

**VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD
SERVICE & POLICY COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Meeting minutes

April 15, 2021, 2:07pm to 2:52pm

7TH Floor Boardroom 2120 Cambie, Vancouver & via VIDEO CONFERENCE

Board Members Present

Allan E. Black (Committee Chair)
Mayor Kennedy Stewart (Board Chair)
Patricia Barnes
Frank Chong
Merrilee Robson
Barj Dhahan
Faye Wightman
Rachel Roy

Staff Present

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

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

Absent:

Wendy John

1. Consent Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Agenda for April 15, 2021

1.2 Minutes of February 18, 2021 Service or Policy Complaints Review Committee Meeting

1.3 OPCC/Service or Policy Correspondence

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2. Service or Policy Complaint Report Back to the Committee: Report #2104C04

Mr. Manojlovic spoke to the follow-up report back noting the Committee directed the department to review the waiver language on the police information check form, in consultation with the City of Vancouver legal services. The recommendation included that the language *in good faith* be added in the waiver form, and deletion of the words *the receipt and sufficiency of which I hereby acknowledged* in the first sentence, and the deletion of the words *or even gross negligence* from the last sentence. City of Vancouver legal services is supportive of this change.

Chair of the committee Mr. Allan Black stated he feels the revisions are appropriate but would like to add the language to the wording of the proposed language change to incorporate adding to the words by my signature below, *and in consideration of the fee being paid by me for this police information check being completed in good faith for me, the receipt and sufficiency of which I hear by acknowledge.*

Motion to approve the report back with Mr. Black's amended language to the proposed amended language set out by the City of Vancouver legal services.

Board member Ms. Rachel Roy opposed the changes proposed by Mr. Black in the motion, stating she supports the original changes noting the waiver should be in simpler language that people can read and understand.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

3. New Service or Policy Complaint & Investigation Report

3.1 Complaint 2020-021: Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT)

3.2 Report # 2104C01: VPD Report on S&P #2020-021

S/Sgt Raj Mander spoke to the complaint and provided a brief background on the circumstances surrounding this complaint. In September of 2020 the analytics showed concerning increases in anti-Asian hate crimes, serious assaults, arsons and commercial break and enters. The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) deployed the NRT from November 2, 2020 to Dec 14, 2020 for a period of 42 days to quickly respond to growing neighbourhood concerns. In the 42 days the NRT dealt with 1400 calls for service and recovered 210 weapons. S/Sgt. Mander explained the NRT was not a deviation from any internal mandates, the initiative was an added support to the already stretched resources in locations where new demands had arisen and been identified. Based on the information provided in the report, S/Sgt Mander recommended that the committee conclude the review of this complaint.

S/Sgt Mander will report back to the Service or Policy Committee with the following information, following Board member Ms. Rachel Roy's request for information:

As a result of the NRT, Ms. Roy would like to know the numbers and demographics of these provincial statutes and municipal bylaws or criminal code offences that came out as a result of responding to these low priority calls for service.

The Chief spoke to a Board members comments on the analytical capabilities of the VPD and explained the daily, weekly and monthly meetings that take place with respect to this.

Motion to conclude the review of the complaint, based on the information provided and outlined in the report.

Board Member Ms. Roy stated she would like further information as the complaint was brought to the Police Board by a large number of community groups and she requires more information that may be more responsive to the points the community groups were making, as she feels this would put the Police Board in a better position to conclude the complaint.

MOVED/SECONDED

Board member Ms. Roy was opposed.

CARRIED

4. New Service or Policy Complaint & Investigation Report

4.1 Complaint #2020-028: Car 87/88

4.2 Report # 2104C02: Report on S&P #2020-028

S/Sgt Damian Searwar spoke to the complaint regarding Car 87/88 providing a brief history of the complainant's previous interactions with police and Car 87/88. The VPD are in the process of addressing the gaps in communication through ongoing initiatives within the VPD and partners Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and E-Comm.

S/Sgt Searwar spoke to a Board members question stating Car 87/88 receives over 200 requests per month for service. When these requests come in they are prioritized, and scheduled as appointments which is how Car 87/88's day is determined. S/Sgt Searwar confirmed Car 87/88 is not a 9-1-1 response car, and the makeup of the car itself is one police member and one VCH nurse. S/Sgt Searwar noted there are two cars active per day, and they work overlapping shifts, one as day shift and one as an afternoon shift.

S/Sgt Searwar clarified people are not told they have to make an appointment, the appointment refers to the fact that all the requests coming in for Car 87/88 are prioritized by the office nurse, and scheduled into appointments to determine Car 87/88's day.

Motion to conclude the review of the complaint, based on information outlined in the report.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

5. New Service or Policy Complaint & Investigation Report

5.1 Complaint #2021-001: Public Safety and Open Dug Use

5.2 Report # 2104C03: Report on S & P #2021-001

Sergeant Ivis Lee provided a brief summary of the complaint on facial recognition technology, and provided a recommendation to the Committee. Sergeant Lee noted facial recognition when used properly and lawfully can be an innovative investigative tool. Sergeant Lee stated in order for the VPD to perform professional investigations that are ethical and lawful, developing and approving a policy prior to the use of facial recognition technology must be completed.

Sergeant Lee briefed the Board on the progression, noting the VPD has begun the process of researching current best practices, governing the lawful use of facial recognition. The development of the policy will involve completing a privacy impact assessment and submitting it to the office of the Privacy Commissioner, and will adhere to privacy legislation. Once the policy is developed, the VPD will present it to the Police Board for their consideration and approval.

Sergeant Lee advised a Board member that prior to using any facial recognition technology, a policy will be developed and brought to the Police Board for its final approval, and at this time Sgt. Lee is not recommending a complete moratorium.

There was discussion with respect to adding the word *moratorium* to the report and the Committee decided the report was clear in its original format.

Board member Ms. Rachel Roy advised the VPD she feels it would be helpful if she could get copies of written policies that the Board has passed in the past about balancing privacy concerns against the need of the department to use various new technology.

Motion to conclude the review of the complaint, based on the information outlined in the report.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

6. Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.