

Metro Vancouver Transit Police  
Chief's Community Council Meeting  
April 20, 2021  
**VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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**Attendees:**

Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair	Chief Officer Dave Jones
Larry Hayes, Co-Chair	Deputy Chief Officer Barry Kross
Cynthia Minh	Deputy Chief Officer Mike Cumberworth
Dave MacDonald ( <i>exited at 6:00 p.m.</i> )	Superintendent Anita Furlan
Diane Gillis	Taryn Barton
Guy Cohen	Stephen Crosby
Helene Love	
Kimberly Wood	
Sana Aziz	
Sherman Chan	
Valerie Clements	

**Guests:** Carla Hotel, Transit Police Board; Christopher Polson, Alternate for Kimberly Wood; and ASL Interpreters Brenda Erlandson and Lizz Keallen

**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 ('MVTP') operate throughout the traditional territories of the Lower Mainland Coast Salish peoples and gave thanks for their hospitality on these lands.

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

- **Approval of the February 16, 2021 Minutes:** Moved/Seconded, all in favour – **Approved**
- **Approval of the Agenda:** Moved/Seconded, all in favour – **Approved**
- **Timekeeper** – Diane Gillis

Chief Jones introduced Carla Hotel from the Police Board. Ms. Hotel introduced herself, provided her professional background and thanked the TPCCC for the opportunity to attend the meeting.

Kimberly Wood introduced her alternate, Christopher Polson. Mr. Polson has worked with the deaf community for a number of years. Mr. Polson is Indigenous and shared some of the work he does and hopes to do with both the deaf and Indigenous communities.

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

Chief Jones thanked everyone for continuing to attend the meetings by videoconference and noted the importance of the work the TPCCC does. Chief Jones presented a PowerPoint presentation, as shared at the last TransLink Board meeting in regards to the following:

- Urban Indigenous Community – initiatives outlined including the work of Indigenous Liaison Officer Constable Rattray and the successful launch of the Blue Eagle Community Cadet program for youth.
- Facial Covering Enforcement – high compliance rate and volume of complaints have decreased.
- Waterfront Community Policing Centre ('CPC') – Neighbourhood Police Officer Constable Ponsioen recently launched the CPC including securing and training the volunteers. The Chief commended Cst. Ponsioen for his work on the CPC.
- Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team – recent initiatives include illegal use of bus lanes, distracted driving around transit hubs and no masks on transit.
- Continue to work with groups to support newcomers learning about transit safety.
- Highlighted some of the work done to help the vulnerable and homeless
- Community Safety Officer Program – the final application has been submitted.
- Year-end statistics reflect lower ridership but did not result in an equal drop in crime.

Following the PowerPoint presentation, Chief Jones provided a brief update on the cyber attack and privacy breach at TransLink. The TPCCC shared comments and Chief Jones answered a question on the statistics outlined during the PowerPoint presentation.

### **4. Presentation: Security, Fire and Life Safety, Metropolis at Metrotown – Guy Cohen**

Guy Cohen provided his professional background and outlined his current role with Security, Fire and Life Safety at Metropolis at Metrotown. Mr. Cohen outlined his area of responsibility and noted the various stakeholders and coordinated efforts. Security mainly deals with the enforcement of certain behaviours. Drug use, mental health and homelessness continue to be issues. Mr. Cohen shared some examples of recent incidents. Mr. Cohen also outlined some of the work with partners to provide a positive impact and provide a sense of safety and engagement. The Chair thanked Mr. Cohen for his presentation.

### **5. Future Growth of Transit System – Chief**

Chief Jones provided an update on the Broadway and Surrey/Langley expansions for the transit system. The Millennium Broadway expansion project has started construction and

the line will be underground from VCC Clark to Arbutus. MVTP has been factored into the plans and will be assigned space for offices. The Surrey/Langley expansion is projected to be complete by 2028 (approximately). Chief Jones also outlined some of the future expansion projects being considered. Chief Jones answered a question from the TPCCC about the Community Safety Officer program.

