

Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
April 19, 2022
VIDEOCONFERENCE

Attendees:

Larry Hayes, Chair	Chief Officer Dave Jones
Valerie Clement, Co-Chair	Deputy Chief Officer Anita Furlan
Carolyn Oraziotti	Deputy Chief Officer Barry Kross
Cynthia Minh (<i>alternate</i>)	Sergeant Cheryl Simpkin
Dave MacDonald	Taryn Barton
Diane Gillis	Stephen Crosby
Helene Love	
Kimberly Wood	
Philip Lingasin	
Sana Aziz	
Sean Weatherill	
Sherman Chan	

Guests: Sara A. Levine, Chair, Transit Police Board
ASL Interpreters: Kirsten Hagemoen; Sharon Weller

Regrets: Dean Barbour, Donna Dickison, Karen Reid-Sidhu, Royce Shook

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, and the meeting today is being held on the traditional territories of the Lower Mainland Coast Salish peoples and gave thanks for their hospitality on these lands. At the Chair's request, all attendees took a moment to introduce themselves.

2. Consent Agenda & Timekeeper – Chair

Timekeeper: Diane Gillis

The following items were received for information and/or approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

- a) April 19, 2022 Agenda; **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**
- b) February 15, 2022 Minutes; **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**
- c) SCPS Awards Banquet/AGM (received for information)
- d) Email Correspondence to TransLink from Diane Gillis (received for information).

3. Chief's Update

Chief Jones provided an update on the Community Safety Officer program. The application is currently with the Province for approval. Chief Jones provided a brief overview of the purpose of the program and the anticipated timeline. Deputy Chief Kross is working on the Community Safety Officer training that will be required and noted that it may be helpful to have various members of the TPCCC speak to the CSOs during training in regards to helping people access and stay safe on the transit system.

Chief Jones presented a PowerPoint presentation "Transit Police Update March 2022" that included the following updates:

- Blue Eagle Cadets Program – Following the initial success in Vancouver, the program has now expanded to Surrey. Chief Jones noted his appreciation to Sgt. Cheryl Simpkin and Indigenous Liaison Officer Cst. Kirk Rattray for their dedication to the program.
- 2022-2026 Strategic Plan – Thanked the TPCCC for their participation in developing the plan. Outlined the three main pillars and some of the key performance indicators.
- 2021 Statistics provided for the following:
 - Police Files Generated from text reports
 - Rate of crimes against persons and against property
 - Section 28 mental health apprehensions
 - Arrests – warrants executed and new charges

Chief Jones concluded his presentation with some information on how Transit Police is working to strengthen support to Indigenous Peoples. Chief Jones answered a question in regards to languages spoken by MVTP employees and advised that American Sign Language is included. Chief Jones provided a brief update on an innovative new hiring approach.

4. TPCCC Member Presentation: St. Leonard's Society – Sean Weatherill

Sean Weatherill introduced himself and outlined his role at St. Leonard's Society of North Vancouver Community Residential Facility ('CRF') and Metro Vancouver West Community Corrections. Sean shared his screen to present a PowerPoint presentation titled 'Public Safety Partnerships'. Sean provided an overview in regards to the purpose of half-way houses and their role in society. Sean also spoke about public safety and the importance of reporting. He shared a recent example of an experience on transit and reporting through the text service 87-77-77. Sean provided some details on strategic initiatives at St. Leonard's

Society such as building relationships, increasing communication and promoting community and public safety. Sean provided a brief overview of the criminal justice process and governing legislation. St. Leonard's specializes in residential treatment programming and the TPCCC was advised of the approach and the various phases of the 12 week program. Sean went over staff requirements, training and screening criteria for clients. Metro Vancouver West Community Corrections consists of approximately 30 peace (or parole) officers. They work with local police to liaise about clients and participate in community projects. The TPCCC asked questions and shared comments. Sgt. Simpkin advised that Cst. Ben Hayward is the Neighbourhood Police Officer ("NPO") for North Vancouver and would be happy to work with Sean to support his residents as they navigate their journey. As requested by the TPCCC, the slides from today's presentation will be provided to the TPCCC for information.

