

Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
April 2, 2019
Sapperton, Room 423
287 Nelson's Court, New Westminster, BC

Attendees:

Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair	Chief Jones
Dave MacDonald	Deputy Chief Kross
Diane Gillis	Deputy Chief Cumberworth
Heather Cowie	Constable Julien Ponsioen
Justina Loh	Taryn Barton
Kimberly Wood	Stephen Crosby
Lianne Ritch	

Regrets: Rick Parent, Sherman Chan, Valerie Clements

Guest: Jessica Siegers, Interpreter

1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by the Chair.

2. Opening Remarks from Chief Jones

Chief Jones introduced himself and provided a brief work history. Chief Jones thanked the Deputies for keeping the Metro Vancouver Transit Police Chief's Community Council ("TPCCC") going during the interim period and noted the importance of the Council. Chief Jones looks forward to working with everyone. TPCCC members went around the table and introduced themselves.

3. Review: Approval of Agenda/Minutes – Chair

- **Approval of the Agenda: Motion/Seconded, all in favour - Approved**
- **Approval of the November 27, 2018 Minutes: Motion/Seconded, all in favour - Approved**

4. Chief's Update

The TPCCC received a PowerPoint presentation titled "Year in Review – 2018" from Deputy Chief Kross on the following items:

- Collective agreement and wage increase
- New media relations officer
- Critical incident live exercise

- Sexual offending campaign launched
- Retirement of Deputy Chief Eviston and Chief LePard
- Events throughout the year to support Special Olympics such as Polar Plunge, Cop/Pop & Pizza and Annual Charity Golf tournament
- Cops for Cancer - two Transit Police officers will participate in the ride
- Awards received were highlighted including one to Deputy Chief Kross for his work with Special Olympics, three Transit Police officers were recognized at annual Police Honours night and Constable Steed was awarded a Life Saving award
- Neighbourhood Police Officers continue to receive positive feedback and are active in their communities
- Year End Statistics provided including ridership, crime rates, reported files and arrests.

5. Community Based Policing Presentation – Constable Julien Ponsioen

Neighbourhood Police Officer (“NPO”) Constable Julien Ponsioen introduced himself. He played a one-minute video highlighting some of his recent media clips. The TPCCC received a PowerPoint presentation that focused on neighbourhood policing. Cst. Ponsioen outlined the six community service areas and advised that each one has a designated NPO. NPO’s engage the community and help to build confidence in the travelling public. Cst. Ponsioen provided his work history as a paramedic and also shared his efforts for giving back to the community. Cst. Ponsioen spoke about his community and being an openly gay police officer at Transit Police. Cst. Ponsioen sits on numerous community action teams in regards to the opioid crisis. He provided statistics on fentanyl and carfentanil related deaths in BC. All Transit Police members carry Naloxone. To conclude the presentation, Cst. Ponsioen shared his contact information and social media handles: Twitter: [@CstJPonsioen](#) / Instagram: [@cstjponsioen](#)

The Chair thanked Cst Ponsioen for his informative presentation and commended the work of the NPOs and Transit Police. Cst. Ponsioen answered questions from the TPCCC in regards to youth, presentations at school, and getting to and from transit safely. Cst. Ponsioen also answered questions on fentanyl and carfentanil.

6. Communication Updates – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby provide a Communications update on the following:

- See Something Say Something Campaign: There has been a large increase in text reporting over the last year. Posters and cards have been updated and the new poster was presented and passed around the table. Transit Police is working with the TransLink Marketing Team to explore additional opportunities to post.

- Sexual Offending Campaign: The campaign received more advertising space than anticipated last year such as bus shelters, transit exchanges and community partners. Areas that did not receive as much distribution are being reviewed. This year Transit Police is looking to increase advertising on buses as well as working with community partners.
- Social Media: NPOs all have their own social media accounts. Social media handles were provided for the new NPO Darren Chua (Twitter: [@CstDChua](#)) and Chief Jones (Twitter: [@ChiefDJones](#)).

Mr. Crosby answered questions about campaign timeframes, messaging being available in other languages and considerations for those with hearing impairments. There was a suggestion in regards to emergency messaging to have an app available that would permit those with hearing impairments to receive messaging on their phone.

7. Membership Update – Diane Gillis

Ms. Gillis provided an update on TPCCC membership. February 2020 will see the end of a six-year term for the original members. TPCCC members were asked to consider nominating an alternate to ensure continuity. Suggestions for consideration of representation from the following communities/organizations:

- Coast Mountain Bus Company – a CMBC employee was briefly on the TPCCC. The Chief asked to consider having someone from CMBC again.
- LGBTQ – New Westminster Pride has been approached but have not yet responded.
- New Westminster – at this time there is not a community or individual from this region.

TPCCC members were asked to bring a recommendation for an alternate or new representation to the next meeting. Chief Jones welcomed members to bring their recommendations to attend a meeting as a guest.

8. Round Table: Community Updates

Karen – some of the upcoming community events include the Fusion Festival, Canada Day Celebration and Vaisakhi Parade. There may be opportunities for Transit Police to participate in some of the community events. There is a new Mayor and Council in Surrey and there have been changes in regards to light rail and transit plans. Working in partnership with Surrey police on auto crime prevention initiatives. Vision Zero was launched and looks at all aspects of road safety including traffic lights, bikes, etc. (Transit Police will be receiving an invitation to participate).

Diane –Coffee with a Cop with Burnaby RCMP, would like to inquire if NPO Cst. Biggs can be involved. Discussed cameras outside Skytrain stations. (Cameras are owned by TransLink, they are not police cameras.) Recently attended a TransLink Board meeting to raise the issue of safety concerns and poor lighting around Royal Oak Station. Have had deliberations with a Committee in regards to safe walk. Chief Jones provided some comments on creating safe hubs around transit stations. There is a focus group tomorrow night to address substance abuse and the need for mental illness treatment.

Lianne – Medical Director did a presentation about strangulation injuries and would like to have more information available for police officers, as well as training.

Lianne was commended for her suggestion to add the texting number to Compass cards. All new Compass cards now contain the texting number.

Heather – The Walk for Alzheimer’s is May 25th and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Kimberly – Annual event is coming up in May. Kimberly would like the deaf community factored into emergency planning to ensure that messaging is available on the system in the event of an emergency. Deputy Chief Kross advised that visual messaging is available on the platforms. This issue has previously been brought forward to TransLink and the Deputy will ensure that it is raised again.

Justina – Accessibility week is the last week of May. With Vancouver’s impending ban on straws, DABC has been involved in testing other options for those with disabilities that require straws.

Dave – 5th annual ‘Taking Care of Business’ breakfast is next week. Dave commended the work of NPO Cst. Bruce Shipley.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on June 11, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

10. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:34 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed Minutes on File

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Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary