

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

MINUTES of Regular Meeting Held on October 29th 2020 from 1pm-2:05pm 7th Floor Boardroom - 2120 Cambie, Vancouver BC & via **Video Conference**

Board Members Present

Mayor Kennedy Stewart (Chair)
Barj Dhahan (Vice-Chair)
Patricia Barnes
Faye Wightman
Allan E. Black
Merrilee Robson
Rachel Roy
Frank Chong
Wendy John

Staff Present

Chief Constable Adam Palmer
DCC Howard Chow
DCC Steve Rai
DCC Laurence Rankin

Stephanie Johanssen, Executive Director
Minutes by Executive Assistant, Ali Huculak

Delegations

Mr. Michael Yaptinchay
Ms. Karen Ward

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 1:00pm and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the Unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and gave thanks for their hospitality on these lands.

Introduction of Board members/staff.

1. Adoption of Regular Meeting Agenda

MOVED / SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board approve the Regular Meeting Agenda for October 29, 2020.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED / SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2020.

Carried

CARRIED

3. Delegations

Two registered delegations spoke at the meeting.

Mr. Michael Yaptinchay, the Principal at St. Augustine Catholic School, spoke about the Broadway Subway Project and its impact on community safety and security. Mr. Yaptinchay asked for support in relocating the Pine Street Community Policing Centre closer to Arbutus and Broadway.

Staff Sargent Terry Young provided a brief update on the Broadway Subway Project.

Ms. Karen Ward spoke to Vancouver Police Board with respect to policing policy on decriminalization and harm reduction and discussed how the VPD can advance drug policy and help end the overdose crisis.

4. Finance

4.1 Report #2010F02: Second and Third Quarter Variance Report

DCC Rai spoke to this report stating it has been a dynamic and fluid year, as the VPD was over budget at the end of Q2 and was marginally under budget in Q3. Unpredictable costs can vary significantly in response to community circumstance, however management projects the VPD will be on budget for the 15th year in a row.

DCC Rai and Chief Palmer provided clarification on the reasons for consistent overtime for casual and temporary salaries. DCC Rai stated the VPD has increased part time workers for certain tasks, and overtime continues particularly around COVID expenditures and deployment.

Chief Palmer stated that the VPD is under staffed on the civilian side, and some of the full time positions have to be made up with casual and temporary budgets.

Motion to receive the Second and Third Quarter Variance Report for information.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

4.2 Report #2010F03: VPD Fees for Service

DCC Rai spoke to this report stating the VPD provides services for a fee, which is subject to an annual detailed review to ensure cost recovery.

DCC Spoke to a Board members question regarding the cost for security clearances, stating if they didn't charge all organizations, including non-profit and charity organizations, the VPD would have to absorb the cost, all charges are on a strictly cost recovery basis and not for generating profit.

Motion to approve the Fees for Service as outlined in the report.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

4.3 Report #2010F04: Police and Traffic Authority Charge out Rate Report

Motion to approve the 2021 Charge Out Rates as outlined in the report.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

5. Planning, Research and Audit Report #2010P01: KPI Third Quarter Report

Mr. Manojlovic spoke to the report, summarizing the highlights and stated this report takes into totality all of the years events, leading up the date. Mr. Manojlovic stated property crime is down

20% for the year, and this is exclusively as a result of significant decreases in theft (theft from auto, theft of auto, shoplifting). Mr. Manojlovic provided context to this decrease stating theft comprises 44% of all property crimes, so when they are down, property crime is down.

Mr. Manojlovic noted that the three most serious types of property crime, break and enter, arson, fraud, are all up. Mr. Manojlovic stated that violent crime is constant to this time last year, as sexual offences have decreased by 5.2% and robberies have decreased by 6.1%.

Mr. Manojlovic noted the VPD's concern relating to homicides, as there were 10 homicides in the third quarter of this year, and that is the most homicides in any quarter in Vancouver since the first quarter of 2009. The VPD is also concerned about the serious assaults in Vancouver; these are up %14.1 for the year.

Mr. Manojlovic stated that incidents regarding intimate partner violence is up 4.6%, and hate crime incidents are up 116% (specifically anti-Asian hate crimes is up 878%). Mr. Manojlovic provided context to these statistics noting that last year in the first 9 months there were 9 anti-Asian hate crime incidents whereas this year they are 88.

Mr. Manojlovic stated that 16 out of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have experienced a decrease in property crime, and 16 out of the 24 neighbourhoods have experienced an increase in violent crime.

DCC Chow provided a summary on the VPD's efforts in relation to these crime statistics. DCC Chow noted the VPD has been very active on the grassroots level, and have been doing everything possible to make themselves accessible and get their messaging across in the community.

Board member Ms. Patricia Barnes thanked the VPD on behalf of the Business Improvement Areas (BIA) across the city, and noted they appreciate the work and the opportunity to meet repeatedly over the past number of months. Ms. Barnes also noted the BIA's appreciate the projects that have been undertaken by the VPD and the work that has been done in their neighbourhoods and they look forward to continuing the partnership with the VPD.

DCC Chow spoke to Ms. Roy's question with respect to the workload for civilian and sworn staff in relation to the decrease and increase in certain types of crime. DCC Chow noted that the decrease in property crime is largely due a significant decrease to theft from autos, which makes up roughly 30% of all property crime incidents. Due to COVID, these crimes have decreased significantly, mostly due to lack of opportunity with respect to the lockdown, businesses being closed, people working from home etc... DCC Chow noted that when it comes to workload, these incidents of theft are the least complex calls to deal with, and take the least amount of time. DCC Chow stated the workload has increased with respect to violent crimes, as they are the most serious calls and take the most amount of time as they are more complex.

DCC Chow and DCC Rankin spoke to Board member Ms. Merrilee Robson's question noting that the 39% increase in arson is a huge concern to the VPD, and they have made multiple arrests. Chief Palmer also noted that arson is a very unique type of crime, and the VPD has specially trained arson investigators who work in the Major Crime Section and they look for patterns with arson, as often the same offender will set multiple fires and they are tracked through similar fact evidence.

Board member Ms. Faye Wightman stated she would be interested in looking at the VPD's performance itself being tracked in the Key Performance Indicators, such as tracking the response times, recovery of property, how many robberies were solved, how much community engagement, how many investigations, how many apprehensions came as a result of an investigations. Ms. Wightman noted she would like the report name changed from Key Performance Indicators to Key Crime Indicators Report.

Chief Palmer provided insight into Ms. Wightman's inquiry stating previous iterations of Boards asked for these specific items to see what crime activity was happening in the City quarterly. Chief Palmer stated the information Ms. Wightman is seeking can be found through the VPD's Compstat process, which is an internal process where there are weekly meetings and a larger monthly meeting. This information is not for public consumption, however Board members are welcome to attend.

DCC Chow spoke to Mr. Chong's question with respect to the VPD's efforts in reaching out to the Asian community after the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes. DCC Chow noted in April of 2020, the VPD tracked the concerning trends taking place and held a press conference to provide an overview of the matter. DCC Chow noted the VPD moved the public safety camera's into a few locations, one of which was the Chinese Cultural Centre and Millennium Gate. The VPD also spoke with many community groups to raise awareness and go over how to report these types of incidents.

Chief Palmer clarified for the Board that hate crimes are a very important issue that the VPD deals with, and they track all hate crimes and all hate incidents, to allow the VPD to have a full picture of what is going on in the City.

DCC Chow spoke to a Board members question with respect to calls for service that involve weapons.

Board member Ms. Wendy John commended the VPD in their response to an incident in Musqueam recently.

The Chair noted the significant public interest in statistics, and reporters using the statistics from reports that are available on the VPD's website. The Chair stated the City Wide report on crimes show change to date over the year, and noted this information is easy for reporters to interpret, however the neighbourhood crime statistics are not as easy. The Chair suggested having statistics easily available that show trends in neighbourhoods, and asked if it is possible to have these statistics in an excel spreadsheet versus a PDF document because it allows for easier manipulation.

The Chief noted that open sourced data provides a lot of raw data to the public through the City. The VPD also has the most advanced public facing ability for the general public to pull up data in their own neighbourhood to the extent through the Geodash online.

The Chief spoke to the Chair's question with respect to Stats Canada changing their requirements when collection data, specifically for violent crimes. The Chief noted that the VPD has gone back and adjusted all the years to the new method, so there is no discrepancy between years when Statistics Canada changed their requirements. The Chief confirmed there was an increase by 10% between 2018-2019 in violent crime, this was due to an increase in serious assaults.

Motion to receive the report for information.
MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

6. Professional Standards Section
Report #2010V03: PSS Third Quarter Report

DCC Rai clarified the discrepancy between substantiated complaints on two different tables noting that investigations take place over a long period of time, which is why one table for substantiated 2020 complaints is currently at 0%, and other table is looking at complaints that were substantiated, but they could be from any year.

Motion to receive the report for information.
MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

7. Chief Constable Report

Chief Constable Palmer spoke to the following Departmental updates:

The annual Canadian Peace and Police Officers Memorial took place on September 27, 2020, which recognizes police officers across Canada who have been killed in the line of duty. Due to COVID-19, the VPD did not attend in person, however they held their own at the Graveley Atrium with 50 people. The VPD still has close connections with families of fallen officers.

Superintendent Marcie Flamand retired after 33 years of service. There was community celebration, meeting gathering guidelines at Crab Park where the Indigenous Community held a blanket ceremony for Supt. Flamand, recognizing her for her service.

24 VPD officers were recognized for the Alexa Awards. The Alexa awards came to fruition after a 4.5 year old young girl in Delta, named Alexa Middelaer was hit and killed by an impaired while feeding a horse on the side of the road with her family. Police Services from across British Columbia recognize officers who have taken high numbers of impaired drivers off the street.

On September 18 the VPD had 22 police officers graduate from the Police Academy, and they have been deployed mostly to the North half of the City, where most of the issues are currently. The VPD also hired six experienced police officers from other Police Services from the RCMP, Transit Police and the New Westminster Police Department.

The VPD had officers led by Inspector Joanne Wild on the Cops for Cancer Tour de Coast, where money is raised for paediatric cancer research and programming.

The VPD launched the 2021 Canine Unit Dog calendar. In the past 10 years this calendar has raised more than \$400,000, which is donated to the British Columbia Cancer Foundation and BC Children's Hospital Foundation.

8. VPD Correspondence & Information

Report #2010V05: VPD Compliments Letters

The report was received for information.

9. Opportunity for Enquiries from the Public

No enquiries from members of the public.

10. Enquiries & other business from the Board

On Oct 8, 2020 the Vancouver Police Board passed the following electronic motion:

Motion to release information in response to a Freedom of Information request, based on the recommendations for disclosure and redactions made by the Freedom of Information Committee.

MOVED/SECONDED
CARRIED

Pursuant to the Board's Policy and Procedure Manual:

2.3.5 Whenever there is a matter of urgency which requires the immediate attention of the Board, the Chair may, via telephone conference and e-mail polling, solicit a motion from the Members dealing with the matter. The motion shall be valid and in effect if passed by a majority of the Board. It shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Board at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn.

MOVED / SECONDED

CARRIED

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

TO BE APPROVED BY THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD ON November 30, 2020
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