

# VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

## Meeting minutes

September 4, 2020

1:11pm-3:10pm

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom at 2120 Cambie St & Via Conference Call

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### Present:

Committee & Board Members: Barj Dhahan (Chair), Patricia Barnes, Allan Black (In person), Merrilee Robson, Rachel Roy, Wendy John via conference call

Board Office: Stephanie Johanssen, Executive Director, and minutes by Ali Huculak, Executive Assistant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:11pm

### 1. **Agenda**

The Committee adopted the Agenda for September 4, 2020.

### 2. **Minutes**

The Committee approved the June 10, 2020 meeting Minutes.

### 3. **Rachel Roy's Street Check Motion**

The Chair outlined the Committees role when deciding on a motion brought forward by a Board member. The Chair stated that pursuant to the Vancouver Police Board's Policy and Procedure manual, all substantial motions must be made in writing. Substantive motions that come forward for Board approval are processed at a Committee level for prior discussion and recommendation. The Governance Committee does not have the authority to approve motions, however the Committee is in place for the purpose of reviewing and discussing any major changes to Board operations or major decisions that effect the Department. The Chair stated the process in place protects the Board from making uninformed, rush decisions that could potentially have a long term negative and unforeseen impact without proper deliberation.

Ms. Roy provided a brief summary of her reasoning in bringing this motion forward. Ms. Roy stated that street checks are one of the prime concerns that are raised repeatedly by racialized communities when it comes to their negative interactions and long lasting relationships with police. Ms. Roy acknowledged that the VPD has adhered to the new policing standards with respect to street checks, brought forward by the Province which has resulted in an 89% reduction so far in the use of street checks. Ms. Roy noted that these new changes have not received a lot of public attention. Ms. Roy outlined her understanding of the upcoming review of the new street checks policy and her concerns with it.

Ms. Roy outlined her motion for the Committee.

Ms. Roy stated the Board has repeatedly heard from the Executive about ways in which they have been able to stop crimes from occurring by engaging in street checks/police stops. Ms. Roy stated the VPD has this information accessible as she has seen it through power points, however it is not presented in a forum where community stakeholders or the public can access the information and respond to it.

Ms. Roy stated that she would amend the 'whereas' in her motion and provide the Board with an updated version.

The Chair clarified for the Committee that their role is to consider Ms. Roy's motion, and also look at it from a Board's perspective, Provincial Review perspective and the Department's perspective.

There was discussion surrounding Ms. Roy's motion with respect to the phrase 'police stops'. The Executive Director clarified for the Governance Committee the difference between street checks and police stops.

Ms. John stated that eliminating street checks does not get to the root of them problem, which is racism, and the issue needs to be addressed at that level. Ms. John has personally spoken with a number of police that are no longer in the police force, who have worked specifically in the areas that are the most troublesome with systemic racism and street checks, and without exception they have said those street checks are instrumental in them being able to do their job, especially with respect to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Ms. John stated we need to wait until the Provincial review before moving forward, if the motion was passed.

*Ms Roy left the meeting at 1:51pm*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### 4. **Board Governance and Oversight**

##### **a) VPD'S Police Review Committee**

The ED stated this committee was formed as a response to all the different reviews that are underway, and they wanted to streamline and make sure all the information that was coming out of one place. DCC Chow is overseeing this committee and they are looking at a number of

factors, including the BMO Service or Policy complaint and the annual street checks review. The terms of reference for the Provincial Review have been established but the scope has not yet and the VPD is proactively writing reports about what they think the Provincial Review will entail.

#### **b) Council Motion – stakeholder relationship**

The Chair stated the Board has a meeting set with Council on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 where the Board will have an opportunity to understand the rationale behind Councils motion's and their priorities. The Governance Committee's task is to publicly acknowledge Councils motion's at the September 17 Police Board meeting and seriously consider it along with other relevant information that will guide the Police Board in reaching an informed conclusion on behalf of the mandate of oversight to the Department.

#### **c) Special Meeting of the Board (Sept 10)**

The Governance committee reviewed the agenda for the special Police Board meeting on September 10, where the motions made by City Council will also be discussed.

#### **d) What steps are other Boards taking?**

The ED provided the Governance committee with information of what other Boards are doing, including extensive recommendations from the Toronto Police Board. It was noted that the VPB is meeting or exceeding a lot of their recommendations.

#### **e) Calls to action from June 22 media release**

The Governance committee revisited the 6 calls to action which originally were included in the Police Board's public statement on June 22.

The Chair stated the department is wanting to establish a broader separate diversity and inclusion committee, and the committee is in agreement to this broader committee at some point in the future, however right now it is important to focus on the Black and African Diaspora advisory committee that the Board directed the VPD to establish.

#### **f) Public Safety**

The Chair stated that as often as there are calls to 'defund' the police, there are other calls stating more resources are needed. There has been public concern with respect to what is going on in Vancouver, specifically Strathcona and public safety is certainly a focus of everyone's attention.

#### **g) Provincial Review**

The Executive Director of the Police Board stated that the scope of the Provincial Review has not yet been determined, therefore the role of the Board's involvement with respect to the review is still unknown at this time.

**5. Committee makeup review**

The Governance committee discussed Committee assignments.

**6. Updates to Policy and Procedure Manual**

Chair Mr. Dhahan stated updates to the Policy and Procedure Manual is an ongoing process, as the Governance Advisor Patti Marfleet has been doing this one section at a time. The Governance committee reviewed the current updates to Chapter 2 and the Vice-Chair and Chair terms of reference. It was determined in number 5 'Communications' paragraph A, 'to the' needs to be removed.

The committee recommended approval of the amendments at Board level.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

**7. 2021 Board meeting dates**

The Governance committee agreed to recommend the 2021 Board meeting dates to the full Board for approval.

**8. Other Business**

The Chair noted that the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) changed their annual conference to a virtual forum due to COVID-19. The Board was asked to pledge \$3000 to contribute to the host City expenses (Victoria) but since this is now a virtual event the Chair suggested to the committee to ask for the money to be returned and leave the \$900 that the Board committed towards the dinner with them. The Governance committee was in agreement with this.

The ED briefed the Committee that DCC Chow wanted to inform the Board that there is an FOI request for 2018/2019 Street Check data, and the Department is obliged to release any relevant information. This is for information purposes only, and to advise the Board that it may garner some media attention. The VPD was set to release this information on September 17, 2020 and the committee agreed with the VPD releasing it on an earlier date so it would not be on the same day as the Police Board meeting.

*Governance Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm*