



## **PUBLIC**

To: South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service Designated Policing Unit Board (Police Board)

From: Chief Officer Dave Jones  
South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service Designated Policing Unit (Transit Police)

Date: June 21, 2023

**Subject: Chief Officer's Report**

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## *INFORMATION REPORT*

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### **PURPOSE**

To inform the Police Board about the status of projects and initiatives undertaken at Transit Police since the last public meeting in April 2023.

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### **UPDATE**

The following reports covering the period of May-June 2023 are provided by the respective sections within Transit Police.

#### **1. Patrol Section – Administration and Training**

- Since April our four Block II JIBC recruits have working with their trainers on B and D Squads.
- In early June two contract hires (previously with Vancouver Police Department), started on A and C Squads.
- Patrol currently has 13 Members on sick leave, WorkSafeBC, short/long term disabilities and maternity leave. If all Members were back on shift, then Patrol would have three vacancies.



- From April to May, patrol Members have completed the Digital Evidence Management Solution ("DEMS") training and the annual use of force and firearms training.
- Several patrol Members completed the three day Critical Incident Stress Management ("CISM") training/Peer Support training.
- On May 4 and May 8, 2023, Transit Police hosted two Supervisor/NCO Training Days, which also incorporated invitations and participation with TransLink Operating Company Managers. There was great discussions, information sharing, teamwork, networking and participation in Table Top exercises. The afternoon consisted of high visibility patrols around the system with our TransLink Enterprise partners.
- Planning for Canada Day and Celebration of Lights is underway.
- Transit Police has made a submission for Repeat Violent Offending Intervention ("ReVOII") Initiative funding announced by the Province.
- The total number of naloxone deployments for April - May: 22.
- The total number of S. 28 apprehensions under the *Mental Health Act* for April - May: 28.
- FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association)\_2026 Update – Transit Police is working closely with TransLink, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Police Department ("VPD"), RCMP, Canada Border Services Agency and Toronto Police Service on planning for FIFA 2026. A national coordination group meeting took place on June 20/21 hosted by the VPD. Transit Police is also working its TransLink enterprise partners (Coast Mountain Bus Company ("CMBC"), BC Rapid Transit Company ("BCRTC"), Transit Security, and ProTrans BC ("Canada Line") on planning for the 2026 event.
- Over the past two months, all Transit Police Officers have been visible on the Transit System, conducting an extensive and increase in high visibility patrols, enforcement, and community safety initiatives with TransLink enterprise partners (CMBC, BCRTC, Canada Line, West Coast Express) as well as our Jurisdictional Police partners.

### Recognitions

- In addition to the recognitions listed in the June Report to the TransLink Board (as also provided to the Police Board), Patrol wishes recognizes the following Members for their good work:



- Four Members attended BC Place for the end of Ramadan celebration, Eid Al Fitr. Approximately 10,000 people, including Premier Eby, Vancouver Council Members, VPD and other dignitaries, were in attendance. Members mingled with the crowd, spoke to attendees regarding transit safety, recruiting and the Transit Police 87-77-77 text reporting line. The organizers and attendees were grateful for Transit Police attendance.
- Six Members attended the Vaisakhi Parade in Surrey. An estimated 700,000 people attended the event. Excellent work by Transit Police Members engaging the public during a large, important community event.
- For the past two years, Cst. Johal from C Squad West has worked diligently to address the crime issues around the footprint of Main Street Station. Homeless shelters, street vending, assaults, disturbances and open drug use have been identified as ongoing issues. The project has concluded; however, Cst. JOHAL and members of patrol continue to conduct extra foot patrols in the area. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Cst. Johal observed two persons openly displaying a large amount of cannabis and other drugs under a canopy in Thornton Park, close to Main Street Station. Due to the large amounts of drugs, not packaged as per Health Canada regulations, the persons were arrested for Possession CDSA. Drugs with an approximate street value of \$10 000 were seized. One of the persons claimed ownership of the drugs and was issued a Violation Ticket under the *Cannabis Control and Licencing Act*.

## **2. Patrol Section – Files of Note**

Please refer to the June Report to the TransLink Board (attached in the Police Board package) for outline of a number of significant incidents that occurred in April 2023. In addition to those files, some examples of other files follow.

