

Metro Vancouver Transit Police  
Chief's Community Council Meeting  
November 17, 2020  
**VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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**Attendees:**

Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair  
Dave MacDonald  
Diane Gillis  
Guy Cohen  
Helene Love  
Justina Loh  
Kimberly Wood  
Larry Hayes  
Maxine Wilson  
Sana Aziz  
Sherman Chan  
Valerie Clements

Chief Officer Dave Jones (exited at 6:25 p.m.)  
Deputy Chief Officer Barry Kross  
Deputy Chief Officer Mike Cumberworth  
Superintendent Anita Furlan  
Taryn Barton  
Stephen Crosby

**Guests:** George Madden, Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board; Sara MacFayden, ASL Interpreter; Tanya Wheatley, Pathways Clubhouse

**Regrets:** Lianne Ritch

**1. Call Meeting to Order - Chair**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the Metro Vancouver Transit Police operate throughout the traditional territories of the Lower Mainland Coast Salish peoples and gave thanks for their hospitality on these lands.

Chief Jones welcomed everyone and introduced George Madden from the Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board and Anita Furlan, a Superintendent from the RCMP who is currently seconded to Metro Vancouver Transit Police ('MVTP'). Both George and Anita will have an opportunity to introduce themselves following the approval of the agenda and minutes.

**2. Review: Approval of Agenda/Minutes – Chair**

- **Approval of the Agenda:** Moved/Seconded, all in favour – **Approved**
- **Timekeeper** – Sherman Chan
- **Approval of the September 15, 2020 Minutes:** Moved/Seconded, all in favour – **Approved**

- **Introductions:**

George Madden introduced himself. He was recently appointed to the Police Board and is attending tonight's meeting to observe as part of his learning. George briefly outlined his professional background and is looking forward to working with the TPCCC, the Chief, Executive and Board colleagues.

Anita Furlan introduced herself. She has over 22 years of service with the RCMP and had the opportunity to come to MVTP on secondment and be mentored by the Chief and Deputies. She is happy for the opportunity and glad to be attending tonight's meeting.

### **3. Chief's Update**

Chief Jones thanked everyone for continuing to attend the TPCCC meetings by videoconference and provided an update on the following:

#### COVID 19

- No known transmission within the transportation network
- TransLink continues to maintain regular service levels, even though ridership is below normal
- Educational based approach in regards to the mandatory mask policy on transit and subsequent enforcement efforts
- Minimizing the risk of exposure to members through PPE and safety protocols around the workplace

Chief Jones answered a question about copper being tested on high-touch transit surfaces on a limited number of trains and busses.

#### Year-in-Review

- Record amount of naloxone administered to date
- Key focus on keeping people safe and preventing crime on and around the system
- Continuous work around mental health and ensuring individuals get the assistance they need
- General increase this year on nuisance type calls (property crimes, vandalism, etc.)
- Neighbourhood Police Officers update
- New teams and specialized groups created this year such as the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team
- Work on a new Strategic Plan has resumed after an initial delay due to COVID

Chief Jones thanked the TPCCC for the value they bring and noted how their contributions and feedback can help form and direct how the MVTP operates. The goal is to improve each

and every day. The Chair highlighted some of the work that MVTP is doing in Surrey. Chief Jones provided an update on work being done with Indigenous communities, including a grant to fund the Blue Eagle cadet program.

#### **4. Presentation: Burnaby School District – Larry Hayes**

Larry Hayes thanked the TPCCC for the opportunity to present and provide some insight into the Burnaby School District. Larry outlined his professional background. Burnaby has approximately 25,000 students in the public system as well as approximately 16,000 adult students and 4,000 employees. Many students rely on public transit, especially secondary students. Larry shared some input received from staff on secondary students' perceptions of safety on and around the transit system including:

- Burnaby South: Most felt safe, were aware of the texting app and expressed a great deal of comfort with having MVTP on transit and around the stations. Some concerns around people not wearing masks. Also some concerns with the walkway between BC Hydro (Edmonds) and the stadium
- Burnaby Central: Would like to see more police presence at Metrotown as well as on busses.
- Mountain Secondary: Most feel safe when travelling during peak hours, however, the feeling of safety declines when travelling at night. Comfortable with the cleanliness of busses and Skytrains, although some concerns with outdoor seating not being sanitized.

Some students avoid certain stations at night such as Metrotown, Edmonds, Royal Oak and Surrey stations. There was general consensus that it would be beneficial to have increased police or security presence at stations. The TPCCC shared comments about the importance of having students feel safe on and around the transit system. Guy appreciated the feedback pertaining to Metrotown and it may present an opportunity to have a joint initiative between mall security and MVTP. Deputy Chief Cumberworth thanked Larry for the information and requested a copy of the feedback to share with the Community Engagement team. Larry will provide a copy to Taryn to distribute to Deputy Chief Cumberworth and others who expressed interest (Guy, Val, Kimberly and Karen).

#### **5. Communications Update – Stephen Crosby**

The TPCCC received an update from Stephen Crosby on recent communications around mandatory mask wearing. A new social media account has been added for the Transit Police K9 Unit highlighting the dogs on patrol. Stephen also provided an update on current communication projects including:

- Joint video with IRAYL
- New initiative to engage with people new to transit
- Homeless outreach led by Neighbourhood Police Officers Shipley and Dennis

The Community Engagement Team's ability to do outreach to different groups has been impacted by COVID. If any of the TPCCC's communities are interested in having a presentation or are looking for opportunities to connect, please let Taryn or Stephen know.

## 6. Membership Update – Diane Gillis

Diane Gillis provided a membership update and noted that there are still a few geographic regions not represented by the TPCCC. Diane also discussed the absence of a student representative. BCIT and UBC have had student reps in the past. The TPCCC was reminded to assign an alternate and Diane will be in contact over the next few months to follow up. Dave MacDonald introduced Tanya Wheatley as his alternate. Tanya is the Program Director at Pathways.

## 7. 2021 Meeting Schedule

The TPCCC reviewed the 2021 meeting schedule and no objections were made. Calendar invites will be sent out in the near future.

## 8. Roundtable

Members went around the table to provide an update on current initiatives in their communities:

**Guy:** Outlined challenges being faced at Metropolis such as drug activity and people seeking shelter at night in stairwells and parkades due to the temperature drop. There have also been challenges with shoplifting in regards to the reporting system and long wait times being experienced when calling the non-emergency number.

**Larry:** There is an emergency shelter being developed in partnership with the City of Burnaby. Chief Jones was asked if there will be any impact on MVTP as it is within walking distance of Sperling Station. The Neighbourhood Police Officer for Burnaby will look at a community minded approach to provide support where required.

**Justina:** People with disabilities are not out on transportation as much as before the pandemic. There are concerns around people not wearing masks and exemptions. DABC is still closed and offering services remotely.

**Sherman:** MOSAIC continues to operate in a hybrid manner. Had a good discussion recently with public health regarding how to disseminate information to newcomers about COVID-19 and mask wearing. Continue to consult with TransLink about workshops for newcomers about how to use transit safely. Have also had a good discussion with Surrey regarding planning for new stations.

**Kimberly:** COVID-19 restrictions have had a huge impact on the deaf community. There have been some issues around masks as it can be very difficult for deaf people to communicate when people are wearing masks.

**Sana:** In person services are suspended and are being provided virtually. Minds in Motion for people living with dementia is in the final stages and will be moved online in the New Year. People living with dementia are being greatly affected by the pandemic with the closing of recreation centers and social isolation has increased with colder weather and higher numbers of cases. Care workers have noticed some decline due to limited social interactions. Work continues on dementia friendly communities across the province.

There was discussion about exemptions for wearing a mask on transit. Stephen advised that TransLink has an exemption card and offered to send some out. TPCCC asked to let Taryn know if they require any.

**Helene:** The field practice program at SFU's Criminology department has been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic. Co-op program continues.

**Val:** Thanked MVTP for being part of a video with IRAYL. With more restrictions in place, the video will be a great presentation tool that can be sent out. Will chat with Guy offline about having her team out.

**Dave:** Pathways continues to operate in a hybrid model with a limited number of staff that comes in. This may change with the recent increase in COVID cases. Seeing an increase in people getting jobs which has been great. Glad to see that MVTP presentations can be delivered by Zoom as the transit safety presentations in the past have gone over very well.

**Diane:** Great to hear what the Burnaby South students think about the Royal Oak area as a lot of work has been done by individuals in the community around the station. Diane has also gone to the TransLink Board to express concerns. An Emergency Response Centre is being developed behind the Bill Copeland sports complex. Problems continue with getting through to 911 and the non-emergency number. Advocating for support for mental illness and addiction.

**\*6:25 p.m. Chief Jones exited the meeting**

**Maxine:** Tri-City Seniors Action Committee is dealing with the reaction to COVID and the subsequent isolation for seniors with social distancing and people not leaving their homes.

**Karen:** Surrey Crime Prevention has been very active and is following strict COVID protocols. Working on mentorship for vulnerable youth and have teamed up with Boys and Girls Club and Surrey schools to expand the program. Working on a pedestrian safety campaign with Vision Zero Surrey and ICBC. Volunteers continue to report activity around transit hubs to MVTP.

The Chair shared some closing comments and thanked George Madden and Superintendent Furlan for attending today.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

## 10. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:35 p.m.

Certified Correct:

*Signed Minutes on File*

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Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair

*Signed Minutes on File*

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Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary