

Transit Police Chief's Community Council Meeting
January 26, 2016
Sapperton, Room 427
287 Nelson's Court, New Westminster, BC

Attendees:

Diane Gillis, Co-Chair
George Hill, Co-Chair
Sherman Chan
Jane Dyson
Lorraine Logan
David McGregor
Norma Jean McLaren
Rick Parent
Karen Reid-Sidhu
Valerie Clement

Chief Officer Barry Kross
Deputy Chief Officer Ed Eviston
Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary
Lance Talbott

Guests: Leonor Vlug (GVAD), Nathan McLaren, Sara MacFayden (ASL Interpreter), Brenda Erlandson (ASL Interpreter)

Regrets: Angela Marie MacDougall, Anita Huberman, Dave MacDonald, Shubhi Singh, Wanda Mulholland,

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. Chief Kross introduced David McGregor and Leonor Vlug from the Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf (GVAD) and the Council was advised on how to communicate with the ASL interpreters.

Introductions were made around the table.

1. Review – Chair Gillis

- **Minutes:** Minutes of the November 24, 2015 meeting were approved.
- **Additions to the agenda/timekeeper:**
 - The agenda was adopted as circulated with the addition 'Compass Issues'.
 - Timekeeper - Karen Reid-Sidhu.

Chair Gillis spoke of the recent Transit Police (TPS) 10 Year Anniversary Event.

The Council was reminded to please advise Taryn Barton if there are any community events coming up that would provide an opportunity for TPS to attend and disseminate transit safety information.

- **Action Items** from November 24th Meeting: Nothing outstanding noted.

2. Updates

New member David McGregor of GVAD introduced himself and provided some background about his employment experience. He is an avid user of bus and SkyTrain and is looking forward to representing GVAD on the Transit Police Chief's Community Council. The GVAD president, Leonor Vlug, was also in attendance as a guest and gave a brief introduction and outlined some of the issues that exist for the deaf/hard of hearing community.

3. Chief's Update

Chief Cross provided the following updates:

- TPS Board has appointed Doug LePard as the new Chief Officer, to start sometime in March. Both Deputies look forward to working with him and the new Chief is looking forward to working with the TPCCC.
- TPS Strategic Plan process was overviewed and Lance Talbott provided an update. The new plan will take TPS into 2020 and highlights three strategic goals: safe and secure transit system, public confidence in the safety of travelling on the transit system, and adding value to local policing and community safety.
- New website is projected to launch in March
- The Service Delivery model has been running for a full year. This model of policing provides 6 main hubs to gain better access and provide a more consistent presence. Early indications show an increase of reporting to TPS. A year-end review will begin in a few weeks to provide an indication of how successful the new model has been.

Chief Cross was thanked and given a round of applause by the TPCCC for his work and dedication to the Council.

4. Roundtable

Members were asked to share transit related issues within their community or agency. The following issues/comments were shared:

- Concern over lack of discretion from security guards when the emergency button is pressed.
- How will people get through the faregates if they cannot tap in with their hands. Mr. Talbott noted that the concern has been brought forward to TransLink (TL) and TL has committed to keeping one gate open at each station until the issue is resolved.
- With the increase of refugees in communities, they will need assistance or an orientation to become familiar with the transit system.
- Working to educate youth on Compass.
- Improving the visibility of messaging both on the train and in the stations. Often if there is a breakdown on the system, instructions and updates are given with a spoken announcement and a deaf person does not receive the information. Also more

consideration of the needs for people who are both deaf and blind. There is some captioning at the stations but the printing is in red which is a difficult colour for a person with visual difficulties. (It was noted that this issue has been raised by TPS)

- There is some confusion around Compass in the deaf community – need better signage and visual cues.
- Construction at stations is very confusing for the deaf/blind community. Would like to see a drop off zone.
 - Lorraine Logan suggested that Leonor Vlug and/or David McGregor get involved with Access Transit.
- Users from UBC are concerned with crowding on buses, but no security issues raised at present time.
- Volunteers from Surrey Crime Watch represented Transit at a recent refugee forum and conveyed the message that it is safe to talk to a police officers.
- With criminal activity around certain stations there was an enquiry about why cameras are not visible on the exterior. (It was noted that this is due to privacy issues.)

5. Community Events – Chief Kross

Chief Kross asked the TPCCC to consider community events that would provide an opportunity for TPS to attend and provide community outreach. Members were encouraged to email Chief Kross or Taryn Barton with event details.

6. CPTED Presentation & Discussion – Lance Talbott

Mr. Talbott handed out a document on table titled “*City of Portland Crime Prevention Program – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*” and gave an overview of CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. CPTED is considered when designing new or refurbishing existing stations. TPS has been involved to provide design advice around CPTED for the new Evergreen Line stations. CCTV was deliberated. It is in place for crowd management and is not the property of the TPS. Mr. Talbott answered questions from the Council. Chair Gillis outlined examples of CPTED implemented in her community.

7. Surrey Crime Prevention – Transit Watch Presentation – Karen Reid-Sidhu

Ms. Reid-Sidhu gave a PowerPoint presentation on Surrey Crime Prevention. The various Community Safety programs were outlined including Citizen Community Safety Watch , Traffic Safety-Speed Watch and the Mentorship and Leadership Program.

The Surrey Crime Prevention employs eleven staff and has 300 volunteers, the majority of which are university students. They work closely with partners in the community such as RCMP, Transit Police and many more.

Transit Watch was created by a university student and it was introduced as a pilot program in 2015. It has now been implemented as a core program. Volunteers observe and report around transit areas including the Newton Bus Loop and Surrey based SkyTrain stations. Volunteers wear branded jackets and do not enter the fare paid zones.

Ms. Reid-Sidhu outlined the importance of community engagement and working in partnerships.

Chief Kross thanked Ms. Reid-Sidhu for the presentation and asked for volunteers to present at the next meeting. Members were advised to let Taryn know if they are interested.

8. Terms of Reference Review – Diane Gillis

Ms. Logan and Chair Gills updated the Terms of Reference (TOR) which was circulated to members with the meeting material. Some members have been absent for a number of meetings. The council discussed and supports formally stating that if a member misses three consecutive meetings without cause, the member will give up their seat on the council.

There was further discussion on how new representatives would be put forward and the Membership Committee will further discuss with the Chief.

9. Membership Committee – Lorraine Logan

Ms. Logan advised that the Membership Committee would like to introduce a proper application form once the new Chief is in place. Ms. Logan requested that when members are not available to attend meetings, they advise the Chair and Taryn in advance.

10. Community/Communication Update

Compass card and recent privacy issues raised in the media were discussed. Deputy Chief Eviston spoke to the issue and answered questions.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 1700 hours, Room 427, Transit Police Building, 287 Nelsons Court, New Westminster, BC.

12. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 7:01 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed Minutes on File

Diane Gillis, Co-Chair

Original Signed Minutes on File

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary