

Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
September 21, 2021
VIDEOCONFERENCE

Attendees:

Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair	Chief Officer Dave Jones
Larry Hayes, Co-Chair	Deputy Chief Officer Barry Kross
Cynthia Minh	Deputy Chief Officer Mike Cumberworth
Diane Gillis	Superintendent Anita Furlan
Helene Love	Constable Julien Ponsioen
Kimberly Wood	Taryn Barton
Royce Shook (<i>by phone</i>)	Stephen Crosby
Sana Aziz	
Sherman Chan	
Valerie Clements	

Guests: Murray Dinwoodie, Transit Police Board

ASL Interpreters: Brenda Erlandson and Sharon Weller

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and acknowledged that the Metro Vancouver Transit Police ('MVTP') operate throughout, and the meeting today is being held on the traditional territories of the Lower Mainland Coast Salish peoples and gave thanks for their hospitality on these lands.

2. Review: Approval of Agenda/Minutes – Chair

- **Timekeeper - Val**
- **Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda and it was clarified that Chair nominations will be discussed.
- **Approval of the June 22, 2021 Minutes:**
 - Request from Diane that her comment in the Roundtable be amended to reference CPTED issues as follows: *"...that includes reducing crime and disorder around transit yet Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) measures such as lighting and maintaining overgrowth are not practiced on and around some transit properties so people in these areas are not visible so there is greater risk of crime and disorder. Diane took these concerns to the TransLink Board at their March 2019 meeting. As the improvements she was told would be*

put into place have not been completed, she followed up this past spring but has not had a response yet from the TransLink Board.”

- Motion to approve the minutes with the amendment: **MOVED/SECONDED, all in favour - Approved**

3. Chief's Update

Chief Jones provided an update on the following:

- Community Safety Officer Program Update:
 - TPCCC thanked for their support
 - The Province requires further consultation and is in the process of sending out correspondence and setting up meetings
- Transit Update – 12 & Under Ride Free
 - As part of the BC government's mandate, transit is now free for kids 12 and under
 - Outlined how it works currently for busses and SkyTrain
 - If TPCCC has any feedback from their groups, please advise Chief Jones or Stephen Crosby
- COVID Update
 - With the return to school and post-secondary back in session there has been an increase in all forms of transportation resulting in the highest number of passengers since COVID came into effect
 - Masks are required on transit
 - Members continue to do well and all staff are encouraged to get vaccinated although there is no policy for mandatory vaccinations for employees or people on the system

Chief Jones answered a question about crowding on busses since the number of passengers is not limited. Chief also answered a question about incidents with people not wearing masks.

- Blue Eagle Community Cadets Program
 - Had a successful year thanks to the efforts of Cst. Rattray, Sgt. Simpkin and others involved.
 - Surrey has expressed an interest in duplicating the program
 - [Video](#) highlighting the program will be emailed to the TPCCC for interest
- Sept 30th National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day – special shoulder flashes will be worn

4. Waterfront Community Policing Centre – Cst. Julien Ponsioen

Constable Ponsioen shared his screen to provide a PowerPoint presentation titled “Waterfront Community Policing Centre”. Cst. Ponsioen is the Neighbourhood Police Officer for downtown Vancouver and is also the LGBTQ Liaison at Transit Police. Cst. Ponsioen outlined the concept for the Waterfront Community Policing Center (‘CPC’) which is a multi-jurisdictional community policing centre that works on and around the transit system. The goal was to start in March 2020 but ended up being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, work behind the scenes continued such as creating a website and application forms, drafting policy and training plans, and sourcing sponsorship for gear and technology for the volunteers. The Waterfront CPC officially launched in February 2021 and currently has 55 volunteers. Cst. Ponsioen provided an overview of the work done to date including patrol hours and joint safety initiatives. Cst. Ponsioen concluded his presentation by answering question from the TPCCC. Chief Jones thanked Cst. Ponsioen for all of his efforts.

5. TPCCC Member Presentation: SFU, School of Criminology – Helene Love

Helene Love is a Lecturer at Simon Fraser University, School of Criminology and also the Director of the Field Practice Program. Helene shared her screen to provide a PowerPoint presentation. Helene provided an overview of the Field Practice Program which offers course credits for an unpaid internship. Students are paired with an experienced professional at an affiliated organization. The Field Practice Program is always looking for organizations to partner with. The TPCCC was asked to let Helene know if they are interested and have the capacity to mentor and help students understand their respective organizations and other aspects of the criminal justice system outside of the classroom. More information is available on the website <https://www.sfu.ca/criminology/ugrad/fieldpractice.html> or TPCCC members may contact Helene directly.

Helene answered questions from the TPCCC on the Field Practice Program, discussed collaborations and received suggestions for consideration. Members of the TPCCC shared training examples from their own organizations. The Chair thanked Helene for the presentation and noted that field practice programs are a great opportunity for both the students and the organizations.

6. Transit: Live Updates – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby provided an overview of live transit updates following a question at the last TPCCC meeting. Mr. Crosby shared his screen provided a PowerPoint presentation titled

'Real Time Information on Transit'. The following methods to access live updates and alerts were outlined:

- TransLink Website translink.ca/alerts - all the latest alerts can be found for bus, SkyTrain, West Coast Express, SeaBus and Handy Dart as well as station access and information services.
- TransLink Twitter @[TransLink](https://twitter.com/TransLink) or [Twitter.com/translink](https://twitter.com/translink) – a great resource for current information. Direct messages can be sent through Twitter and are regularly monitored and responded to by TransLink.
- Transit App – Bus Services – a new partnership between TransLink and Transit App which provides real time information about bus routes including how full the bus is reported to be.
- Station Kiosks – available at various transit hubs.

7. Strategic Services Update – Stephen Crosby

Mr. Crosby provided an update on communications including:

- Social Media – Neighbourhood Police Officers and K9 handlers are getting back to doing presentations out in the community.
- Media Release – Recent release in regards to masks on transit.

8. Membership Update (Standing Item) – Diane Gillis

The Chair advised that the TPCCC is currently looking for Chair nominations. There is also the option of having the Co-Chair move into the Chair role and appoint a new Co-Chair. Larry is the current Co-Chair and would be honoured to serve as Chair with the TPCCCs support. The TPCCC was in support of having Larry serve as Chair for the new year. The TPCCC was asked to let Taryn know if they are interested in being Co-Chair. Val volunteered if no one else puts their name forward.

Diane provided a brief update on membership and reminded the TPCCC that there can be up to 15 members.

9. Roundtable

The Chair outlined the purpose of a Consent Agenda and would like the TPCCC to consider having a 'Consent Agenda' going forward. If there is a report or anything that can be shared in writing, it can be put in the Consent Agenda for the TPCCC to receive for information. The

TPCCC will trial it in the new year to make sure it doesn't take away from the community feel of the meetings.

Members went around the table to provide an update on current initiatives in their communities and also provide an update on how their communities are feeling in regards to returning to transit:

Diane – Provided an update on an issue that has come up at the Public Safety Council in regards to safety around some transit stations and what the City of Burnaby is doing to address it. \$4 million has been approved to go towards installing lighting features in the BC parkway (Imperial and Edmonds). Diane would like to ensure that TransLink also addresses safety to and from stations throughout the system.

- Sherman advised that the City of Burnaby has come out with a transition plan and is seeking input. This is a great opportunity to provide input, particularly in regards to safety along transit.
- Deputy Chief Cumberworth provided an update on the Integrated Security Services Committee. The Committee is comprised of representatives from police, bus and Skytrain. Issues of safety and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) are discussed and Diane and Sherman were asked to email any concerns to DC Cumberworth and so he can address them with the Committee.

Kim – General question in regards to the postponement of the construction of the Surrey to Langley SkyTrain, is there a way that the deaf community can be consulted in the planning stages on how to remove barriers from new stations and provide better accessibility. Chief Jones advised that there is an extensive consultation process that goes into the design of new stations and can look into finding the right group to put Kimberly in contact with.

Sana – Status quo and continuing with virtual services.

Sherman – Has found an alternative that is able to join the next meeting.

Val – No update at this time.

Larry – [REDACTED]

Minutes revised at the request of Burnaby School Board

Helene – No further update.

Royce – Interested in the conversation tonight. Looking to address digital media for seniors.

Cynthia – No updates, thank you to Kimberly for bringing up some important issues.

Kim – No further update.

Karen – Presenting to the Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board on Friday.

Chief Jones welcomed Royce and thanked him for stepping in to represent the Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network. In regards to digital media and ways to communicate with senior communities, MVTP can provide other options such as in person meetings, coffee chats or mailings. Royce will take it back to his Committee and get some information on how seniors would like to receive communication.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

11. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:35 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Signed Minutes on File

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Karen Reid-Sidhu, Chair

Taryn Barton, Recording Secretary