

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023 – 8:00 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair
Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA
Kim Spice, Recording Secretary	Chuck Stam, Community Member
Michelle Price, Community Member	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Donna Maser, Legal Representative	

Regrets:

Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations	Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP
Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities	Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce
Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and provided territorial acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held
 Seconded (Wednesday, January 18, 2023, be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held
 Seconded (Wednesday, December 14, 2022, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, introduced new RCMP Member, Constable Danny Shoker.

Constable Shoker provided some brief background and left the meeting at 8:10 am.

Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services, introduced two new Bylaw Officers, Scott Vass and Logan Ferguson. Scott and Logan provided some background and left the meeting at 8:30 am.

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Garrett Schipper provided a brief presentation regarding Business License Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 5258, specific to Section 28, Shopping Cart Management. The presentation covered background about challenging and complex community issues regarding shopping carts, details about the initial bylaw amendment and progress thus far.

Discussion regarding the presentation took place. It was noted that the bylaw applies to abandoned carts only. Comment was made regarding shopping carts on Indigenous Land. It was suggested that First Nations bands be engaged to discuss retailers located on Indigenous land and potential strategies for shopping cart management. This will be reported back to the committee at the next PSAC meeting on February 15, 2023.

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, reported on the following:

a) RCMP

1. Calls for Service were down in 2022
2. The cold weather in December led to a less busy month for members
3. Crimes against person and property crime were down in 2022
4. A 40-year-old male was arrested under charges of mischief regarding pellet gun vandalism in the downtown core; CCTV footage and timely reporting were key in advancing the investigation.
5. There is a stakeholder meeting next week regarding local encampments to discuss impacts to the environment and surround community and to develop mitigation strategies. Crime Prevention staff are currently working with Soowahlie First Nation to address criminal activity near The Eddy encampment. The rising waters have led to individuals reallocating and the area is currently undergoing a clean-up by local groups.
6. Reminder of the importance for the public to report crime when it occurs. Apathy towards the police can lead to an acceptance of behavior/activity, in turn leading to an increase in criminal activity. Police cannot solve crime if it is not reported.
7. A presentation regarding RCMP Strategic Planning will be provided at the next PSAC meeting on February 15, 2023

Discussion took place regarding the encampments and the importance of the Provincial Government being the lead agency to address issues on Crown Land, rather than having local RCMP respond to Calls for Service to mitigate issues in the interim.

9. REPORTS (continued)

Mayor Popove joined the meeting at 8:28 am.

b) Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

1. Statistics for 2022:
 - Total incidents attended in 2022 was 4,570; up from 2021 – 4,136
 - Total structure fires in 2022 – 133 (86 dollar loss reportable structure fires)
 - Of the 86 dollar loss reportable structure fires – 66 were residential (54 in SFR and 12 in MFR)
 - Of the 133 total structure fires, 123 were in Hall 1 and 4 response zone (92%)
 - Civilian injuries for 2022 – 14 (no fatalities)
 - 2022 saw an increase in community education and engagement
2. Budget for 2023 includes an increase of two fire fighters to the department

c) BIA

Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA, reported on the following:

1. Great lines of communication with the RCMP and the City of Chilliwack continue
2. Meeting with local merchants took place in December to discuss security and broken windows
 - Further education for merchants to take place
 - Grant program to assist with window breakage (up to \$1000) and security camera grants that cover up to 50% of the cost; a police file number is required for applications
 - BIA sending a letter to merchants to stress the importance of reporting all incidents to the RCMP
 - Discussion at BIA regarding an approach for business security; to shutter or not to shutter, as well as pseudo and affordable options to deal with broken glass
3. Cigarette butt receptacle program has begun with the help of the Downtown Clean-up Crew through Ruth and Naomi’s Mission (RAN). This is a free program through TerraCycle. Every pound collected generates \$1.00 of funding to RAN.

Discussion took place regarding various strategies to improve security for businesses in the downtown core. Education, awareness, and having adequate security measures in place were noted to be of great importance.

d) Bylaw Department

Garrett Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Services, reported on the following:

1. Winter season has arrived with an increase in complaints regarding snow removal. In December it was noted that strata complexes caused a build up of snow on sidewalks, as private companies often are responsible for snow removal.
2. Bylaw Officers are focusing efforts in Sardis, along with City Watch staff
3. Two new Bylaw Officers will be added to the team this year
4. Bylaw are working with individuals in encampments and seeing challenges with relocation after an encampment is dispersed

9. REPORTS (continued)

e) ICBC

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on the following:

1. MADD crash car is still active and has been extended through a partnership with Mt. Cheam Christian School
2. Road Safety Speaker Tour will take place this grad season
3. Meeting took place with new Speed Watch staff
4. Attended an appreciation dinner for Operation Red Nose through Restorative Justice

f) School District

Mark Klassen, Manager of Facilities, School District 33, was unable to attend but provided the following report via email:

1. No concerning issues around New Year's festivities this year.
2. Vandalism:
 - CMS windows taken out by a BB Gun approximately \$4000 in damage;
 - Over Winter break we had a break-in to a container at Kwíyeqel South on Prest Rd. where welding equipment was stolen for the second time;
 - A number of online police reports have been submitted around vandalism throughout the School District and continues to be a useful tool for reporting certain types of incidents;
 - Two fires in alcoves over at AD Rundle on January 4 and 5, 2023. One was still going and had two individuals around it at 6:15 am, they were burning actual wood and cardboard, the other was candles;
 - Graffiti is ongoing but significantly large tagging incidents are down.
3. Thanks to the RCMP, Bylaw and Griffin on helping the District work with concerns around people experiencing homelessness congregating or camping in areas where students walk to and from school. Also, to Operations for some large snow pile removal impacting some of our sites.
4. Communication with Trevor MacDonald around recent window breakage highlights the importance of communication between organizations in the downtown core.
5. Appreciated the tour and conversation by Dr Steve Esau from PCRS around the new Wellness Centre on Trethewey. Great work by the city on their strong support and recognizing the challenges in the community and coming up with real solutions.
6. I sit on a lot of different committees throughout the city and the representation/leadership from city staff is probably the strongest and most meaningful I have experienced this year. Staff have been actively involved in discussions and hear about challenges first hand, are good in promoting what positive steps the city has been taking on and able to report back on issues that are brought forward.

g) Operations

No report.

9. REPORTS (continued)

h) Social Development

Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development, reported on the following:

1. Shelter numbers:
 - December - Shelter Beds
 - 192 of 177 beds being utilized on average, 15 over capacity
 - December – Youth Shelter Beds
 - 5 of 9 beds being utilized on average
 - No individuals have been turned away due to capacity issues

i) Restorative Justice

Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice, reported on the following:

1. There was one new referral in December 2022 from RCMP
2. There are 41 active files and engagement was provided by having four restorative circles
3. There were 30 volunteer hours recorded, volunteers were provided with two weeks off during the holiday season
4. 48 active volunteers
5. Facilitator training to take place in February and CAP training to take place at the end of January
6. Operation Red Nose concluded December 31, 2022. The program provided 192 rides for 371 individuals by utilizing 149 volunteers to do so and raised \$13,000.00.
7. 18 class sessions were provided to SD33 students in December
8. Strategic Planning for Restorative Justice will begin in January

j) Stó:lō Justice

Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice, reported on the following:

1. Elder Saka event was attended by 150 elders
2. Staff recently completed three-day strategic planning where discussions took place regarding successes, challenges, respectful relationships, day treatment and community workshops.
3. Continue to meet with RCMP to receive referrals, build knowledge and create connections

k) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)

Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services, reported on the following:

1. Speed Watch: 2022- Total Volunteer hours: 1368, 125 deployments: 47 School Zone deployments, 434 Warning letters were sent out
2. City Watch: 2022: Total volunteer hours: 1133.75, 70 Patrols, 2 recovered stolen vehicles, 2 impaired drivers
3. Front office: 2022: Total Volunteer Hours: 1719.25, Info table /community events: 68.5 hours, Safety Bear: 16 hours
4. Block Watch: 58 Registered block areas, 6 annual block parties
5. Crime Free Multi Housing: Total of 8 CPTED assessments

l) Legal Representative

No report.

9. REPORTS (continued)

m) Chamber of Commerce

No report.

Discussion took place regarding an increase in aggressive shoplifting at a particular business in Sardis. It was noted that a meeting will be arranged with Sergeant Vrolyk, Leanna Kemp of the Chamber of Commerce and Michelle Wulff of Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services to discuss the matter. Councillor Mercer will follow up with Leanna to notify her regarding the meeting and the discussion at PSAC. Education to merchants regarding theft and the importance of having a proactive approach was recommended by members.

Sergeant Vrolyk will provide statistics at the next meeting regarding general theft.

n) Crime Prevention/Education

No report.

o) Corrections

No report.

p) Community Members

No report.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Moved /) That, in accordance with Section 90 (1)(f) of the *Community Charter*, the Committee hold a
Seconded (Closed meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Mercer, Chair