

**Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
April 4, 2023**

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

Attendees:

Larry Hayes, Chair	A/Chief Officer Anita Furlan
Valerie Clement	A/Deputy Chief Officer Suzanne Muir
Diane Gillis	Inspector Dexter Huber
Karima Jivraj	Taryn Barton
Michelle Lemaire	
Royce Shook	
Sana Aziz (<i>by phone</i>)	
Shana Vanderark (<i>by phone</i>)	
Sherman Chan	

Guests: Marnie Larson, Transit Police Board

Regrets: Karen Reid-Sidhu, Kimberly Wood, Tanya Wheatley

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. The TPCCC went around the table and introduced themselves.

2. Consent Agenda – Chair

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

- a) April 4, 2022 Agenda: **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**
- b) February 7, 2023 Minutes – correction on page 3 to change 'St. George's' to 'St. Leonard's'; **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved as amended**
- c) Surrey Crime Prevention Community Service Awards Gala (info item)
- d) Pathways Clubhouse Annual Fundraising Dinner (info item)

3. Chief's Update

A/Chief Furlan provided the following updates:

- **Waterfront CPC:** currently recruiting for a volunteer coordinator; looking to expand to the East

- **Mental Health:** Accredited Facility Dog named Norquay; outlined Norquay's role to support mental health
- **New Fare Infraction App:** recently launched and assists members in terms of checking fares
- **Naloxone Statistics** – 56 Naloxone deployments in 2022 by members and volunteers
- **MVTP Report to TransLink Board:** provided high level overview of report
- **Crime Statistics** – recent crime stats provided; shared Chief Jones' messaging in regards to making transit hubs and stations places of safety in the community
- **Office Space** – update provided by Inspector Huber on potential new office space located in Burnaby near Royal Oak and what the space may be used for;
 - The TPCCC shared comments, noting that a community room could be beneficial for the public and provide a space to interact with police;
 - A/Deputy Chief Muir provided an overview of the Waterfront Community Policing Centre ('CPC') space;
- **Community Safety Officers ('CSO'):** A/Deputy Chief Muir provided an update, June 5th is the tentative launch date; recognized the dedicated team working on launching the program; further update to be provided at next meeting
 - Karima shared some information about the first CSO, noting his incredible contributions through his work with the Blue Eagles and the Waterfront CPC.

The TPCCC shared comments and discussed a recent incident on transit and the great communication provided by Transit Police. A/Chief Furlan and A/Deputy Muir provided some additional information, noting the great work of the investigative team. The TPCCC also asked about Chief Jones upcoming retirement. Board Chair Marnie Larson provided some comments and advised that the Board is working on a process to find a new Chief. Chair Larson will be reaching out to some of the TPCCC for consultation on the process.

4. **TPCCC Member Presentation: Deferred**

There was no presentation.

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

A/Deputy Chief Muir provided an update from Stephen in regards to a potential LGBTQ2S+ representative for the TPCCC. As the TPCCC has been looking for a LGBTQ2S+ representative for some time, Stephen is seeking the permission of the TPCCC to approach a contact at Qmunity about potentially becoming a member. The TPCCC deliberated and shared comments about having greater representation around the table. There was a suggestion made to approach the Chair of Out on Patrol for the best way to approach the potential

representative. Following deliberation, the TPCCC was in full support of approaching the potential representative.

Diane thanked Val and Karen for their work on the Membership Committee and advised that Karen has stepped off the Committee due to other commitments. If anyone from the TPCCC is interested in joining the Membership Committee, please let Diane know. Diane outlined the current gaps in representation on the TPCCC: Indigenous, Environmental, LGBTQ2S+, Delta/Tsawwassen, Langley. It was noted that TransLink has an Environmental Committee and considering the role of police, may not be necessary for TPCCC membership. The TPCCC deliberated and shared comments. There was a suggestion that Canadian Mental Health Society may be a potential option to have a perspective as to what their clientele face in a safety context. The TPCCC also considered neuro-divergent representation (Autism Network, Pacific Autism, Community Living, Canucks Autism). The TPCCC was in agreement to try to find representatives from the following: Indigenous, LGBTQ2S+ (Qmunity to be approached as previously discussed), Autism, Mental Health and Langley/Delta/Tsawwassen. Sherman offered to approach Langley Community Services and Diane will follow up with him after the meeting. Diane will provide an update at the next meeting.

6. Strategic Services Update – A/Deputy Chief Muir

In Stephen's absence, A/Deputy Chief Muir provided an update on the following recent items from the communications/media team:

- MVTP currently has large platform posters with the 87-77-77 texting information at some of the busiest SkyTrain stations; additional ads for trains and buses are currently in development;
- Discussions are ongoing to increase the use of digital advertising spaces across the system to further communicate safety messaging and highlight safety features;
 - Digital ads are advantageous for costing, rotating messages and allow more flexibility
- Highlighted the great work of the Communications Team noting the significant increase in media stories from 476 in 2021 to 713 in 2022

7. Roundtable

The TPCCC shared the following community updates:

Diane: Ongoing efforts to have TransLink address lighting issues and concerns around CPTED; Diane shared the background and outlined concerns raised by the community; next step being considered it to go to the Ministry of Transportation; there is work being done in the community to clean up around Royal Oak;

Karima: Issues around Columbia station and the 4th Street exit in regards to transient and homeless; Army & Navy has been taken over by Purpose Society and the downstairs has been converted into a shelter; New Westminster Police are aware of the issues and Karima will raise it with the MVTP NPO for New Westminster; Blue Eagle update in regards to funding efforts; Blue Eagle expansion to New West has been delayed to September; working to find some sponsors for the World Partnership Golf Tournament; looking to bring in Cst. Hanif or someone to talk to newcomers and seniors who have issues with the language and don't feel safe on transit;

Acting Chief Furlan thanked Karima for all of her support. A/Deputy Chief Muir provided some additional comments, noting that there is now a trademark on the Blue Eagle Community Cadets program. A/Deputy Chief Muir advised that TransLink is doing some work to engage with seniors.

Royce: Port Coquitlam will be reporting out at the end of the month on a survey issued last year in regards to seniors and transit and Royce will provide an update to the TPCCC at the next meeting; Senior Advocates will be looking at transit issues provincially, especially transit use between cities and smaller communities;

Sherman – shared comments in regards to the value of the TPCCC and noted that it is important that vulnerable populations and minority groups are aware that the TPCCC exists and can be their voice; concerns being raised about perceptions of safety on transit due to what is happening in other cities across the country;

A/Chief Furlan advised that the same trends are not being seen here, but acknowledged that the news coverage impacts perceptions of safety. It is important to get the messaging out and A/Chief Furlan thanked the TPCCC for their efforts. A/Deputy Chief Muir shared some comments on perceptions of safety and how it can be addressed. Diane shared some comments on mental health and addictions.

Larry – referred to the Repeat and Violent Offending Initiative;

The Chair provided some closing comments and the TPCCC acknowledged the career and contributions of Deputy Chief Cumberworth who will be retiring soon. The TPCCC thanked Police Board Chair Marnie Larson for attending.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. and will be in person.

9. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:26 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed Minutes on File

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Larry Hayes, Chair

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary