1994, if someone screamed for help, the VPD arrived within seven minutes, on average. Today the average response time for a 'Priority 1' 9-1-1 call is 13 minutes. Thirteen minutes can literally mean a lifetime in an emergency. (Calgary's response time averages 6.99 minutes and Toronto responds within 6 minutes, 85% of the time).*



- Vancouver's residential population has increased by more than 86,000 since 1993, while the number of officers assigned to patrol duties has actually decreased, from 561 to 522.

**Department Authorized Strength and Population Growth**



## **Community Consultation Meetings for 2005 Budget Police Staffing Issues**

- In 2004, the Vancouver Police Department had 20 fewer employees than in 1993.
- Police resources are further stretched by the fact that Vancouver is a 'core city'. It is the entertainment, employment, business, tourist, protest and residential centre for the entire lower-mainland. Non-residents account for 30% of all criminal charges laid by the Vancouver Police Department, and 40% of all driving incidents.

### **Current resource levels are too low to adequately police the city.**

- Vancouver Police Department officers carry one of the highest *criminal caseloads* per officer in Canada (Vancouver = 63, Toronto = 31, Montréal = 34, and Calgary = 46).
- The Vancouver Police Department has a lower ratio of civilian support staff, compared to any major police agency in Canada.
- Over the past ten years, policing in Vancouver has become more difficult and challenging due to increases in: the residential and transitory population, the open air drug market, unemployment, public demonstrations, tourism, major sporting and civic events, the number of bars and liquor seating, and the extended liquor serving hours.
- While the clearance rates for violent crime (solved crimes) are comparable to other police agencies, Vancouver's overall average clearance rates remain among the lowest in Canada (Vancouver 18%; Calgary 36%; Toronto 42%). A major reason for this is the exceptionally low clearance rates for property crimes (10%).

### **The VPD needs more staff to keep Vancouver safe**

To ensure that the Vancouver Police Department can provide its core policing services **and** meet the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, the Department requires:

- 469 additional police officers and 170 civilian support personnel. While this is an immediate need, the VPD recommends staging this increase over a 5 year period.
- For 2005, the VPD is recommending 98 additional police officers and 93 additional civilian personnel, at a cost of \$12 million. Additional increases are also sought in subsequent years.
- The VPD has completed a detailed staffing report which outlines all of the issues pursuant to this request. An independent review of this report, by consultants from the University College of the Fraser Valley, is underway. A Report to Council will be submitted to the City in March, which will provide full details of this request, along with recommendations from the consultants.
- The **Vancouver Police Department Strategic Plan 2004-2008** lists five priorities to improve Community Safety: Reduce Property Crime; Reduce Violence against the Vulnerable; Reduce Guns and Gangs; Improve Traffic Safety; Reduce Street Disorder. Additional personnel are required to meet these priorities.