- Person with Gun: Transit Police received a call from a SkyTrain attendant advising that there was a person with a gun at the Gateway Station in Surrey. The male was not threatening anyone but had it out showing another male and then put it in his waistband. The Surrey RCMP and Transit Police attended and all trains were held in place. The male was taken into custody on the platform and a knife was located in the shape of a gun. The male was on Bail out of Prince George on seven firearms related charges and he had conditions not to possess a knife or be outside of his recovery house.
- Stranger Assault on SkyTrain: A male was seated on a SkyTrain from Columbia Station to Sapperton Station and using his cell phone when a male approached, yelled at him incoherently, and then kicked him in the face. The victim did not know the male suspect and the assault appeared to be random. The suspect departed the train and walked to



the Elizabeth Fry Society building adjacent to Royal Columbian Hospital. The victim followed the suspect and reported the assault to police. Transit Police met with the victim and located the suspect when he walked out of the Elizabeth Fry Centre. The suspect was arrested for assault and then released on an appearance notice.

- Canada Wide Warrant: Members were working on foot in and around the Surrey SkyTrain Station. The officers recognized a male from one of the crime bulletins. The male stood out as he had facial tattoos. This male was checked and was found to be in breach of his parole. Correction Services Canada was contacted and they confirmed the breach and revoked his parole, this triggered a Canada Wide warrant for his arrest. The male was arrested without incident and transported to Surrey RCMP cells.
- Assault on a Bus Operator: A bus operator on No. 5 Road and Cambie Road in Richmond, had a passenger board through the rear doors. The operator told the passenger not to board through the rear doors. Soon after the passenger walked up to the operator's seat. The operator told the passenger to sit down. The passenger pulled out a box cutter style knife with the blade extended and held the knife up close to the operator's face. The operator stopped the bus and told the suspect to depart, which he did. The suspect was located by Richmond RCMP who arrested him for Assault with a Weapon before turning him over to Transit Police. Victim Services and a safety plan were provided to the bus operator.
- Possession of a Firearm, ID Docs and Arrest Warrant: Members on patrol observed a person failing to use the crosswalk in front of them. The Members recognized the suspect was being wanted for an outstanding warrant (from Surrey RCMP) for Trafficking of a Controlled Substance. Members arrested the suspect and during the search, incident to the lawful arrest, they located a loaded .22 handgun with ammunition and several pieces of identification not in his name. The handgun appears to have been a starter pistol that was modified and it was sent for analysis. The suspect was held in jail for the warrant and the file is under investigation.
- Found Missing Autistic Child: A SkyTrain Attendant at Metrotown Station alerted Transit Police that a six-year-old child was at the station alone. Transit Police arrived to observe the child having a tantrum and the SkyTrain Attendant having a difficult time controlling the child. The child was identified as Autistic and was attempting to hit, scrape and bite both Officers and grabbing at their duty belts. The Officers were able to safely reunite the child with the mother.



### 3. Investigation Section – General Investigations Unit

- Three GIU Members successfully completed the undercover operators course and they have been called upon to assist in investigations being carried out by our partner agencies.
- Aggravated Assault: On May 23 at 17:40 hours, a male boarded a bus at Marine Drive bus loop when an unknown male suspect pushed and punched him several times causing him to fall backwards. The suspect continued the assault while the victim was on the ground, eventually pushing him out of the bus along with his bag. The suspect ended up biting one of the victim's fingers off and the victim had his jaw broken. CCTV video was obtained and under review and some production orders submitted in order to help identify the suspect.
- Kidnapping – Assist Police: On April 27, 2023, both GIU members and CST Members answered a request for assistance for a kidnapping investigation for a Jurisdictional Police partner. A Transit Police GIU detective, who is a trained negotiator, assisted the investigation team in the file and CST Members also joined to assist in processing two suspects and a victim.
- As update to reports on earlier files:
  - Fatal MVA: Regarding the fatal motor vehicle accident on July 27, 2022 in New Westminster, the report from the RCMP's collision reconstruction team has been received and a comprehensive disclosure package will be submitted to Crown for charge assessment.
  - Stabbing Update: Regarding the April 10, 2023 stabbing that occurred at Columbia SkyTrain Station, New Westminster Police Department ("NWPD") maintained custody of the investigation while Transit Police GIU provided investigative assistance with preparing search warrants for the investigation. On June 8, Transit Police assisted NWPD with the execution of two residential search warrants, resulting in two of the primary suspects being arrested. Charges have been approved against both young offenders.
  - Assault with a Weapon (Guilty Plea): On December 4, 2021, two individuals became involved in a physical altercation at the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station, where the victim was stabbed nine times in the torso and kidney, with a six inch kitchen knife. The main suspect fled the station and was later identified through extensive investigation, including surveillance, tips from a Transit Police media release, and identification from police officers who had previous interactions with



the suspect. A search warrant was executed on the suspect's residence, resulting in the location of crime clothing and shoes that matched the tread impression from the crime scene. On May 10, 2023, the suspect plead guilty to 'Assault with a Weapon'.

#### **4. Investigation Section – Crime Suppression Team ("CST")**

- On May 25, 2023, CST and Patrol (B squad) participated in a boost and bust at Guildford Mall, Surrey. Participating in the boost and bust was Surrey RCMP and Delta Police, as well as community stakeholders such as Guildford Mall Security and Loss Prevention Officers from various stores. After the collaborative effort by all involved, over 15 arrests were made, with many various reports to crown counsel being prepared for submission.
- Over the next month, CST plans to work with our partner agencies to target some prolific offenders who are known to use the transit system. These offenders have a history for violence and mischief.
- Aggravated Assault Police Officer: As previously reported to the Police Board, on April 10<sup>th</sup>, there was SkyTrain related incident where an assault suspect drew a knife and slashed a Transit Police Officer's jacket. A further struggle ensued and a single round was fired. The suspect was held for a psychological assessment and later released with charges of 'Assault PO'.

#### **5. Investigation Section – Criminal Intelligence Unit ("CIU")**

- CIU continues to assist internal units and external partners with the identification of suspects. Since the last reporting, CIU has identified 48 suspects. CIU continues to liaise with jurisdictional policing partners on intelligence sharing, in addition to attending several inter-agency type meetings (e.g., Vancouver Police Department Youth, Integrated Youth At-Risk, Public Order Enforcement Meeting, Organized Crime Gang Call, New Westminster High-Risk Offender and Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – BC Weekly Uniform Meeting). CIU continues to be operationally engaged in the investigations currently underway by CST and GIU.
- Since the last Police Board meeting, CIU and Staff Sergeant Meaden attended two Repeat Violent Offender Hub meetings in an attempt to work with Crown Counsel on identifying repeat offenders who need specific targeting due to the level of criminal behaviour exhibited.



## **6. Administrative Services Division – Finance Section**

- Transit Police adjustments and familiarization continue for the new Translink Enterprise Resource Planning ("ERP") processes and reporting system introduced the first week of April 2023.
- Transit Police business case submissions for all 2023 capital projects have been provided and approved by TransLink for funding, and the 2024 budget planning is underway.

## **7. Administrative Services Division – Human Resources Section**

- The Employee Morale Survey was launched on June 19, 2023. The results of the survey will be available in the fall of 2023.
- Eight exempt job reviews were concluded, with those positions aligned with their TransLink Enterprise counterparts.
- The annual Member performance management 'Check-In' process has rolled out and will be concluded June 30, 2023.
- The new Sergeant Member Development and Support position continues to evolve, with a focus on Justice Institute of British Columbia ("JIBC") Recruit Support, Critical Incident Stress Management ("CISM") and Reintegration.
- In May 2023, Transit Police hosted a three day CISM training session for eight new team members, which expands the team to 23 active members (sworn and civilians professionals). TransLink personnel were also identified to take part in the multi-agency training.

## **8. Administrative Services Division - Administrative Support Section**

- Facilities is in the process of finalizing renovation plans for budgeted improvement to the Richmond Bridgeport Deployment Office and the Vancouver Waterfront Hub Office. Facilities is also working with Information Technology Section to plan upgrades to monitoring systems around critical power, cooling and fire suppression systems.
- The Recruiting Section hired 11 Community Safety Officers, four Police Recruit Constables and two lateral Police Constables. During this reporting period, 10 different community events and job fairs were attended within the Lower Mainland. Two



information sessions were held for Police Constables and the Community Safety Officer Program, which were well attended and have generated applications.

- The Information Management Section has transitioned to the new digital evidence management solution ("DEMS"). Training was provided to all available sworn and civilian members prior to the DEMS transition date occurring.
- Members' annual pistol qualifications were completed and carbine qualification for selected Members has commenced.

## **9. Administrative Services Division – Information Technology Section**

- A media release occurred on June 19, 2023 notifying the public that 186 files were accessed during a cyberattack on MOVEit, a third-party file transfer software used by the agency. The files were accessed due to a security vulnerability within the MOVEit software which has since been patched and repaired. Transit Police is one of many organizations around the world impacted by the Zero-Day MOVEit security vulnerability. A thorough review of these files is currently underway. A concurrent investigation into this incident is being led nationally by the RCMP Cybercrime Investigative Team Montreal assisted locally by the RCMP Cybercrime Investigative Team Vancouver.
- The DUO Two-factor Authentication ("2FA") rollout to increase security resilience is 95% complete for all Transit Police personnel and continues to be prioritized for completion.
- Discussion are in-progress with TransLink's Business Technology Services for the establishment of a shared Governance Model, along with an Information Technology Road Map being created.

## **10. Operational Support Section – Community Engagement Team ("CET")**

- File of Note – Mental Health / Mischief: The Transit Police's Mental Health Liaison Officer assumed responsibility for investigating a 'Mischief' that had resulted in a significant transit system delay. The subject had entered the guideway at Metrotown Station and a system stand-off with the subject ensued, which lasted many hours. Resources from multiple agencies were involved, including Transit Police, Burnaby RCMP, Lower Mainland District – Emergency Response Team, Burnaby Fire and BC Emergency Health Services. The subject was apprehended under the *Mental Health Act* but not committed. Charges of 'Mischief' are being recommended to Crown, with our Mental Health Liaison Officer coordinating the file. SkyTrain has provided actuarial





data to support the mischief, having cost the transit system in excess of \$300,000. The investigation is ongoing.

- During the reporting period, CET redirected resources to front-line, high visibility patrol and ridership engagement, in response to violent incidents in April. This included, for example, having each team member hand out pamphlets on safety and business cards with the 87-77-77 texting app information. In addition, from April 14 to June 19, 2023, CET was involved in:
  - 23 Translink Subsidiary Safety Presentations;
  - 7 Joint Projects with JPDs and outside agencies such as ICBC; and
  - 15 Community Events (Festivals/Parades).
- In the reporting period, there were 16 Blue Eagle Cadet sessions between the Surrey and Vancouver locations. The Blue Eagle Cadets will graduate the program on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **11. Operational Support Section – Explosive Detection Dog Service**

- During the reporting period, six Dog Handlers and their K9 partners attended the Pacific Northwest K9 Conference in Marysville, Washington. Attendees liaised and built relationships with other handlers from Washington State, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. As well as, instructors from NYPD, FBI, ATF (Dept. of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol/Tobacco/Firearms and Explosives) and Washington State. Our handlers had the opportunity to imprint on very volatile homemade explosives and large hides in a variety of environments; and there was a two day hands training session on K9 first aid. As a result of relationships established at the conference, our team has been invited to attend Seattle, Washington for a training day with the ATF.
- The K9 Unit continues to have a significant presence on the transit system while conducting their daily sweeps; thereby augmenting patrol's visibility on the transit system.

#### **12. Operational Support Section – Community Safety Officer ("CSO") Program**

- After a successful recruiting campaign, 11 candidates were identified for the first Community Safety Officer Training class, which will start on June 26<sup>th</sup> and run for 10 weeks. The CSO Recruits will then have an eight week period of field training before training is completed.



### **13. Operational Support Section – Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team (“TMET”)**

- Over the reporting period, TMET has conducted joint forces operations initiatives with UBC RCMP, West Vancouver Police, Burnaby RCMP, BC Highway Patrol, City of Coquitlam By-law, New Westminster By-Law and Vancouver Police and ICBC.
- In April, TMET issued 220 Bylaw Tickets and 142 Violation Tickets. During the month of May, TMET stepped up their patrols and enforcement on the SkyTrain system, in support of the department wide initiative for increased visibility. TMET conducted 38 initiatives, which resulted in 509 Bylaw Tickets and 263 Violation Tickets being issued.

### **14. Operational Support Section – Operations Communication Centre (“OCC”)**

- In response to staffing challenges, development is underway for an in-house OCC Operator (Dispatcher) training program. The training program is expected to be six months in duration and at the conclusion, the Operators will be trained to be a Call Taker, Information Operator and Dispatcher.

## **CONCLUSION**

The updates provided have been kept high-level and are intended to highlight some of the important work performed at Transit Police over the previous couple of months. A more in-depth report capturing all strategic activities over the duration of 2023 is provided as part of the semi-annual Strategic Planning report process. The next Strategic Plan update is anticipated in September 2023. (This report augments other topical information and quarterly crime statistics that is provided in the Chief Officer's quarterly reports to the TransLink Board and included in the Police Board's agenda package.)

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**Chief Officer Dave Jones**

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