

**Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
June 20, 2022**

Room 427/428 – 287 Nelson's Court, New Westminster

Attendees:

Larry Hayes, Chair	Chief Officer Dave Jones
Valerie Clement, Co-Chair	Deputy Chief Officer Mike Cumberworth
Dean Barbour	Deputy Chief Officer Anita Furlan
Diane Gillis	Inspector Dexter Huber
Ian Barraclough	Inspector Chris Mullin
Karima Jivraj	Sergeant Cheryl Simpkin
Royce Shook	Taryn Barton
	Stephen Crosby

Guests: A/Commr. Maureen Levy, Transit Police Board
Inspector Rene Brisson, Camrose Alberta Police Services

Regrets: Dave MacDonald, Kimberly Wood, Sana Aziz, Sean Weatherill, Sherman Chan

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the unceded homelands of the Qayqayt First Nation and 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.

The Chair welcomed the new members of the Metro Vancouver Transit Police Chief's Community Council ("TPCCC") and accordingly, each new member introduced themselves:

- Karima Jivra - Downtown New Westminister Business Improvement Association; Business Owner in New Westminister
- Ian Barraclough – North Road Business Improvement Association

The Chair also welcomed guests and those attending for the first time and each introduced themselves:

- Inspector Rene Brisson, Camrose Police Service in Alberta – Inspector Brisson is being mentored by Chief Jones
- Inspector Chris Mullin

- Inspector Dex Huber
- Assistant Commissioner Maureen Levy (RCMP) – Police Board representative

The TPCCC went around the table and introduced themselves and shared comments.

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) June 20, 2022 Agenda; **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**
- b) April 19, 2022 Minutes; **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**
- c) Draft MVTP 2021 Annual Report to the Community (for information) & [video](#) - **Moved/seconded – all in favour/ Received for information**

3. Chief's Update

Chief Jones provided an update on recent activities at MVTP including:

- The secondment of two Inspectors: Chris Mullin from New Westminster Police and Suzanne Muir from Vancouver Police. Chief Jones highlighted some of the experience and expertise of the new Inspectors and outlined their roles at MVTP.
- Community Safety Officer (“CSO”) Program: Provided an overview of the CSO role and shared some examples of what the CSOs will do. The program will be up and running in time for the Broadway and Surrey/Langley transit expansions. Additional resources will be hired over the next four years to prepare for the expansions. If the TPCCC is aware of any potential candidates, please let Transit Police know.
- Safety on the transit system: Transit users are never alone while on transit with the ability to live text MVTP (87-77-77) as well as the presence of MVTP officers, station attendants, bus operators, transit security, silent alarms strips, cameras in stations and cameras in busses. One of MVTP’s goals is to make transit hubs places of safety in the community both in the way transit hubs are designed and the access to safety resources.
- Recruitment Update and Forecast: Many police agencies across the country are finding a decrease in the number of applicants which could be a concern in regards to the growth that is required in the coming years. It is anticipated that MVTP will be in a mode of continual recruitment for the next few years. Other industries are also

experiencing staffing shortages in general and a number people are leaving the workforce for retirement.

The TPCCC shared some comments about staffing shortages and retirements happening across many industries. Chief Jones answered questions from the TPCCC in regards to a recent recruiting campaign and capacity limitations of the Police Academy.

4. TPCCC Member Presentation: Fleetwood Business Improvement Association – Dean Barbour

Dean presented to the TPCCC on the Fleetwood area and the Fleetwood Business Improvement Association ('BIA'). An easel containing a large map of Fleetwood was on display for the presentation:



Dean outlined Fleetwood's population and the role of the BIA in the community. Dean also shared some comments in regards to the labour shortage that is affecting so many, including Fleetwood. Dean shared his professional background noting that he joined Fleetwood BIA in 2017. Fleetwood is under the RCMP's jurisdiction but does not require much police assistance at the present time. There is currently very little development in Fleetwood, however there are concerns from residents and stakeholders in the community that with the SkyTrain expansion and planned density for the area, future policing needs are anticipated

to increase. Dean spoke about the current businesses in Fleetwood and their anticipated future during the transit expansion construction phase.

Dean referred to the map and explained what the string and various pins represented. He outlined the concept of a 'Fifteen Minute Community' which would include having all essential services within walking distance. Dean answered questions from the Committee related to the map. Chief Jones thanked Dean for the presentation and provided some additional information on the transit expansion and Transit Police's role.

5. Membership Update (Standing Item) – Diane Gillis

Diane provided a brief membership update and went over communities currently represented on the TPCCC. At the moment, there is no representation from Langley. The Terms of Reference allow for 15 members. As there are currently 16 members, the TPCCC was asked to consider increasing membership to a maximum of 20 members. Chief Jones shared some comments and supports an increase to 20 members. With the upcoming transit expansions, an increase would allow for greater representation. The TPCCC decided to table a motion to increase the membership to 20 members to the next meeting when there are more in attendance. The TPCCC was asked to assign an alternate if they have not already done so. If a member misses three consecutive meetings without cause, then the member is deemed to have given up their position on the TPCCC. The Indigenous representative has left the TPCCC. Sgt. Simpkin is doing some work with TransLink which may assist in identifying a new representative.

6. Community Engagement Team Update –Sgt. Simpkin

Sergeant Cheryl Simpkin introduced herself and outlined the role of the Community Engagement Team ("CET"). Sgt. Simpkin provided an overview of the CET and highlighted some of the initiatives the CET is involved such as:

- Waterfront Community Policing Centre – consists of approximately 60 volunteers
- Transit safety presentations at universities, secondary and elementary schools
- 6 Neighbourhood Police Officers
- Indigenous Liaison Officer
- Blue Eagle Community Cadets – Originated in Vancouver and has expanded to Surrey and hope to be in New Westminster soon.
 - Blue Eagles will be at National Indigenous Day event in Holland Park tomorrow
 - Karima thanked for her generous support and involvement with the Blue Eagle program
- Safety Campaigns translated into different languages

- Homeless Outreach Team

Karima shared some positive feedback in regards to the Blue Eagle Cadets program, her involvement and how much she has learned. Chief Jones thanked Karima for her support and Sgt. Simpkin for the informative update.

****6:20 p.m. – Inspectors Huber, Mullin and Brisson exited***

7. Strategic Services Update – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby shared a PowerPoint slide containing recent images from Twitter of MVTP at various community events, promoting and educating the public about safety on transit. Work is underway on a new safety campaign to promote the safety features on transit and transit hubs. Chief Jones spoke earlier in the meeting about the concept of never being alone on transit and the goal to ensure that transit hubs are places of safety within the community. Mr. Crosby shared a slide in regards to the implementation of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and noted that many of MVTP's policing partners have launched new Strategic Plans that have similar issues and focus areas to the ones contained within MVTP's Strategic Plan. Sgt. Simpkin recognized Mr. Crosby and his team for the work that they do.

8. Roundtable

The TPCCC was asked to share community updates:

Karima - Fridays on Front Street are back for six days this summer in downtown New Westminster (booths available if MVTP would like one); Columbia Street will be shut down on August 6th for car free day; there has been an increase recently in theft, violence and homelessness in downtown New West and both MVTP and NRPD have been advised; Karima will ask the BIA to promote the 87-77-77 texting number.

Val – Surrey Pride is on June 24th from 4-9 pm at Holland Park; July 9th is Whalley's Corner Community Celebration; IRAYL will be at both events.

Maureen (Police Board Member) – thanked the TPCCC for having her at the meeting tonight.

Royce – September 13th and 27th are 'Talk Tuesdays' and one topic will be how to get around for seniors who have given up their drivers license; RCMP will be attending to talk about keeping safe in the community. Sgt. Simpkin will have Cst. Chung get in touch to talk about transit safety.

Diane – actively promoting the 87-77-77 text number to people in the community; working on mental health advocacy; local media submission has resulted in some constructive conversation; concerns are ongoing around the lighting/CPTED issues around SkyTrain stations; public information sessions and clean-up campaign to resume; comments from grandson on police were shared.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. and will be in person.

10. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:36 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed Minutes on File

Original Signed Minutes on File

Larry Hayes, Chair

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary