

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

MINUTES of Regular Meeting Held on October 21st, 2021 from 1:00pm-2:06pm 7th Floor Boardroom - 2120 Cambie, Vancouver, BC & via **Video Conference**

Board Members Present

Faye Wightman (A/Chair)
Patricia Barnes
Allan E. Black
Merrilee Robson
Frank Chong
Rachel Roy

Staff Present

Chief Constable Adam Palmer
DCC Howard Chow
DCC Steve Rai
DCC Fiona Wilson

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

Absent:

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Wendy John

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

1. Introduction

Introduction of Board members/staff.

2. Consent Agenda

- 2.1 Agenda for October 21, 2021
- 2.2 Minutes of September 23, 2021 regular meeting
- 2.3 VPD Compliment Letters Report #2110V07

Motion to approve the consent agenda with the minor correction to approval dates on the minutes that have been revised.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

3. Delegations

Mr. Neil Wyles spoke to the need of a dedicated CPC in the Mount Pleasant area. Mr. Wyles explained to the Board that the CPC program is strong in Vancouver and highly regarded. Mr. Wyles would like to include consideration for funding a new CPC be brought forward as part of the 2022 budget.

Ms. Cathy Peters spoke on the issue of human trafficking in Vancouver. Ms. Peters had two asks:

- 1) Detailed presentation to Board and Council
- 2) Alert the Premier and Solicitor General that this crime is a priority in Vancouver, and make a Provincial awareness campaign.

4. VPD/Community Presentation – Her Time: Organized Crime and its Effect on Women

Det/Cst. Anisha Parhar and Sgt. Sandy Avelar presented to the Board on their initiative to provide education and access to resources to young women who may be exposed to gangs and organized crime. Sgt. Avelar and Det/Cst. Parhar explained that Her Time is a proactive and reactive program. Proactively they go to schools around the Province with experiential speakers who share their stories with the young girls. On the reactive side, they work with organizations such as CFSEU for their exiting program, for girls who actually want to leave the lifestyle.

Her Time's Instagram handle is *@hertimevanbc*.

5. Report #2110V05: VPD Interim Handcuffing and Detention Policy [Drazen Manojlovic; Director, Planning Research and Audit]

A/Chair Wightman provided an overview of the interim handcuffing policy and the external independent review that the Board ordered to review the VPD's revised draft policy, in response to two service or policy complaints regarding handcuffing and detention. Ms. Wightman stated this policy is interim, and is being approved as a placeholder pending recommendations stemming from the OPCC and the BC Human Rights Tribunal. Ms. Wightman explained this review was to ensure that the revised draft addresses concerns outlined in the service or policy complaints.

The Board released a resolution on structural racism in June of 2021, one of them being to not oppose the Union of BC Indian Chiefs application to intervene in Maxwell Johnson's BC Human Rights case against the VPD. The Board has submitted its position on the matter via the appropriate legal channels. A final policy will only be approved pending any policy and training recommendations that may stem from both the OPCC conduct investigation and the BC Human Rights Tribunal case, as the latter of these processes will entail in depth consultation with Indigenous Communities, and the Board recognized that these voices must be heard and thoroughly considered prior to finalizing the policy.

Mr. Manojlovic spoke to the policy and provided an overview of the VPD's development of the policy. The interim policy underwent an in depth legal research and analysis regarding relevant criminal and civil case law. The VPD ensured the interim policy is compliant with provincial policing standards with regards to the use of restraints.

Mr. Manojlovic spoke to a Board members question stating the VPD found a diversity in terms of other police department policies regarding handcuffing across Canada. The VPD found the best learning points from those varying policies is the articulation of the law, making sure it is current and a necessity to document.

Mr. Manojlovic spoke to a Board member's question stating the VPD is undergoing their last cycle training of the year starting on Nov 1st through to Dec 20th. There is already an anti-racism training model specified, and they will be building an additional training aspect with regards to this policy. For those non front line members, the policy will be delivered via Power DMS.

Motion to approve the interim handcuffing policy as outlined in the report.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

6. Report # 2110V06 Strategic Policing Issues

CC Palmer spoke to the Board about the 21 strategic policing issues, and spoke to the few that are of greater public interest and significance, including the large increase to the number of protests. By then end of 2021, the VPD is anticipating 840 protests.

CC Palmer also spoke to the economic impact of the pandemic, the Lower Mainland gang conflict, employee wellness and the changes in the pension program. Chief Palmer spoke to the Surrey Police Service transition and the impact on the VPD, the Provincial budget review and the opioid crisis.

Motion to receive this report for information

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

7. Planning Research and Audit Report #2110P01: PSI Third Quarter Report

There were no questions.

Report received for information.

8. Profession Standards Section Report #2120V03: PSS Third Quarter Report

There were no questions.

Report was received for information.

8. Chief Constable's Report: Verbal Update

Chief Constable Adam Palmer provided the following departmental updates:

The VPD did a news release about partnering with Wavefront Centre for Communications Accessibility, and now there are cards that can assist the officers when they are dealing with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or vision impaired.

The VPD has launched their 2022 Dog Squad calendar, and they are available on the VPD website or through the Vancouver Police Foundation.

Maclean's Magazine did an article on VPD Detective Rob Brunt regarding project 529 (bicycle theft prevention).

The BC Borstal Awards are given out annually for community policing and crime prevention, a number of VPD officers have received this coveted award: Cst. Rob Fennan, Cst. Mike Griffin, Cst. Kory Folkestad and Cst. Ryan Stafford and VPD's Musqueam Liaison officer Cst. John Gravengard.

The VPD recently finished a project regarding Catalytic converter theft, and recently put out a media release. The VPD has now charged a 27 year old man and 50 year old man with numerous offences, as they were not only stealing the catalytic converter but stealing license plates and using weapons when they were confronted.

There has been an increase in unprovoked stranger attacks in Vancouver, from Sept 1, 2020 to Aug 31, 2021 there was over 1700 of these per year, which is 4.2 per day.

There is a trend in Vancouver respect to shoplifting where violence is involved. 2021 is on pace to see a 43% increase over 2020 with respect to violent shoplifting. The VPD has increased the number of foot patrols and bicycle patrols and trained more officers on police bikes, and these officers are being re-deployed from other areas.

8. Opportunity for Enquiries from the Public

For the public, if you have questions regarding something discussed at the meeting today, please email the Board at office@vancouverpoliceboard.ca

9. Enquires and other business from the Board

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 2:06pm.

TO BE APPROVED BY THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD ON November 25, 2021