

**Metro Vancouver Transit Police  
Chief's Community Council Meeting  
February 7, 2023**

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

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**Attendees:**

Larry Hayes, Chair  
Valerie Clement  
Diane Gillis  
Karima Jivraj  
Michelle Lemaire  
Royce Shook  
Sana Aziz  
Shana Vanderark (*by phone*)  
Sherman Chan  
Tanya Wheatley (*\*alternate*)

Chief Officer Dave Jones  
Deputy Chief Officer Anita Furlan  
Taryn Barton

**Guests:** Bill Chan, Transit Police Board

**Regrets:** Dave MacDonald (*\*alternate attending*), Helene Love, Karen Reid-Sidhu,  
Kimberly Wood, Philip Lingasin

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and acknowledged that Metro Vancouver Transit Police ('MVTP') and the Chief's Community Council ('TPCCC') respects the Indigenous Nations within Vancouver and acknowledges all First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples for their continued resilience, sustainable stewardship and as active members of the community for generations to come. It was recognized that working within the region's transportation system, we have a role to play in supporting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

**2. Consent Agenda – Chair**

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

- a) February 7, 2022 Agenda: Philip Lingasin is absent so his presentation will be removed from the agenda. **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved as amended**
- b) November 8, 2022 Minutes; **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**

**3. Chief's Update**

Chief Jones provided the following updates:

- **Community Safety Officers ('CSO'):** Outlined the intent of the position and provided an update on the training curriculum. Recruitment for the first 12 CSOs is underway. There will be outreach and consultation with various communities before the

program is launched. All is progressing well and the program has the support of the Police Board along with the union. Chief Jones answered a question about similar programs in other jurisdictions and outlined some of the differences. Chief Jones also answered a question about the curriculum development.

- **Sergeant of Operational Planning:** Outlined Sgt. Ponsioen's role in coordinating resources for special events including managing overtime and cost recoveries.
- **Police Board Meeting** – To encourage public engagement, the Police Board is looking to hold some of their meetings out in the community. If any TPCCC members have a venue where the meeting could be held, or issues they wish the Police Board to address, please let Taryn know.
- **Feedback on transit and safety** – There has been a focus across the country, especially in Toronto, on crime on transit. TransLink does a good job of surveying their ridership for perceptions of safety on transit. Chief Jones encouraged the TPCCC to speak with their communities and provide any feedback to the Chief or through Stephen or Taryn. Feedback can assist MVTP in addressing any issues and provides an opportunity to target something specific with a tailored approach. An example was shared in regards to new technology that allows officer's to use their phone to check fares and the subsequent reaction on social media.

Chief Jones answered questions from the TPCCC in regards to the types of feedback being sought. Chief Jones also provided a brief update on the new exemption in BC that decriminalizes of possession of certain illegal drugs and advised that there is a no consumption rule on transit. The TPCCC discussed and shared comments.

#### 4. **TPCCC Member Presentation: Deferred**

The presenter was absent so there was no presentation.

#### 5. **Membership Update (Standing Item) – Diane Gillis**

Diane provided an update and advised that the Membership Committee, consisting of Diane, Karen and Val, met to review membership and considered geographic and agency/sector representation within the current membership. Diane asked the TPCCC to consider where there may be gaps and to bring suggestions forward at the next meeting. Diane also noted the importance of having an alternate and asked the TPCCC to ensure that they have an alternate in place. As per the TPCCC's Terms of Reference, if three consecutive meetings are missed without cause, it is considered that the member has given up their seat. Diane will send a summary of the current membership that Taryn will send out with a link to the Terms of Reference so it can be discussed at the next meeting. There are currently five vacancies. The following suggestions were made for membership consideration:

- Environmental/Climate Change groups

- Delta/Ladner/Tsawwassen

Chief Jones shared some comments on TransLink looking into transit service on reserve areas. Sherman shared some information about an initiative at MOSAIC and enquired whether a newcomer to Canada could sit in on a TPCCC meeting as an observer as part of their training. The TPCCC discussed whether TransLink should have a representative on the TPCCC. Taryn will send out the communication from Diane and receive feedback. The Membership Committee will provide an update at the next meeting.

## 6. Strategic Services Update – Stephen Crosby

In Stephen's absence, there was no update.

## 7. Roundtable

The TPCCC shared the following community updates:

**Michelle** – For North Vancouver, have consulted with some of the residents at St. George's Leonard's about their feelings towards transit and there were some complaints about drug use on the SeaBus; also consulted with some of the managers at Lonsdale Quay and there are issues with drug deals and drug use particularly around the McDonalds;

**Sherman** – A major discussion item from the immigrant community is about safety on transit with many not feeling comfortable on public transit; provided an update on refugees coming from Ukraine and the service MOSAIC provides; upcoming job fair in May at the Croatian Cultural Centre that is well attended and may be a good opportunity for MVTP to have a booth;

**Sana** – In person services have resumed to serve people with dementia across the province; continue to raise awareness in an effort to erase the stigma of dementia; offer education and can provide training and resources for all sectors including front line workers and police officers;

**Karima** – Provided a brief update on PACT which launched in January and noted some of the differences initially reported on the program; PACT flyer with contact information handed out; the PACT program is running in North Vancouver; shared some photos on screen from a recent trip to India highlighting some policing initiatives;

**Val** – IRAYL is looking forward to the CSO program and potential partnerships; this month's focus is on youth homelessness; participating in the Coldest Night of the Year event on February 25<sup>th</sup> which raises money for local charities who help those experiencing hunger and

homelessness; will be involved in the homeless count throughout the lower mainland in March;

**Bill** – Thanked the TPCCC for their work and noted the importance of advisory groups;

**Royce** – Tri Cities Seniors and Wilson Centre Seniors’ Advisory Association are looking to have some workshops and transit safety will be one of the topics; previously held sessions for seniors in September and January; transit continues to be a big issue for the Tri-Cities; senior advocates are looking into the issue of access to transit and transit safety within the province;

**Tanya** - No recent issues raised around transit but will seek out some feedback;

**Diane** – Went on a recent walk with a group from TransLink from Royal Oak station to look at CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design); there is a warming center by Royal Oak Station that has a number of shopping carts around – have asked TransLink to remove the carts but so far no pick up date has been provided; lighting issues around Royal Oak continue to cause safety concerns, especially in taking transit after dark; if anyone has feedback or suggestions for how to advance the lighting issue with TransLink, let Diane know;

**Shana** – There is an awareness around criticisms towards policing; general observations that MVTP has been successful in collaborating with jurisdictional partners and have heard very positive remarks about MVTP;

**Larry** – Burnaby school district is still looking at police liaison officer program in schools; recent incidents impacting schools and students such as the homicide of a 17 year-old in the Cariboo area and a major lockdown at another Burnaby school.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and will be in person.

## 9. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:38 p.m.

Certified Correct:

*Original Signed Minutes on File*

*Original Signed Minutes on File*

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Larry Hayes, Chair

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Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary