

**Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
November 8, 2022**

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

Attendees:

Larry Hayes, Chair	Chief Officer Dave Jones (<i>exited at 5:46 p.m.</i>)
Diane Gillis	Deputy Chief Officer Anita Furlan
Helene Love (<i>by phone</i>)	Deputy Chief Officer Mike Cumberworth
Karen Reid-Sidhu (<i>by phone</i>)	A/Sergeant Bruce Shipley
Karima Jivraj	Taryn Barton
Michelle Lemaire	Stephen Crosby
Royce Shook	
Sana Aziz (<i>by phone</i>)	
Shana Vanderark	

Guests: Adam Palmer, Transit Police Board

Regrets: Dean Barbour, Dave MacDonald, Kimberly Wood, Sherman Chan

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 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 advised that today is Indigenous Veterans Day and is a day to honour, remember and recognize the service, sacrifice and bravery of Indigenous Veterans in Canada.

The Chair took a moment to acknowledge the recent passing of former Transit Police Chief's Community Council ('TPCCC') member Donna Dickison. The Chair shared a few words about Donna who was a member of the St'at'imc Nation, a residential school survivor, an activist and a passionate advocate for Indigenous rights. Donna passed away on October 2nd and will be remembered by her family, friends and all the people whose lives she touched.

2. Consent Agenda – Chair

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

- a) November 8, 2022 Agenda – The following amendments that will be made to the agenda:
 - Moment of recognition added to acknowledge the important work of those in policing, especially with the recent loss of a Burnaby RCMP member.

- Reorder the presentations

Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved as amended

- b) September 20, 2022 Minutes; **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**
- c) TPCCC Meeting Schedule for 2023 – **Approved**
- d) Updated TPCCC Terms of Reference – **Received for information**

3. Chief's Update

Chief Jones introduced Vancouver Police Chief Constable Adam Palmer who is attending tonight as a representative of the Transit Police Board. Chief Jones noted the importance and the value of the TPCCC. If members have an interest to be part of a Board or Police Board, let Taryn know and she can share what is available from Board Resourcing.

Chief Jones provided the following updates:

- **Community Safety Officers ('CSO')** – The application will be considered by Cabinet later this month. Chief Jones outlined the intent of the position, duties, recruiting/training timeline and the history of various models presented in the past. Chief Jones highlighted Inspector Muir's role in getting the program up and running.
- **Broadway and Surrey Transit Expansion** – Transit Police will be growing in regards to the transit expansions in personnel (CSOs, sworn and civilian members,) and office/deployment space. With the Broadway expansion there will be a large volume of people moving underground which will require alternate deployment considerations. With the Surrey/Langley expansion, a deployment office is being explored. Chief Jones shared some comments about development around the Arbutus Terminus station and considerations such as traffic, livability, pedestrian and environmental considerations.
- **Safety messaging** – Continuing to work on getting messaging out to inform passengers about available safety features such as 87-77-77 texting service, emergency strip alarms and intercoms. The messaging will emphasize that transit riders are never alone on transit as there are Transit Police, station attendants, security, bus drivers and other personal available as well as cameras. The TPCCC is a great forum for Transit Police to receive feedback from Council members communities about safety on the system as well as accessible safety messaging. Chief Jones shared some additional information about the various cameras available on the transit system and how they are monitored.

The TPCCC shared comments and asked questions in regards to cameras on and/or along the transit system. The Chief received a comment about safety messaging and trying to reach people who do may take transit because they are nervous or apprehensive about it.

At this point in the meeting, the TPCCC went around the room and introduced themselves.

****5:46 p.m. Chief Jones exited***

4. Community Engagement Team Update –A/Sgt. Bruce Shipley

A/Sgt. Shipley introduced himself and outlined his role with the Community Engagement Team ('CET'). The CET is a group of eight police officers who care deeply about community. A big part of their role is going out in the community and giving presentations to various groups. A/Sgt. Shipley noted that he will connect with Royce to see how the CET can provide support to his community.

A/Sgt. Shipley shared a PowerPoint presentation titled "Community Engagement Team – November 8, 2022" that included an overview of the CET members. A/Sgt. Shipley went through each team member and outlined which area they work in and which projects or initiatives they lead. There have been many successful initiatives coming out of the CET such as:

- Waterfront Community Policing Centre – stats and volunteer hours provided, events attended outlined
- Blue Eagle – program is running in Vancouver and Surrey;

Karima shared her experience and observations through volunteering with the Blue Eagle program and noted the positive impact the program has on the youth involved. The TPCCC shared comments. Cst. Hanif was recognized for his ongoing efforts and dedication. The Chair thanked A/Sgt. Shipley for his presentation.

5. TPCCC Member Presentation: Downtown New Westminister Business Improvement Association – Karima Jivraj

Karima is the President of the Downtown New Westminister Business Improvement Association ('BIA'). The BIA is a not for profit society consisting of a volunteer board of directors and three staff. The BIA serves hundreds of businesses and property owners in Downtown New Westminister and does advocacy work with all levels of government on issues that matter to the BIA's membership. The BIA also meets with the New Westminister Police Department on a regular basis to discuss challenges in the downtown area. Karima highlighted some of the recent initiatives, projects and events to promote downtown New Westminister. Recent accolades were shared including two major awards. Karima provided an overview of New Westminister's population, growth projections and industry. One of the

current safety concerns is homelessness and lack of shelter space. For more information on the BIA, a link to the website was shared: www.downtownnewwest.ca

Peer Assistance Crisis Team ‘PACT’ Program – Ebony Rosa was unable to attend tonight to present on the PACT program. Karima provided a brief overview of the pilot program being launched in New Westminster. The program is under the Canadian Mental Health Association and is based on a model set up in Eugene, Oregon (as modified for Canada). It is already active in Victoria and North Vancouver. Karima outlined who the PACT team will consist of, their purpose and what types of calls they will respond to. With the program in place, the hope is that it will relieve some pressure on New Westminster 911 calls and provide another option for those in trouble. Although Ebony could not attend today, she requested that her contact information be shared so that any questions can be directed to her: Ebony Rosa (she/her/hers); PACT Program Coordinator – erosa@newstcity.ca. Further information is also available through the Canadian Mental Health Association. The TPCCC shared comments about the PACT program running in Victoria and North Vancouver.

6. Membership Update (Standing Item) – Diane Gillis

An update will be deferred to the next meeting.

7. Strategic Services Update – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby outlined two recent safety messaging videos in regards to [bike safety](#) and [replica weapons](#). Links to both videos will be provided to the TPCCC.

8. Roundtable

The TPCCC was asked to share community updates:

Karen – recent assault of volunteer, encourage everyone to remind communities to remain vigilant; Transit Watch program is active around bus loops and SkyTrain stations – observing and reporting; shared statistics on number of volunteers and volunteer hours;

Helene – SFU Field Program is starting up in the Spring after a hiatus during COVID; if anyone has space in their organization for SFU criminology students get in touch with Helene;

Sana – moving back to in person programming and getting back into the community with dementia education; contact Sana if anyone is interested in having a presentation;

Michelle- North Shore beer festivals are coming up and will likely bring a number of people on transit;

Shana – shared some early observations and comments on the benefits of sharing information as it relates to building better intelligence;

Royce – no update;

Diane – acknowledged the tragic loss of Burnaby RCMP Constable Yang; asking individuals to write to the Minister of Health in regards to the lack of care for vulnerable people; no update on CPTED issues at Royal Oak;

Karima – businesses in New Westminster have compassion and empathy for the vulnerable but are growing frustrated with continuing issues; Shine Bright Festival is a city wide event all along Columbia street;

Larry – Burnaby School District had a large study done by two SFU professors on perceptions of racism and safety in the school system; police in schools were not seen as a problem and will be something that Burnaby will look into; Burnaby is policed by RCMP and the School Board has a good relationship with RCMP; shared comments on the loss of Constable Yang;

Chief Palmer shared some comments on some of the benefits of having police liaison officers in schools and the current status in Vancouver. The TPCCC discussed and shared comments about what different districts are doing, personal experiences and various perspectives.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and will be in person.

10. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:46 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed Minutes on File

Original Signed Minutes on File

Larry Hayes, Chair

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary