Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Chief's Community Council Meeting
February 4, 2025
Room 427 – 287 Nelson's Court, New Westminster

Attendees:

Karima Jivraj, Chair
Valerie Clement, Co-Chair
Anna Markey – *by videoconference*
Breanna Guy
Diane Gillis – *by videoconference*
Eva Kwan
Royce Shook
Shana Vanderark
Sherman Chan – *by videoconference*
Tommi Leigh – *by videoconference*
Chief Officer Suzanne Muir
Deputy Chief Officer Bryce Graham
Deputy Chief Office Randy Fincham
Judy Parker
Stephen Crosby

Regrets: Dean Barbour, Laura Clarke

Guests: Bill Chan, Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board
Cst. Brad Dow, Metro Vancouver Transit Police
Ray Ahmed, Concord Security (potential alternate for Breanna Guy)

ASL Interpreters: Sheri Burtnick, Samantha Ferguson

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1. Call Meeting to Order & Traditional Lan Acknowledgement

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 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) February 4, 2025 Agenda: **Moved/Seconded – all in favor/Approved**
b) November 5, 2024 Minutes: **Moved/Seconded – all in favor/Approved**

3. Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team (TMET)

Chief Muir provided an overview of the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team and introduced Cst. Brad Dow from TMET. Cst. Dow that shared the team was created September 1, 2020 and is

comprised of one Sergeant and four Constables. Their focus is on enforcement of fares, transit conduct and safety regulations and road safety in/around transit hubs. Cst. Dow provided a PowerPoint presentation on TMET and the road safety initiatives they participated in throughout 2024 and continue to do. The presentation included information on the Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR), bus lanes, CounterAttack roadblocks, distracted driving and speeding.

Deputy Chief Fincham and Senior Manager Crosby shared that the team is well received by the community and they have provided education to the public regarding misuse of bus lanes. In 2024, when Transit Police reached out to the public for feedback, the team received hundreds of responses and recommendations for enforcement. Additionally, the team has received the prestigious Alexa awards for removing impaired drivers from the roads and they actively participate in "Light up the Highway", a large joint police operation to deter and catch drivers under the influence. Chief Muir shared that several bridges are part of the TransLink oversight of safety.

Cst. Dow answered questions from the TPCCC regarding TMET and the activities and projects they have been involved with as well as their plans for 2025.

The TPCCC asked about pedestrian safety at stations and Chief Muir advised there are several seasonal campaigns when Police Officers and Waterfront Community Policing Centre ("CPC") volunteers are out doing education and handing out reflectors.

4. Chief's Update

Recent Activities at MVTP

Chief Muir provided opening remarks and presented a PowerPoint Presentation titled "Chief's Community Council Report".

Chief Muir provided an update on the following:

- Achievements within the three strategic pillars of Transit Police
    - Engaged Community Partners
        - Increased transit safety presentations to schools
        - Conducted a Community Safety Survey in accordance with new BC Provincial Policing Standards
        - Orientations to Police Officers from Peer Assisted Care Teams
        - Police Board Public meeting held in the community
    - Cross Regional Policing
        - Expanded Community Safety Officer program to 24
        - Numerous Repeat Violent Offender Intervention Initiative funded projects
        - Increased bus lane and fare enforcement projects
        - Reintroduction of bike patrol program
        - Feasibility study for an East deployment office
    - Modern Policing Culture
        - Citizenship Ceremony held in collaboration with Translink Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
        - Completion of brand discovery process and development of brand strategy
        - Employee Morale Survey actions either complete or in progress

- Indigenous experiential learning provided to over 200 employees

Chief Muir shared the Business Plan for 2025, which includes introduction of new positions such as a Youth Liaison Officer, an additional Mental Health Liaison and a Media Relations Sergeant. Chief Muir shared that over the next several years, MVTP is preparing for a brand refresh, FIFA World Cup, Millennium Broadway and Surrey extensions, and various other initiatives. Chief Muir finished by sharing that 2025 is the 20th anniversary of Transit Police.

Deputy Chief Graham shared an update on the Metrotown Sub-Office that will be facing towards the bus loop and aiming for a Q3 2025 completion.

Chief Muir updated that contractor selection is underway for the evaluation of the Community Safety Officer program. Comments from enterprise partners and the public have been positive regarding the CSOs and many CSOs have transitioned to sworn officers at MVTP.

Looking ahead – Strategic Planning
Chief Muir discussed the importance of strategic planning and MVTP will be looking to develop a new 3-to-4-year plan in 2026.

The TPCCC discussed strategic planning and having a strategic plan for the Council in order to be more effective and efficient. The TPCCC agreed the look at the potential for work to begin at the next meeting.

Karima requested all members think about what the Council should focus on as it plays an important role in representing the community.

Chief Muir acknowledged all the work done by the TPCCC in 2024 and supported the next steps in charting a roadmap ahead. A facilitator will be brought in to assist.

5. Membership Update (Standing Item)

Diane reiterated that the Council doesn't require geographic representation from all areas and community facets but there does appear to be some gaps and overlap. She will confirm the areas of focus for the next meeting. Diane also requested that everyone have an alternate identified as it is helpful if a member is unable to attend, the alternate can step in. Diane will be in touch with everyone.

Sherman expressed that in addition to alternates, the Council should look at adding more organizations, particularly those supporting refuges and new comers. Discussion occurred around what other groups to reach out to and the potential to identify representatives that represent the blind community and Indigenous peoples.

6. Roundtable

The following updates were shared:

- Royce – the Tri-Cities is holding a health fair in early April, which will include information on how to get around the region. Royce will send information to MVTP.

- Breanna – shared concerns with youth groups on and surrounding Metrotown property. Working with Burnaby RCMP but it is ongoing issue. There has been an increase in pepper spraying in and around property. Any support from MVTP would be welcomed. Breanna also shared that there will likely be a job fair in the spring and would love to have MVTP join. Will reach out once dates are confirmed.
- Shana – Is now working as part of RTIC and now sits on CIC, the negotiations team. Stephen Crosby had previously shared information about setting up transit safety presentations and she had forwarded this over to her contacts in Surrey Schools.
- Deputy Chief Graham – launched significant training with the support of our partners, neurodivergent and dementia training, which are actively underway with good feedback.
- Chief Muir – MVTP has seen an increase in bear spray and the prevalence of lighters on the transit system that look like replica firearms. Have been doing increased communications and education around the dangers of these lighters.
- Diane – reiterated that the work at Royal Oak station was well received by the community. Reiterated the need to focus on pedestrian safety around transit hubs, noting one recent incident at Metrotown where a pedestrian was hit by a bus.
- Anna – it was Alzheimer Society awareness month in January. The 2025 campaign was the best to date with several meaningful personal stories shared.
- Tommi – there is a new Director at Burnaby Youth in Custody. Hope to have more updates at next meeting.
- Sherman – two items:
    - Has seen some increase in refugee claimants coming to Vancouver. Mosaic is connecting with different government levels on the issue. With possible enforcement in the US and its impact to people, this is affecting the numbers of people who wish to come to Canada.
    - Mosaic is holding an open house on Thursday, Feb 6. They are taking on a new line of work with operations health clinics in Burnaby. Have five doctors to serve them with a full health team. These clinics serve newcomers, people with mental health issues, new mothers and unhoused individuals.
- Chair Bill Chan:
    - wished everyone a Happy Lunar New Year – the year of the Snake: a year of wisdom, intuition and transformation.
    - recently participated with Chief Muir and others at the Lunar Parade.
    - Thanks to everyone for their commitment to spend time with us. It is important as a Police Board Director that all transit users feel safe and proud of how we serve their communities. It helps to guide how we continue to progress within our current strategic plan and identify areas of focus for the new one.
    - The first board meeting of 2025 is next week (Feb 13). Anticipate another busy year with the safety of people, increase in transit users and expansion being issues of conversation.
- Stephen – TransLink is looking at additional customer washrooms at different stations across the system. Have done research and looking at what has worked well for other jurisdictions and the model for safety and security. Metrotown Station is one potential location being considered. Thanks to Breanna for information provided in doing some early analysis. TransLink and Transit Police want to ensure that any washrooms opened are well

maintained, clean and safe. Waterfront has washrooms at SeaBus but it's not as heavy trafficked as other locations now being considered.

- Karima –
    - issues in downtown New West and expressed concerns with not having accessible bathrooms.
    - NWPD has set up a guest bathroom that can be accessed throughout the day
    - New West is hosting an economic forum on Thursday, Feb 6. There is lots of growth in New West, which we need to plan for.
    - Theft in mall area has gone up
    - Mentioned Surrey Memorial Hospital and Surrey Central being areas of concern as there is lots foliage and inadequate lighting.
- Royce (part II) – Tri Cities Seniors maintains a monthly seniors newsletter, which is sent out to over 1,000 individuals in New West, Tri-cities and Port Moody. Some of the information from the Council meetings should be shared with the general public. Transit Police Communications and others can send information to Royce and he will make sure it is included.

Chief Muir concluded the meeting with a discussion regarding the importance of safety. The government has made transit expansion a mandate and we are increasing the use of technology in transportation, some examples being AI and license plate readers. TransLink is still looking for a long-term funding solution. More to come in the future.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 5:00pm and will be in person.

8. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6:15pm.