5. Strategic Services Update – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby provided a Strategic Services update that included the following:

- New media relations officer – Cst. Amanda Steed
- Recent social media content including the viral video clip that Sgt. Ponsioen put out in regards to his rainbow patch
- Recent media releases – machete attack at Burquitlam and credit card skimmers found on the Canada Line.

Mr. Crosby answered a question in regards to the card skimmers and shared a photo on screen of what they look like.

6. Community Engagement Team Update –Sgt. Simpkin

Sergeant Cheryl Simpkin introduced herself and thanked the TPCCC for having her. Sgt. Simpkin noted her appreciation for the support that Mr. Crosby and the Communications Team provides to the Community Engagement Team ("CET"). Sgt. Simpkin provided an overview of the Homeless Outreach Project and NPO Cst. Bruce Shipley's role. A [video](#) highlighting the Homeless Outreach Project was played.

Sgt. Simpkin shared a PowerPoint presentation about the Community Engagement Team which consists of 6 NPOs, an Indigenous Liaison Officer ("ILO"), the Waterfront Community Policing Centre (volunteers that commit to public safety on transit) and the Blue Eagle Community Cadet Program. Sgt. Simpkin provided some updates within the CET such as:

- Blue Eagle Cadet Program – outlined the program, the recent expansion to Surrey, and the work of the ILO Kirk Rattray
- Sgt. Simpkin's appointment to the Board of Directors for the Circle of Eagles and the Vancouver Aboriginal Policing Centre

- Number of events the CET attended to promote safety, as well as supporting other community events and initiatives such as Toys for Tots
- Upcoming National Indigenous Day on June 21st – Blue Eagles to attend and participate in events
- Vulnerable Outreach such as providing compass passes for vulnerable youth
- Pulling Together Canoe Journey – Along with the ILO, will have a canoe and will be taking Indigenous youth

Sgt. Simpkin shared a recent success story in regards to NPO Cst. Jenny Chung's efforts to help a homeless Korean speaking man. Burnaby RCMP had initially reached out to Cst. Chung for assistance and she was able to help him. He now has a job and is no longer homeless. In closing, Sgt. Simpkin encouraged the TPCCC to reach out as the CET is available to help solve community problems and build partnerships and relationships. The Chair thanked Sgt. Simpkin for the presentation and for the outstanding work of the CET.

7. **Membership Update (Standing Item) – Diane Gillis**

As per Diane, reporting will be deferred and an update will be provided to Taryn for dissemination.

8. **Roundtable**

The TPCCC was asked to share community updates:

Sherman: Update on Ukraine and Afghan refugees. The Province predicts approximately 10,000 Ukraine migrants (temporary residents) will be coming to BC. Planning is underway to provide assistance to help them settle in Metro Vancouver.

Kimberly: GVAD Board has been reduced to four members and membership has declined. Kimberly is now part of Canada Deaf Grassroots Association which has chapters in each province. A panel was recently hosted to discuss the situation in Ukraine and in particular, how to help deaf Ukrainians during the crisis.

Sara (Police Board Chair): Thanked everyone for their commitment to the TPCCC and noted that the knowledge shared helps to inform decisions.

Val: Community events are starting back up and IRAYL will be getting involved. There is an upcoming Youth Week Block Party.

It was noted that community event information can be provided to Taryn for dissemination.

Cynthia – The Province has passed the Accessible British Columbia Act which will create new responsibilities for organizations. DABC has been given a new accessible project to provide grants that will support organizations needing to make accessibility improvements. DABC is currently recruiting for a program manager for the project: <https://disabilityalliancebc.org/career/>

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and will be in person.

10. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:33 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed Minutes on File

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Larry Hayes, Chair

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary