

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD
MINUTES of Regular Meeting
Held on November 24, 2022 from 1:00pm-2:18pm
7th Floor Boardroom - 2120 Cambie, Vancouver, BC

Board Members Present

Faye Wightman (Acting-Chair)
Patricia Barnes
Merrilee Robson
Comfort Sakoma-Fadugba
Rachel Roy
Frank Chong
Allan Black

Staff Present

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

Ted Bruce, Interim Executive Director
Minutes by Executive Assistant, Ali Huculak

Absent: Mayor Ken Sim

1. Introduction

The Vice-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.

Introduction of Board members/staff.

2. Consent Agenda

- 2.1 Agenda for November 24, 2022
- 2.2 Minutes of October 20, 2022 regular meeting
- 2.3 VPD Compliment Letters Report #2211V05

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

3. Delegations

Blue and Rose spoke by speakerphone to their experiences living in the DTES encampment, and provided their perspective on interactions with police in the encampment.

4. VPD Presentation

- 4.1 HelpSeekers Report Update and Next Steps
[DCC Howard Chow, Operations]

DCC Chow provided an update on the HelpSeekers social impact audit report.

There was discussion with respect to the unintended consequences and execution of this report. DCC Chow spoke to the proprietary technology used by Helpseekers to collect their data for this report, and explained the VPD decided to do this 16 months ago because they were seeing gaps, inefficiencies and issues in the City of Vancouver.

4.2. Missing Persons Unit Presentation

[Sgt. Stan Dy & Detective Rebecca Matson]

Sgt. Stan Dy spoke to the structure of the Missing Persons Unit, and explained the unit has one Sergeant, eight detectives and one civilian employee working six days a week, daytime hours and the Sergeant is on call 24/7.

Detective Matson spoke to the legislation and explained the Missing Persons Act which came into effect in 2014. Detective Matson spoke to the BC Provincial Policing Standards for Missing Persons.

5. Partnership Program Planning and Engagement

5.1 LINK Project

Supt. Howard Tran spoke to Project LINK and provided a brief overview. He spoke to the important relationship with VCH and Providence, noting the VPD always looks forward to collaborative efforts regarding mental health strategies.

6. Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair Frank Chong provided opening remarks with regards to the Finance reports, noting all of these reports were discussed at length by the Finance Committee with the assistance of the VPD Finance team. Mr. Chong thanked everyone for their hard work, and thanked the City Staff for their ongoing support and constructive relationship with the VPD staff.

6.1 2023 Police Charge Out Rates: Report # 2211F05

DCC Rai spoke to the 2023 Police Charge Out Rates report, noting the VPD is updating their cancellation penalty to 72hrs versus 24hrs, due to the high volume of events and the planning that goes into each event. DCC Rai noted the VPD is adding a 10% administrative levy to cover the increase in administration fees, noting the overall the VPD charge out rates are in line with the region.

Moved:

That the Board approve the charge out rates for Police Officers and Traffic Authority Services as outlined in the report, and;

That the Board approve the administrative fee of 10% for commercial enterprises as outlined in the report to the Board, and;

That the Board approve the updated event cancellation policy as outlined in the report to the Board.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

6.2 Police Administrative Fees for Service: Report #2211F06

DCC Rai spoke to the report, noting all of the increases are related to overhead cost increases, wage increases, and inflationary increases, and the noteworthy item is a change in policy beginning in January with the removal of the fee for voluntary organization police background checks.

Moved:

That the Board approve the fees for service as summarized in Appendix 1 of the Board report effective January 1, 2023, and;

That the Board waive the fee for volunteers requesting a Police Information Check, effective January 1, 2023.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

6.3 2023 Provisional Operating Budget: Report #2211F03

DCC Rai spoke to the report noting the VPD's submission of the 2023 provisional operating budget is for \$383,138,062, which includes the financial support for 100 new officers and 20 civilian professionals. The VPD authorized strength as a result goes from 1348 officers to 1448 officers, and includes addressing the gaps from year four and five of the operational review. These officers will be used to meet the emerging challenges in public safety.

Finance Committee Chair Frank Chong noted the committee recognizes the budgetary pressures on the VPD, in particular that the 2017 operational review has never been fully implemented. Mr. Chong spoke to the new non-discretionary costs downloaded on the VPD, and the number of underfunded budgets in the VPD. The Finance Committee is cognizant of the Province and City's desire to invest in policing and public safety, in particular increasing the number of sworn officers. Mr. Chong spoke to the challenges given the time it takes to recruit and train new staff.

Moved that the Vancouver Police Board propose to the City of Vancouver a provisional operating budget of \$383,138,062 that incorporated in regard to new staffing the following:

- An annualized amount of \$15,711,000 that provides for a total of 100 new sworn officers and 20 civilian professionals and related recruitment and outfitting costs.
- Priority in recruitment and hiring to address the significant continued understaffing identified in the 2017 operational review of 40 sworn officers and 20 civilian staff.
- Within fiscal 2023, VPD will strive to recruit approximately 50 sworn officers and up to 20 civilian staff at an approximate cost of \$8,000,000.

AND

Moved that the Chief Constable provide the Board by the February Board meeting but if possible by January 19, 2023 a deployment plan for the new police officers that:

1. Identifies how the new staffing addresses the shortfalls in the operational review;

2. Describes the service areas (existing or new) to which the new sworn officers will be deployed, taking into consideration the priorities, goals and objectives of the Province, the Board and City Council, including the recently announced provincial Safer Communities Action Plan, the Board's priority areas and City Council's stated goals for the new staff funding;
3. Details the timing and projected costs of the recruitment, training and deployment of new sworn officers and civilian staff;
4. Identifies measurable objectives to evaluate the impact of the new officers on public safety.

AND

Moved that the Board request a joint meeting with the newly elected City of Vancouver Council to discuss public safety and policing in Vancouver including the Council's priorities, goals and objectives for the deployment of new police officers.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

6.4 2023 Capital Budget: Report #2211F04

DCC Rai spoke to the capital budget report noting the capital budget submission for 2023 is \$13,215,000, and \$11m of the \$13m will be put through other areas of the City of Vancouver (i.e., technology services, real estate and facilities management, and fleet and manufacturing services). There is a deficit of \$1.7 that is not decided yet at this time, and it being worked through with the City.

Moved that the Board approve the 2023 Capital Budget totalling \$13,215,000 of which \$11.5m is supported by and will be submitted by the three City departments on behalf of the VPD for submission to City Council by November 30, 2022.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

6.5 Q3 Variance Report: Report #2211F02

DCC Rai spoke to the Q3 Variance report, noting the VPD is under budget by \$562k for the nine-month period ending September 30, 2022. This is mainly due to higher than anticipated recoveries, and as the VPD is in Q4, there will be a shortfall related to downloaded costs.

Motion to accept the variance report for information.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

6.6 Motion to Invite the City Auditor General

Finance Committee Chair Frank Chong noted that the Board recognizes that today's request is a significant increase to the budget. To promote transparency, the Board is recommending that the Board proceed to engage the City of Vancouver's Auditor General.

Motion to invite the City Auditor General to commence a performance audit effective January 2023.
MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

7. Chief Constable's report: Verbal update

Chief Adam Palmer provided the following updates:

CC Palmer spoke to the 'Breakout Riot' at the PNE, noting there was hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage done, and the VPD launched a large scale investigation to bring the people who did the vandalism to justice. The top 10 list was released on November 1, 2022, and of that list there are three remaining unidentified, and today they are releasing an additional 15 suspects. CC Palmer gave kudos to the PNE who have been great partners to work with.

CC Palmer spoke to the Community Safety Action Plan presented by Premier David Eby, noting the VPD is supportive of this plan. CC Palmer noted there was a great turnout for Remembrance Day ceremonies, as there are five different sites throughout the city that traditionally have a VPD presence.

CC Palmer stated a class of 19 recruits graduated on November 8, 2022, and they are in their pre-deployment training right now, and will be deployed by the end of November, and there is a new academy class commencing in January 2023. CC Palmer is swearing in 7 experienced officers from other police departments at the end of November, as Vancouver continues to be a destination police department for other agencies.

8. Enquiries from the Public and Other Business

Vice-Chair Faye Wightman stated the Board received a letter from the City of Vancouver referring their report "City of Vancouver UNDRIP Strategy" to the Board encouraging the Board to adopt the findings and collaborate on implementation to ensure Board policies and procedures align with UNDRIP. Ms. Wightman proposed this matter be referred to the Board's Governance Committee meeting for a report on further actions to take.

Motion to refer the City's request regarding the UNDRIP proposal to the Board Governance Committee.

MOVED/SECONDED

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Board member Ms. Rachel Roy asked that the Board and VPD send this to their own EDI Consultants, in addition to referring the letter to the Board's Governance committee.

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

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 2:18pm.

APPROVED BY THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD ON January 19, 2023
