

**Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
September 12, 2023**

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

Attendees:

Larry Hayes, Chair	A/Chief Officer Suzanne Muir
Valerie Clement	Deputy Chief Officer Anita Furlan
Adam Markovic (<i>*alternate</i>)	A/Deputy Chief Officer Bryce Graham
Anna Markey (<i>*alternate</i>)	Inspector Dex Huber
Breanna Guy	Taryn Barton
Karen Reid-Sidhu	Stephen Crosby
Karima Jivraj	S/Sgt. Bruce Shipley (<i>exited at 6:06 pm</i>)
Shana Vanderark (<i>by phone</i>)	
Tanya Wheatley	
Tommi Leigh	

Guests: Murray Dinwoodie, Transit Police Board

Regrets: Dean Barbour, Diane Gillis (**alternate attending*) Kimberly Wood, Michelle Lemaire; Sana Aziz (**alternate attending*), Royce Shook, Sherman Chan

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:08 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 and approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

- a) September 12, 2023 Agenda: **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**
 - It was noted that the presenter for Item 5 could not attend and accordingly the presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.
- b) June 6, 2023 Minutes – **Moved/Seconded – all in favour/Approved**

3. Chief's Update

A/Chief Muir presented a PowerPoint presentation titled "Chief Officer Report September 2023" and provided the following updates:

- Brief update on Chief Jones
- Community Safety Officers – progressing through a 10 week training program
- National Police Dog Championships – two MVTP members finished 2nd and 4th ; thanked Karima for her support of the K9 team

Deputy Chief Furlan provided updates from the Operations Division on the following:

- Issues around Columbia Station as previously raised by Karima - MVTP has increased presence
 - Karima acknowledged MVTP's efforts and shared feedback on some improvements.
- Violent incidents in late spring – MVTP has enhanced joint patrols and partnerships with transit partners
- 87-77-77 text line – increase in ads on and around transit to make people aware of the texting number
 - Comment shared that international numbers are not able to text
ACTION: Deputy Chief Furlan to review the issue of international numbers not being able to text 87-77-77 and report back.
- Blue Eagle Community Cadet Program – brief overview of the program and appreciation was noted for the support of the various community partners
- CCTV Live Video Access on transit system – continuing to pursue

Inspector Huber provided the following updates from the Operations Division:

- FIFA 2026 World Cup update including considerations for Vancouver and planning with partners - TPCCC to be kept updated on MVTP's involvement
- Joint Project – brief overview of a joint project targeting shoplifters and the connection to transit

A/Deputy Chief Graham provided the following updates from the Administrative Services Division:

- Office space update for Burnaby/Metrotown area and future needs for Langley/Surrey
- Recruiting update including recent hiring statistics, recruiting events and updating recruiting information in regards to EDI
 - Karen shared details about an upcoming Surrey Crime Prevention recruiting symposium in January

A/Chief Muir commended A/Deputy Chief Graham and the recruiting team for their continued efforts and dedication.

Stephen Crosby provided a brief update on the following:

- Diane's advocacy work for improvements around the Royal Oak area - a meeting has been set up in October at the local MLA's office. Both TransLink and Transit Police will be in attendance.
- Accessible BC Act – working to meet all requirements in coordination with TransLink.

The TPCCC shared comments and Mr. Crosby answered a question on work being done in regards to the Accessible BC Act.

It was noted that on October 1st, A/Chief Muir will be officially sworn in as Chief Officer.

4. Community Engagement Team – Sgt. Bruce Shipley

Deputy Chief Furlan introduced Sergeant Bruce Shipley. Sgt. Shipley shared a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the members of the Community Engagement Team (“CET”) as well as the six Community Service Areas. In addition to the Neighbourhood Police Officers, the CET also includes a Mental Health Liaison Officer and an Indigenous Liaison Officer. Sgt. Shipley shared examples of some of the work the CET does including attending community events, outreach and working with community partners. Sgt. Shipley answered a question from the TPCCC about the Community Safety Officers and how they will be deployed. A/Chief Muir and A/Deputy Chief Graham provided some additional information on the Community Safety Officer program. The TPCCC requested a list of Neighbourhood Police Officers and their Community Service Area.

ACTION: Taryn to distribute a list of NPOs/CSAs to the TPCCC

Sgt. Shipley outlined how the NPO's are deployed and future plans for further engagement. Sgt. Shipley answered questions from the TPCCC in regards to engaging with the community, addressing complaints and community outreach. In closing his presentation, Sgt. Shipley noted that the CET is a dedicated group who work very hard to ensure people feel safe on and around the transit system. Sgt. Shipley passed along regrets from Mental Health Liaison Officer Ben Hayward for not being able to attend tonight. The Chair shared some comments and thanked Sgt. Shipley for the presentation. A/Chief Muir highlighted the important work that Sgt. Shipley and the CET do and acknowledged their many accomplishments.

***6:06 pm – Sgt. Shipley exited**

5. Presentation: MVTP Mental Health Liaison Officer Presentation – TABLED

This item has been tabled to the next meeting, pending the presenter's availability.

6. Policy Updates – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby provided the following policy updates in regards to new policing standards:

i. Interactions with Gender Diverse Persons - Standard Operating Procedure

Following extensive consultation with Qmunity, a Standard Operating Procedure ('SOP') has been developed in regards to Interactions with Gender Diverse Persons. SOPs are not publically available and Mr. Crosby received a comment that greater transparency in this area may be helpful.

ii. Hate/Bias Investigation Policy

The BC Human Rights Commission released a report in March in regards to the rise of hate crimes and contained a variety of recommendations for police. A [Hate/Bias policy](#) has been developed. A/Deputy Chief Graham shared some additional information on work already being done.

iii. New Sex Assault Investigations Standards

The new standards help to ensure that Victim Services is part of the process from the early stages and creates a stronger connection between police agencies and support systems for victims. Investigations are trauma informed and victim centered and training is being issued to all officers.

The TPCCC deliberated and shared comments in regards to the spike in hate crimes during the pandemic. The TPCCC also shared some of their observations and experiences with Victim Services. A/Deputy Chief Graham provided additional information about the process MVTP follows. A/Chief Muir noted that MVTP has a list of resources throughout the twenty-two jurisdictions it serves to ensure members are aware of the resources available in each area.

7. Roundtable

The following community updates were shared:

Breanna – Working with policing partners on a project to apprehend shoplifters; also working with MVTP to target prolific offenders; looking forward to having MVTP secure an office space in the area;

Karima – Shared details of an invitation to make a presentation; looking to put some info into a newsletter to promote the 87-77-77 texting number; no update available on the PACT program in New Westminster; Downtown New Westminster BIA is working with the Purpose

Society in regards to the Army and Navy shelter; Blue Eagle Community Cadets (New Westminster) is hoping to start early next year when a location and funding are secured (Surrey and Vancouver Blue Eagle start up next week); there is an individual in Ontario who has put out a petition to ban the use of police dogs, however there are several inconsistencies in the petition;

Karen – Surrey Crime Prevention celebrates its 40th Anniversary next year; statistics shared on number of volunteers and volunteer hours; annual symposium coming up; recent meeting with Peel Regional Police; Awards Event on May 24th; outlined recent volunteer activities and community events supported; highlighted Blue Eagle Community Cadet program; haven't done much with MVTP recently and hope to do more soon;

Tanya – Sgt. Shipley came out to Pathways and provided transit passes;

Anna – Department expanded from a team of 2 to 5; continue to develop partnerships and highlighted recent partnership with BC Search and Rescue; the demand continues to increase; outlined upcoming community wide awareness and fundraiser events including September 24th at Grouse Mountain; online training has expanded and is free and available; learning materials can be developed and adapted as required; will provide a further update when the learning portal is live.

The Chair thanked all for attending the meeting.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 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

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Larry Hayes, Chair

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary