

Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
June 22, 2021

VIDEOCONFERENCE

Attendees:

Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair	Chief Officer Dave Jones
Cynthia Minh	Deputy Chief Officer Barry Kross
Diane Gillis	Deputy Chief Officer Mike Cumberworth
Kimberly Wood	Superintendent Anita Furlan
Rylan Simpson (<i>alternate</i>)	Inspector Dex Huber (<i>exited at 5:48 p.m.</i>)
Sana Aziz	Constable Stacey Shannon (<i>exited at 5:48 p.m.</i>)
Sherman Chan	Taryn Barton
Tanya Wheatley (<i>alternate</i>)	Stephen Crosby
Valerie Clements	

Guests: Marnie Larson, Transit Police Board;

ASL Interpreters: Lisz Keallen and Sharon Weller

Regrets: Larry Hayes, Helen Love (alternate attending), Dave MacDonald (alternate attending)

1. Call Meeting to Order & Traditional Land Acknowledgement - Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 Agenda:** Moved/Seconded, all in favour – **Approved**
- **Approval of the April 20, 2021 Minutes:** Moved/Seconded, all in favour – **Approved**
- **Timekeeper – Val**

3. Chief's Update

Chief Jones presented a PowerPoint presentation, as shared at the last TransLink Board meeting in regards to the following:

- COVID Safety/Mask Compliance
- Blue Eagle Cadet Program – Outreach program for youth ages 12 – 15 and part of MVTP's ongoing commitment to strengthening support to Indigenous Peoples
- Anti-Hate/Safety Reassurance – Decrease in number of hate crimes reported on transit between 2019-2020; however, it is recognized that passengers may be concerned due to increased incidents in the region.

- Organized Crime Agency of BC ('OCA') – MVTP is actively involved with OCA in response to the increased gang related shootings.
- Crime Suppression Team – A new plainclothes unit using intelligence-led approach to focus on hot spots on and around the transit system.
- Recruiting update
- Crime stats from the last year shared

Overall, MVTP continues to progress and play a vital role in policing and provide a level of assistance to jurisdictional policing partners. Chief Jones answered further questions on the following:

- Anti-Asian hate crimes – recent media coverage and incidents on transit
- Texting service (87-77-77) – stats around text volume and if texts are from deaf or hearing transit customers.
 - A comment was made that 911 should implement a texting service and Chief Jones shared some additional information on how the texting service was implemented at MVTP and how it is monitored.

Chief Jones outlined the Community Safety Officer ('CSO') program and the type of work the CSOs will be doing. The program is in the application stage with the Province. Part of the process includes community consultation. The TPCCC was asked to consider providing an endorsement of the program. The TPCCC shared comments and Chief Jones answered questions and provided additional information. At the request of various members of the TPCCC, a community endorsement letter template will be sent out by email so that any of the agencies represented on the TPCCC may use it to provide their support. Following the discussion, the TPCCC made the following motion to endorse the CSO program:

It was MOVED (Kim) and SECONDED (Sherman):

THAT the Metro Vancouver Transit Police Chief's Community Council endorses the Community Safety Officer program.

All in favour - CARRIED

Chief Jones thanked the TPCCC for their support.

4. Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team – Cst. Stacey Shannon

Constable Shannon introduced himself and shared a PowerPoint presentation titled "Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team ('TMET')". Cst. Shannon outlined TMET's mandate and mission to reduce crime and disorder on and around the transit system and to enhance the safety of transit riders, staff and the public. TMET promotes transit and public safety through proactive, responsive and intelligence-driven enforcement, and by working collaboratively

with jurisdictional police partners and stakeholders. Cst. Shannon outlined some examples of the work such as:

- Fare enforcement as well as the ability to accommodate vulnerable passengers;
- Traffic enforcement of bus lanes, HOV lanes and other transit only roadways;
- Distracted driving projects near transit hubs;
- CounterAttack and other impaired driving campaigns close to transit hubs; and
- COVID mask enforcement.

TMET operates throughout the lower mainland and Cst. Shannon outlined its role in collaboration with various partners. All new police officers at Transit Police work four shifts with TMET in order to gain exposure to TransLink's fare structure and bylaws. Cst. Shannon concluded his presentation by answering questions from the TPCCC.

***5:48 p.m. Cst. Shannon and Insp. Huber exited**

5. Return to Transit

With students returning to school and post-secondary in the fall and workplaces beginning to welcome back their employees, Mr. Crosby asked the TPCCC how their respective communities were feeling about returning to transit. The following comments and questions were shared:

- Before the pandemic busses were quite full – will there be limitations going forward;
 - *Mr. Crosby noted that current guidance from the health authority will allow busses to operate at full capacity although TransLink does not expect a full return right away.*
- Will masks continue to be mandatory on transit;
 - *Chief Jones advised that TransLink will continue to follow the Provincial Health Orders, however Chief Jones is happy to take any feedback about how people may feel about masks being 'recommended' rather than 'mandatory'.*
- Not aware of any concerns from the student population, however seniors have more hesitancy around returning to transit.
- For people who are unable to wear a mask due to a disability, what is the current protocol and how will it change as things begin to open up.
 - *Chief Jones outlined how officers can help raise awareness in these situations and that the goal was never to write tickets but to keep people safe.*
- For those with disabilities, the return to transit has been mixed based on individual circumstances.
- Support was noted for the equity, diversity and inclusion principles that MVTP continues to adopt.

- A presentation would be helpful that addresses concerns from various community groups such as people with disabilities, deaf or deaf blind, seniors, etc. Suggestions for the presentation could include issues such as crowds on the bus and where to access information when coming off the skytrain when there are service disruptions.
 - *Mr. Crosby will address this at the September meeting.*

6. Presentation: Surrey Crime Prevention Mentorship Program – Karen Reid-Sidhu

The Chair shared a PowerPoint presentation on screen titled ‘Surrey Crime Prevention Society, Community Safety Youth Mentorship Program’. The following three programs were outlined:

- Mentorship Program for Vulnerable Youth: established in 2013 and supports youth between the ages of 12-18. Provides mentorship from trained Surrey Crime Prevention Society volunteers and staff. Volunteer programs include community safety tours, traffic safety programs and special projects and events.
- LIFT High School Work Experience Program: introduced to meet the needs of the Surrey high school curriculum where students are required to gain work experience in the community.
- Civic Pride Program: launched through Surrey schools and engages grades 6 & 7.

Many of the youth involved in these programs work in the transit hubs and interact with MVTP. To conclude the presentation, a short video was played titled ‘[Surrey Crime Prevention Society Mentorship Program for Vulnerable Youth](#)’.

7. Strategic Services Update – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby provided a brief update on the development of the new Strategic Plan. The pillars and objectives have been approved by the Board. Mr. Crosby met with some members of the TPCCC and received some great feedback that has now been incorporated. Mr. Crosby provided an update on the timeline and thanked everyone for their input.

8. Membership Update – Diane Gillis

Diane provided a brief membership update and advised that Karen has served as Chair for many years. As per the Terms of Reference, it is time to have someone else step in. Diane thanked Karen for her leadership. Karen shared some information on what is involved with being Chair and encouraged the TPCCC to get involved.

9. Roundtable

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

Cynthia – comments shared earlier, no further update.

Sherman – comments shared earlier, no further update.

Sana – things remain status quo, hope to have more to share in September.

Diane – shared comments on TMET’s work ~~on and around the system; continue efforts to have the city (Burnaby) and BC Hydro clear the area under the skytrain that includes reducing crime and disorder around transit yet Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) measures such as lighting and maintaining overgrowth are not practiced on and around some transit properties so people in these areas are not visible so there is greater risk of crime and disorder.~~ *Diane took these concerns to the TransLink Board at their March 2019 meeting. As the improvements she was told would be put into place have not been completed, she followed up this past spring but has not had a response yet from the TransLink Board.*

Rylan – no update.

Tanya – Clubhouse is operating as it has been the last year, hoping to make changes in September.

Marnie – no update but thanked the TPCCC for letting her join the meeting tonight.

Kim – no update but shared some comments on the subway system in Washington DC and the lights that flash to warn when a train is coming.

Val – no update but asked if TransLink wants feedback directly on the return to transit.

- Chief Jones and Stephen Crosby are part of a Steering Committee and will pass on any feedback received.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

11. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:28 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Signed Minutes on File

Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair

Signed Minutes on File

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary

Amended and approved at September 21/21 meeting.