



VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

Service or Policy Complaint Review Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday September 21, 2023

Time: 1:50- 2:00 pm

		Time
1	Consent Agenda *1.1 Agenda for September 21, 2023 *1.2 Minutes of July 20, 2023 Regular Meeting	
2	New Service or Policy Complaint- <u>OPCC File No. 2023-24388</u> *Registered Noise Complaint- 2023-08-12 *Service or Policy Complaint Intake Letter *Service or Policy Complaint Acknowledgment Letter- 2023-08-23 - Noise Complaint During Celebrations & Events -Verbal Updates DCC Howard Chow	5
3	Follow Up Actions on Service or Policy Complaint- <u>OPCC File No.2023-23730</u> *Registered Complaint- Lack of Traffic Enforcement- 2023-04-18 *Service or Policy Complaint Intake Letter *Lack of Traffic Violation Enforcement throughout Granville Street Corridor (#2309V09) Supt. Andrew Chan	5
4	For Information	
5	Other Business	
ADJOURNMENT Service or Policy Complaint Review Committee Meeting		Total: 10



Service or Policy Complaints Review Committee Minutes

Date/Time: July 20, 2023 – 1:46- 1:35

Location: 7th Floor Boardroom- 2120 Cambie St. Vancouver BC

Attendees		
Vancouver Police Board Members/Staff	Vancouver Police Department	Guests
Ken Sim (Chair)	Acting Chief DCC Howard Chow	
Faye Wightman (Vice Chair)	Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Wilson	
Patricia Barnes (Director)	Acting DCC Superintendent Andrew Chan	
Allan Black (Director)	Acting DCC Superintendent Don Chapman	
Comfort Sakoma- Fadugba (Director)		
Frank Chong (Director)		
Lorraine Lowe (Director)		
Jason Kuzminski (Executive Director)		
Alaleh Shah Ali: (Board Staff)		
Absent: NA		

Chair Mr. Allan Black called the meeting to order at 1:46 pm.

1. *Adoption of Consent Agenda

1.1 Agenda for July 20, 2023, Service or Policy Complaints Review Committee meeting
1.2 Minutes of June 15, 2023, Service or Policy Complaints Review Committee Meeting
Motion: To approve the consent agenda (M/S/C)

2. *New Service or Policy Complaint

*2.1 OPCC Correspondence- Traffic Enforcement (#2023-23730)	Supt. Andrew Chan Jason Kuzminski
The complainant in this matter complains about the lack of enforcement in downtown Vancouver for drivers making illegal turns. The sub-committee's recommendation for VPD to contact the complainant was brought before the committee in the previous meeting, but a decision was deferred due to a lack of material for the committee to consider. In the intervening period between meetings, the chair became aware of similar issues occurring in the same area and moved that the committee ask the VPD to investigate traffic patterns and	

enforcement in the vicinity and report back at the next meeting. The committee further directed that VPD to make further efforts to contact the complainant.

Motion: To defer final disposition of the matter to September Board Meeting (M/S/C)

*2.2 OPCC File#2022-23195 Help Seekers

Acting Chief DCC Howard Chow

This matter involves follow-up questions by the OPCC in response to the Board's disposition of a service or policy complaint regarding the HelpSeekers Report the VPD commissioned to inform operational decision-making. Specifically, the OPCC asked about the Board's involvement and the policies that were relied upon for commissioning the report. The sub-committee recommended requesting the VPD review the OPCC's questions and present a report to the Board.

In discussing the sub-committee recommendation, Acting Chief Chow advised that the HelpSeekers Report is similar to past reports such as "Lost in Transition", "Project Lock- Step", "Journey to Hope" that dealt with opioid crisis, "Provincial Police Act" and "Community Matters". VPD has a budget for contracted work and research that impacts on operations. This particular report reflected how agencies, including partner health agencies, are asking VPD to help with mental health calls from mental health professionals and other similar requests. The report falls within the purview of policing and of public safety, and this can be articulated in a response to the OPCC.

The committee asked for more information about policies and cost elements. Acting Chief Chow responded that there is no specific policy, but VPD reports on public safety issues and how VPD can better crime fight are part of a budget allocation for external consultation on issues that are important for operations. Acting Chief DCC Chow suggested he and Jason Kuzminski contact OPCC and ask for clarification regarding the request from OPCC and possible concerns.

Action: Jason Kuzminski and DCC Chow will contact the OPCC to clarify its request.

Motion: For the VPD to report back to the Board reflecting the underlying concerns of the OPCC after the Executive Director and VPD have clarified this with OPCC.

*2.3 OPCC File#2021-19359 and 2021-20873

These two matters involve two complaints the Commissioner said were investigated and concluded appropriately with a determination that there was no officer misconduct but which he recommends a review of policy and training in relation to sudden death investigations. Chair Black referenced material in the agenda package that sets out the specific information that the OPCC requested, along with the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee ask the Chief Constable to report any policy, procedures and training in relation to sudden death investigations, including:

- a. How members and supervisors are trained, prepared and supported to document and investigate these matters to an impartial, objective and thorough standard;
- b. Emphasizing the independent role of the police in sudden death investigations vis-à-vis the coroner in determining the circumstances of death;
- c. An assessment of how the requirements of *Provincial Policing Standard Section 6.1.1 (Promoting Unbiased Policing)* are being implemented to assist the development of relevant policy, procedures or training; and
- d. Any recommendations to amend policy, procedures and training for the consideration of the Police Board.

During discussion of the motion, Acting Chief Chow said more information to assist in a response to the OPCC could be provided in a verbal briefing In Camera, but VPD attends roughly 1,200 plus death notifications a year. Here, two complaints are being considered. He added that there is still more room for improvement, and VPD will look into it.

Motion: The resolution as set out above was unanimously approved.

*2.4 OPCC Recommendation 2021-19321, Training and Items of Cultural Signing (#2307C08)

Supt. Shelley Horne

This matter involves follow up by the OPCC to a complaint in which the disciplinary authority found that the forcible removal of a protestor by pulling of braided hair of the Indigenous complainant was a lawful use of force and in accordance with authorities, training and policy. The Commissioner notes that the certain regulations regarding the employment of culturally safe best practices will be coming into force and asked the Board for information about steps it is taking to ensure policy confirms to the new regulations and to engage Indigenous populations.

VPD prepared a report that addresses the questions and recommendations of the Commissioner, which it presented to the Committee. The Chair asked for a motion to accept the report and use the information in it to form the basis of a communication to the Commissioner to be drafted by the Executive Director.

In a discussion of the motion, Directors commented that the report was thorough covered everything the Board was looking for. One Director noted that the report focused mostly on First Nations and Indigenous education and asked whether there are similar policies or training in regard to cultural items and practices of religious significance, such as Muslims with Hijabs or Burkas or Sikhs wearing turbans. Acting Chief DCC Chow confirmed and added that there are policies and procedure encompassing them all.

Motion: For the ED to prepare a response to the OPCC based on the 2 reports presented by VPD was unanimously approved.

*2.5 OPCC File # 2023-24044

This matter involves complaint referred by the OPCC for the committee to consider as a policy or service complaint. The complainant complains about the different treatment for open alcohol or cannabis consumption, which are ticketing offences, and open use of illicit substances exempted from enforcement in accordance with a federal-provincial decriminalization pilot. Recognizing the public policy decision of the federal and provincial government included de-stigmatizing the use of illicit substances and encouraging users to seek health treatment, the committee concluded that the complaint is not a policing policy or service matter and concluded that the complaint was unsubstantiated.

Motion: For Executive Director to respond to the complainant to advise as we talked about the legislative requirements and the ongoing opposition by the department and its efforts to try to make changes.

3. Other Business

None.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting(M/S/C)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 pm.

TO BE APPROVED BY THE VANVOUVER POLICE BOARD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 4:53 PM
To: Office@VancouverPride.ca; jkhan@vancouverpride.ca; mfortin@vancouverpride.ca; tmcintyre@vancouverpride.ca; ckennedy@vancouverpride.ca; specialevents@vancouver.ca; Chandra Herbert.MLA, Spencer; Sim, Ken; Info-OPCC
Subject: Pride and West End quiet enjoyment

CAUTION: This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello Pride Society, Vancouver FSED, City Council and VPD,

I am sure you have all heard my complaints over the past few days and I thank those of you who have taken the time to respond to me. I understand that you will all be meeting for a debrief on Tuesday and I hope at least one of you are able to read this message at that meeting.

In the past 3 weeks, residents of the West End have had to deal with 3 nights of extreme disturbance from the celebration of light (July 22, 26, 29), immediately followed by 7 nights of disturbance from pride celebrations (July 28, 29, 30 and August 3,4,5,6). That is 10/21 nights with extreme noise and loss of quiet enjoyment in our homes.

I have lived [REDACTED] since September 1st, 2013. I love it here but recently, in the past few years, the noise in my neighborhood is making life here unbearable. If rent was not so inflated I would have left by now solely because I have lost the right to quiet enjoyment in my home and there is no support from the city or VPD to save me. Disruptive noise in the area has become the norm, however the events that took place over the pride weekend were the worst I have ever experienced.

On the nights of August 5th and 6th, extremely loud music on Bute and Davie Street was played until 2 and 2:30am. I believe the noise was coming from the Vancouver Pride Society, Bubly Lounge but after speaking to Katelyn from FSED she believes the noise was coming from a "rogue DJ" in the Jim Deva Plaza. Unfortunately no one from by-law enforcement or the VPD came to investigate the noise complaints. I have video from my apartment but it is not 100% clear on video where the music is coming from. Therefore it's hard to prove who is right. I will add that the music playing from 12-2am was so loud it shook the walls of my apartment and for a rogue DJ to have the equipment and power to play music that loud and for that long seems unlikely. I have spoken with neighbors as far away as Nelson Street and even they say the music on August 5th and 6th was so loud it could be heard with earplugs in.

[REDACTED] also said, and I can confirm from living here for so long, that these rogue DJ's pop up in the Jim Deva Plaza during many special events. I agree, Pride weekend is not the only time the West End has suffered the loss of quiet enjoyment. However, reiterating what I said above, the rogue DJ's at other events have never been as loud as the music we heard on August 5th and 6th.

Let's pretend there is enough evidence to conclude that the music on August 5th and 6th was coming from the Jim Deva Plaza. Late at night there are no by-law officers on duty and the VPD are too busy with more critical emergencies to answer every noise complaint. We all know this and [REDACTED] can attest, the city knows that these rogue DJ's are going to pop up. They do it every year and they do it because they know they can get

away with it. If we all know this is going to happen why has nothing been done to fix the problem? By doing nothing the problem has only got worse year after year after year. If the city does not have the resources to protect the citizens of the West End and enforce by-law infringements then we need to have protocols in place to prevent them from happening in the first place. I have several suggestions:

1. Relocate the Pride Event. Davie Street may not be a residential zone, but the Pride stage is placed right on the border of residential and entertainment zones; less than 10m from the nearest residential building. Sound is not confined by the same boundaries and so obviously placing the stage here is going to cause problems. How about Rogers Arena, or BC place where they have the staff and set up to deal with these types of large crowds?
2. The multicoloured lights in the Jim Deva Plaza make it look and feel like a nightclub therefore people treat it as such. The megaphone art structure also looks like a stage or little amphitheatre. I know it was not intended to be used as such but people see this structure as an invite to stand there and make noise. Take away the coloured lights and the "stage" so it no longer looks like an outdoor nightclub
3. Put a fence around the plaza. Pride is not the only time the plaza is used to party so closing it off every night would be a simple way to solve a lot of problems. Since May 2023 I have filed over 9 noise complaints in regards to the plaza and many more before I started keeping count.
4. Allow only 1 night or 1 weekend for the Davie and Bute Street night time pride celebrations. Extending pride over 2 weekends is completely unnecessary and shows a total lack of respect for resident in the area. One weekend is more than enough!
5. Signs, although signs are pretty useless unless there is someone around to enforce them which kind of brings us back to square one. Never the less, there isn't even a single sign in the plaza that say "please respect our neighbors", "No busking or amplified music", "plaza closed from 10pm-6am" etc.
6. Ask the residents for feedback. Unless you live here you can not possibly imagine how terrible it has become. Send around a little QR for an online survey and let the voices of the West End be heard

Just last night there was another band in the Jim Deve Plaza. As advised I called the VPD nonemergency line, waiting on hold for 20 minutes and filed another noise complaint [REDACTED] If you can listen to my voice on that call you can hear I was at the end of my rope, begging for help. When I got off the phone I knew help would not come so I took it upon myself to walk down to the plaza and speak to the band myself. I am a petite female, standing only 5 foot 2 inches. I walked into a crowd of about 20 people and confronted the band alone. I fully expected a fight to break out and I knew if it did I would be seriously hurt but it didn't matter because my mental health is so far gone my body doesn't even matter any more. Luckily the band was nice and things ended peacefully but I don't expect future confrontations to go quiet as well.

This is where we are at. Without the support of by-law and VPD officers, citizens are going to start policing the neighborhood themselves which we all know is not going to end well. Something needs to change.

The events from August 5th and 6th have pushed me over the edge. I have tried to keep my composure and show you all respect despite not receiving any back. Unless you live here you will never understand the full impact these events have had. Just like everyone else, the West End community is battling an addiction and mental health crisis. Imagine feeling trapped in your own home and not having a quiet, safe place to decompress. Me and the other residents of the West End have lost our right to quiet enjoyment and our sanity.

Please, please, please do something to fix the problem. I think my suggestions above are very reasonable and very realistic but you are the ones who need to make them happen. Please start today, WE cannot keep living like this.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. Please help.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

August 22, 2023

VIA E-MAIL: jason.kuzminski@vanpoliceboard.ca

His Worship Mayor Ken Sim
Chair, Vancouver Police Board
City Hall 3rd Floor – 453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Sim:

**Re: Service or Policy Complaint – Vancouver Police Department
OPCC File No. 2023-24388**

On August 12th, 2023, the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) received a complaint from [REDACTED] outlining their concerns related to the Vancouver Police Department's failure to respond to calls of service within the West End during large community celebrations. A copy of the original complaint is attached.

As you are aware, a service or policy complaint may include a complaint regarding the general direction and management or operation of a municipal police department. It may also include a complaint about the inadequacy or inappropriateness of a municipal police department's policies or internal procedures, training programs or resources, staffing or resource allocation, or the department's ability to respond to requests for assistance.

Upon receiving a copy of the complaint, pursuant to section 171(1) of the *Police Act*, the board, having authority over the municipal police department to which the complaint relates, must promptly do one or more of the following:

- (a) Request that the chief constable of that municipal police department 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; and/or
- (e) Take any other course of action the board considers necessary to respond adequately to the complaint.

Pursuant to section 171(3) of the Act, within 20 business days after doing any of the things described in subsection (1)(a) to (e), the board must notify the Complainant, the Director of Police Services and the Police Complaint Commissioner regarding the course of action being taken.

The Police Complaint Commissioner may request a status report from the board regarding the progress of an investigation or a study concerning a complaint under Division 5.

The police board must send an explanation for actions taken by the board under section 171 (1) and if applicable, a detailed summary of the results of any investigation or study initiated to the Complainant, the Director of Police Services and the Police Complaint Commissioner. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the board's actions, explanations, or results from the investigation or the summary of those results, that person may, within 20 business days of receiving the explanation or summary, request the Police Complaint Commissioner to review the matter.

Should you have any questions regarding the above or with respect to the *Police Act* process, please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 356-7458 or by email at info@opcc.bc.ca.

Yours truly,



Tom Steenvoorden
Executive Director, Oversight Operations

Enclosure

cc: Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department




Date: August 23, 2023

[REDACTED]

RE: Service or Policy Complaint #2023-016 OPCC File #2023-24388

This letter acknowledges receipt by the Vancouver Police Board of your Service or Policy Complaint in correspondence from the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner dated August 12, 2023. Your complaint outlining your concerns related to the Vancouver Police Department's failure to respond to calls of service within the West End during large community celebrations was referred to our office on August 22, 2023.

Please note that a Service or Policy Complaint is considered with respect to:

- a) The general direction and management or operation of a municipal police department; or,
- b) The inadequacy or inappropriateness of any of the following in respect of a municipal police department:
 - a. Its staffing or resource allocation;
 - b. Its training programs or resources;
 - c. Its standing orders or policies;
 - d. Its ability to respond to requests for assistance;
 - e. Its internal procedures.

Upon investigating a complaint, the following actions can be taken according to the Police Act Section 171(1):

- (a) request a chief constable of that municipal police department 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 course of action the board considers necessary to respond adequately to the complaint.

The recommendations will be heard by the Service or Policy Complaints Committee at its meeting on September 21, 2023. This meeting will immediately follow the Board's regular meeting, which starts at 1:00; meetings are live-webcast on the Board's website: www.vancouverpoliceboard.ca.

The agendas and reports for both meetings will also be available online on our website prior to the meeting. I will advise you in writing of any decision made by the Committee with respect to this complaint following the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Office of Vancouver Police Board

CC:

Chief Constable Adam Palmer;
Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner;
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Info-OPCC
Subject: Would like to file a complaint

CAUTION: This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.



18th, April, 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a complaint about the lack of traffic violation enforcement by the police officers, except for the motorcycle police officers, in downtown Vancouver on Granville Street, North Bound. As a taxi driver for Vancouver Taxi since 1994, I have noticed a lot of violations that are not being addressed properly, and it is causing inconvenience and dangerous situations for drivers.

Specifically, there are several locations on Granville Street where drivers are not following the traffic rules, and police officers are not enforcing them. For example, at Drake Street, there are three large signs that indicate "no left turn" (except for buses), but many drivers ignore these signs and still make a left turn. Similarly, at Nelson Street, there are three signs that say "Do not enter" and "Authorized vehicles only," but drivers are still entering the area without authorization.

At Smithe Street, there are three signs that indicate "Left turn only" and "Do not enter" and "Authorized vehicles only," but drivers continue to violate these rules, causing dangerous situations for other drivers. I have personally experienced being ill-treated, blamed, and yielded to, despite informing these drivers that they are in the wrong place.

Moreover, these drivers continue to make all kinds of violation movements, such as going very fast and making turns that are not allowed, except for buses. Additionally, the taxi stands is frequently occupied and parked, causing more inconvenience.

I hope that the police officers or department can pay more attention and show a little bit of concern to make driving experiences more comfortable and safer for everyone. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

May 11, 2023

VIA E-MAIL: jason.kuzminski@vanpoliceboard.ca

His Worship Mayor Ken Sim
Chair, Vancouver Police Board
City Hall 3rd Floor – 453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Sim:

**Re: Service or Policy Complaint – Vancouver Police Department
OPCC File No. 2023-23730**

On April 18, 2023, the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) received a complaint from [REDACTED] outlining their concerns related to the Vancouver Police Department's inadequate enforcement of the traffic laws and issuance of traffic violations. Specifically, a lack of enforcement throughout various locations of Granville Street and in the Downtown core. A copy of the original complaint is attached.

As you are aware, a service or policy complaint may include a complaint regarding the general direction and management or operation of a municipal police department. It may also include a complaint about the inadequacy or inappropriateness of a municipal police department's policies or internal procedures, training programs or resources, staffing or resource allocation, or the department's ability to respond to requests for assistance.

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Pursuant to section 171(3) of the Act, within 20 business days after doing any of the things described in subsection (1)(a) to (e), the board must notify the Complainant, the Director of Police Services and the Police Complaint Commissioner regarding the course of action being taken. The Police Complaint Commissioner may request a status report from the board regarding the progress of an investigation or a study concerning a complaint under Division 5.

The police board must send an explanation for actions taken by the board under section 171 (1) and if applicable, a detailed summary of the results of any investigation or study initiated to the Complainant, the Director of Police Services and the Police Complaint Commissioner. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the board's actions, explanations, or results from the investigation or the summary of those results, that person may, within 20 business days of receiving the explanation or summary, request the Police Complaint Commissioner to review the matter.

Should you have any questions regarding the above or with respect to the *Police Act* process, please do not hesitate to contact me at (250) 356-7458 or by email at info@opcc.bc.ca.

Yours truly,



Cameron Loveless
Acting Executive Director, Oversight Operations

Enclosure

cc: Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
[REDACTED]



VPD 68(08)

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

REPORT DATE: July 11, 2023
COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: September 21, 2023
BOARD REPORT # 2309V09

To: Vancouver Police Board Service and Policy Complaint Review Committee

From: Inspector Ken Athans, Traffic Section

Subject: **Service or Policy Complaint #2309V09– Lack of Traffic Violation Enforcement throughout Granville Street corridor (OPCC File No.2023-23730)**

Recommendation:

That the Vancouver Police Board Service and Policy Complaint Review Committee dismiss the complaint with reasons.

SUMMARY:

On April 18, 2023, the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) received a complaint outlining concerns related to the Vancouver Police Department's inadequate enforcement of traffic laws and issuance of traffic violations. Specifically, a lack of enforcement throughout various locations of Granville Street and in the Downtown core.

Analysis of Complaint:

The basis of the complaint makes two specific points:

1. The complainant was of the opinion that VPD police officers, "except for the motorcycle police officers", are not enforcing numerous traffic violations in Downtown Vancouver on Granville Street, North Bound.
2. As a taxi driver for Vancouver Taxi since 1994, he has noticed numerous violations not being addressed and he feels this is causing inconvenience and dangerous situations for drivers.

Background:

The Granville Street corridor in the downtown core is an active bus and taxi route, with portions being open to civilian vehicles with restrictions. Traffic movement prohibition

signs are put up all along Granville Street for various reasons. Some, to prevent congestion and improve traffic flow or to enhance safety and reduce accidents. Traffic movement signs are important for maintaining order and efficiency on the roads. Drivers should obey them and respect the rules of the road; however, Granville Street has historically been a high violation corridor due to the volume of motorist using the Granville Bridge to access the downtown core. Vancouver City Council has approved the framework for the planning for creating the Granville Entertainment District (GED) for guiding revitalization and future developments. City staff have been directed to discuss with Translink the potential to turn Granville Street within the GED into a vehicle-free zone. This includes the consideration of relocating Translink buses to adjacent streets.

Discussion:

A patrol officer and a traffic officer have different roles and responsibilities. VPD patrol officers are tasked with dealing with various types of crimes and emergencies, such as robberies, assaults and property crime. A traffic officer is specialized in enforcing traffic laws and regulations, such as speeding, parking, impaired driving, etc. A patrol officer can perform traffic duties, but a traffic officer is not responsible for performing general operational police duties. Both officers wear uniforms and have the same lawful authorities, but they may have different equipment and vehicles.

The VPD Traffic Section is responsible for ensuring the safety and efficiency of road users in the city. The Traffic Section performs various functions, such as enforcing traffic laws, investigating collisions, managing traffic flow, educating drivers and pedestrians, and coordinating with other agencies and stakeholders. The Traffic Section aims to reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities, improve mobility and accessibility, and promote a culture of respect and responsibility on the roads.

The VPD Traffic Enforcement Unit has an authorized strength of 36 motorcycle constables and four sergeants, divided into four teams. The unit is primarily responsible for traffic-related duties, thus allowing patrol officers to focus on community concerns that affect public safety.

The Granville Street corridor, which is the focus of the complaint, is located in District 1. Over the past year, District 1 faced a rise in street disorder, random violence, violent shoplifting and priority calls that affected patrol officers' discretionary time to focus on traffic violation enforcement.

To address the rise in violence, District 1 focused conducted three Violent Shoplifting projects that resulted in 355 arrests, 36 dangerous weapons seized and \$111,000 worth of stolen merchandise recovered. The Violent Shoplifting projects were a response to the increase in serious assaults and robberies at commercial locations, which are up 41% YTD. Additionally, Street disorder calls, which include drugs, disturbance, fights and unwanted person, are up 16% YTD. District 1 has responded by deploying Beat Teams (foot patrols) since March 2023 to target crime and street disorder hotspots, including the

GED, where calls for service increased by 95% in the 1100 BLK Granville St in 2022 compared to 2019.

The VPD Acknowledges the specifics of the complainant on the lack of enforcement by patrol officers, however the VPD recognizes the current need to prioritize resources toward violence and street disorder based on collected data. Therefore, VPD Traffic Section is supporting the District by providing prioritized enforcement along the stretch of Granville Street and the downtown core. The main goal is to enforce traffic laws and prevent accidents while patrol members focus on street crime. In the First and Second Quarter of 2023, Traffic Enforcement issued 739 violation Tickets along Granville Street from Davie Street to W. Cordova Street.

Additionally, Traffic Section regularly provides education and training to patrol officers on how to identify and stop bad drivers. The VPD is also leveraging technology to equip members with the necessary tools and technology to monitor and record traffic violations. Mechanisms are in place to regularly meet with district commanders to review patrol officer performance and provide feedback and guidance on how to improve their skills and effectiveness.

Inspector Athans has made two attempts to contact the complaint by email (no phone number was provided), but has not received a response.

Conclusion

The VPD recognizes the complainant's frustration and we appreciate the feedback regarding the lack of enforcement. Although, the complaint specifies, "lack of traffic violation enforcement by the police officers, except for the motorcycle police officers" The VPD Traffic Section is taking steps to improve traffic enforcement efforts and to catch those who violate the traffic laws along the Granville Street corridor.

Since receiving the complaint, VPD Traffic Enforcement Unit has increased traffic enforcement efforts in the Downtown area, especially along Granville Street. All four teams have increased the number of issued tickets to bad drivers who violate the traffic laws.

The VPD is also continuing to provide education and training to patrol officers on how to identify and stop bad drivers. More opportunities have been created for patrol officers to learn from Traffic Section Enforcement officers and to participate in their enforcement activities.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee conclude its review of the complaint based on the information outlined in the report.

Ken Athans
Inspector
Vancouver Police Department
Traffic Section