



VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

"PROVIDING INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT, GOVERNANCE, AND STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT, REFLECTING THE NEEDS, VALUES AND DIVERSITY OF VANCOUVER'S COMMUNITIES."

Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

Report #2201C04

TO: The Vancouver Police Board Service or Policy Complaints Review Committee
FROM: Sub-Committee of the Service or Policy Complaints Review Committee
SUBJECT: Service or Policy Complaint 2021-024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Service or Policy Complaints Review Committee (SPCRC) process the attached complaints pursuant to Section 171(1)(e) of the *Police Act* as outlined in this report, and discuss if any additional action is necessary to adequately respond to the complaints.

BACKGROUND

In December of 2021, the Vancouver Police Board electronically approved the Department's current Vaccination Policy with respect to Covid-19 vaccinations. The Board has the authority to electronically approve motions, if it the matter is time sensitive. The minutes of the January 20, 2022 Board meeting will reflect the Board's decision. The Board and VPD have noted publicly that this policy is a live document, and subject to potentially change pending any evolving circumstances with respect to the pandemic.

The Board has since received three emails, with concerns regarding the policy (APPENDIX A). These concerns were sent to the SPCRC subcommittee for preliminary review and a recommendation to the Board on how to proceed.

The subcommittee requested the VPD to provide a public verbal update regarding the Vaccination policy at the January 20, 2022 SPCRC meeting, in order to speak to the public's concerns – this falls under Section 171(1)(e) of the *Police Act* – to take any action necessary to respond adequately to the complaint.

The Board must then decide if further action is required to adequately respond to the complainants, in addition to the verbal update and a subsequent response to the complainants, outlining the information brought forward by the VPD.

CONCLUSION:

Pursuant to Section 171(1) of the *Police Act*, when the Board receives a copy, record or notification of a service or policy complaint, the Board must promptly do one of the following:

- a) request the Chief Constable to investigate and report on the complaint
- b) initiate a study concerning the complaint
- c) initiate an investigation into the complaint
- d) dismiss the complaint with reasons
- e) take any other action the Committee considers necessary to respond adequately to the complaint

The sub-Committee has recommended the complaints be processed pursuant to Section 171(1)(e) of the *Police Act*, as outlined in this report. The SPCRC must now make a decision on how to proceed with these complaints, and advise the complainants accordingly.

Author: Stephanie Johanssen, Executive Director

APPENDIX A

PUBLIC CONCERNS TO THE BOARD REGARDING THE VACCINE POLICY:

#1

Citizen would like to make a complaint about the police board, specifically regarding the lack of responsibility the Police Board shows for their citizens' safety, especially the attitude and approach the Police Board towards vaccination mandates. Citizen feels that it is unfair that healthcare workers are mandated to get vaccinated whereas the police are not required. Much like police officers, healthcare workers are integral to the functionality of our community, less healthcare workers equals less support for those who are in need of care. It is unfair that healthcare workers have to lose their job whereas the police doesn't. It is concerning to citizen that unvaccinated officers can enter into premises and engage in physical contact with people who are unvaccinated. The decision to have unvaccinated police officers by the police board is a blatant disregard to public safety and further shows that the police do not answer to anybody, not even to the citizens of Vancouver. Citizen would like to see the police board act in the public's best interest and be vaccinated.

#2

Hi there,

Why are the cops not included in the mandatory vaccination list?

#3

Hi,

I'm a resident of Vancouver and a family member of a VPD member. I'd like to register my disappointment with the decision to not require vaccination for VPD officers.

This decision further reduces public trust in the VPD, at a time when trust is in short supply. I'm sure you've seen the news headlines about it, and I hope you change your policies soon.