## **6. Strategic Services Update – Stephen Crosby**

### **Strategic Plan**

Mr. Crosby provided a PowerPoint presentation on screen titled '2021-2026 Strategic Plan'. The current plan expired at the end of 2020 and Mr. Crosby outlined the process to date to develop the new plan. With initial delays due to COVID, work is now well underway. The TPCCC were thanked for their participation in providing feedback during the early stages of the process. Mr. Crosby will be reaching out to the TPCCC again over the next few weeks with more opportunities to participate and provide feedback on the draft pillars and objectives.

### **Communications Update**

In regards to a Communications update, Mr. Crosby advised that MVTP has been working with MOSAIC to translate transit safety material. It is especially important that safety information be available with the recent hate crimes and preparing for the student community returning to school in the fall.

Mr. Crosby answered a question from the TPCCC on the Special Committee to Reform the *Police Act* and advised that submissions are being accepted until the end of the month.

### **Social Media Update**

There is a new social media account for the Waterfront Community Policing Centre. Over the last few weeks, social media has been focused on the launch of the CPC and Blue Eagle Cadet Program.

## **7. Membership Update – Diane Gillis**

The Chair advised that Michelle Kumar will be her alternate and will forward her information to the Chief. Ms. Gillis provided an update on membership and has been in contact with many members of the TPCCC in regards to alternates. Resumes can be forwarded to Ms. Gillis for the Chief. The TPCCC was reminded to share the agendas and minutes with their alternate to ensure they are familiar with the material. Currently the TPCCC needs a representative from the student community. There are also a number of municipalities not

represented on the TPCCC such as North Vancouver, east of the Tri-Cities and east of Surrey. Helen Love offered to source students at SFU.

## 8. Roundtable

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

**Larry** – Sits on the City of Burnaby’s Public Safety Committee and recently received a report regarding bus shelter safety. Larry will forward to Taryn, along with a follow up article, to be distributed to the TPCCC for information.

**Cynthia** – No update but a question to the Chief on the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team and if any of the offences are being committed due to a mental health or disability reason. Chief Jones will have TMET or Deputy Chief Cumberworth present at the next meeting to outline the education based approach.

**Helene** – Encouraged by the move to a Community Safety Officer program. The Field Practice program at SFU and has lots of students looking for opportunities to get experience so if anyone is interested please contact Helene. SFU is looking forward to the gondola project. Helene shared a comment about the crime statistics from the Chief’s presentation.

**Kimberly** – Greater Vancouver Association of the Deaf and the deaf community have been busy working with the ministry around the Accessibility Act and ensuring that seniors, deaf, and deaf-blind are represented. Since COVID, requests for video relay service work have increased. The deaf community is advocating for access to video relay service and video remote interpreting.

**Guy** – Update was provided in presentation, nothing further to note.

**Sherman** – Many immigrants, refugees, international students and racially marginalized people work in essential services and many are concerned over the provincial travel ban to restrict travel between health authorities. Chief Jones provided an update and noted that more guidelines will be coming out this week but does not believe there will be checks within Metro Vancouver.

**Sana** – Programming is still virtual, Minds in Motion program has now gone virtual following a successful pilot. The Dementia Friendly Canada initiative will offer awareness and education to certain sectors and is at the pilot stage. Currently looking for individuals to

review and give feedback. Participation would be appreciated and the information will be provided to Taryn to share with the group.

**Val** –IRAYL Team for Pacific Community Resources Society has been off the trains since November due to the pandemic but is hoping to be back in the next few weeks. Hours were reduced due to lack of facilities, but looking to go back to regular hours soon.

**Diane** – Will liaise with the Chief about the TransLink Board Meeting and correspondence regarding safety around the system. Continue to advocate for better mental health resources and treatment.

**Karen** – Just had a symposium and a successful pedestrian safety campaign, which MVTP was invited to participate in. Outlined volunteer hours, campaigns, programs and partner agencies. Currently have 395 volunteers.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

## 10. Closure

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:30 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