

Mayor and Council summary:

Citizens on Patrol (COP) is a group of volunteers who conduct regular patrols within the City of Grand Forks and work closely with the Grand Forks RCMP Detachment to make it a safer place for residents and visitors. We are an extension of the RCMP Detachments community policing efforts and act as additional eyes, ears and problem solvers with our main focus on crime prevention. We are all like minded individuals who share a similar goal. All our members have criminal record checks completed prior to becoming active, and confidentiality is paramount.

For 2022 our members logged in approximately 550 volunteer hours (including administrative hours). We conduct two person patrols which includes a member on base for safety reasons throughout Grand Forks in a vehicle identified and marked as "Citizens on Patrol". The City owned Van is equipped with a 2 way radio. GF, COP equipped the vehicle with a Dash Cam and Emergency safety gear. Members regularly patrol neighborhoods, parks, schools and business areas within Grand Forks with any additional patrols requested by the RCMP Detachment. When we notice anything out of the ordinary or suspicious, and at the discretion of the patrol persons, the incident is reported directly to the on duty RCMP officer to respond and check out the situation. COP members also conduct regular Speed Watch checks where we identify excessive speeding, distracted driving, and unlicensed vehicles. All of these activities build a feeling of personal satisfaction knowing we are proactively improving safety in the Community.

Demographically our members range in age from 65 to over 85 years old. This past year, we are proud to say that we were able to support the community by erecting COP Highway signage which was permanently placed on the East and West end of the City limits.

Up to this point in time there has been no formal agreement for the use and subsequent maintenance of the City owned vehicle. Therefore, the GF, Citizens on Patrol Group representatives seek to work with the City to obtain a formal agreement for continued use of the City owned vehicle including all regular servicing of vehicle, winter/summer tire changes, breakdown coverage and vehicle Insurance. We would also appreciate and ask for provision of funds to improve the COP signage on the vehicle which highlights visibility to all Grand Forks residents.