

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, November 20, 2024 – 8:00 am**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair
Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP	Councillor Jeff Shields
Staff Sargent, Grant Floris, Operational Support Officer, RCMP	Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement
Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development	Kim Spice, Social Development Coordinator
Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention	Assistant Fire Chief, Krista Minar
Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks	Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services
Chuck Stam, Community Member	Michelle Price, Community Member
Paisley Hammerton, Recording Secretary	

**Regrets:**

Tanis Bieber, ICBC	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Fire Chief, Andy Brown	Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice
Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce	Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Bud Mercer called the meeting to order at 8:01 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, November 20, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved / ) That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held  
Seconded ( Wednesday, October 16, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION**

**5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

**6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES****9. REPORTS****a) RCMP**

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, Operational Support Officer, reported on the following:

- CRT working with partners on a “Safe Walk to School” initiative. Debrief meeting will be held on November 20, 2024.
- Lots of Health and Safety inspections in the last month.
- CRT met with Soowahlie Reserve last week in regards to encampment in Cultus Lake area.
- CRT is taking part in security planning for the upcoming Christmas Parade.

**b) Fire Department**

Assistant Fire Chief, Krista Minar, reported on the following:

- 3517 calls so far this year.
- Renovations starting in the training building. This training facility will make a huge impact for Fire Department.

**c) BIA**

Trevor McDonald, BIA, reported on the following:

- Two main hot spots downtown. Working with Griffin for security, walking to Newmark to the Tim Hortons
- Mill Street has become a new hot spot in the last 4 months, could be due to numerous building vacancies.

Discussion ensued regarding theft in the downtown core.

**d) Bylaw Department**

Garret Schipper, Deputy Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement, reported on the following:

- Bylaw was inundated with complaints with Fireworks on Halloween.
- Increase in vacant properties.
- RCMP issued search warrant to a property on Garden Drive. House is boarded up and empty.
- South side is still a problem, especially Canadian Tire area. Spending a lot of time in this area.
- People experiencing homelessness are sleeping in covered bus shelters – near Superstore and Fraser Valley Meats.
- Council approved remediation process on Tyson Road property. After 30 days, Bylaw will have to pre-emptively start looking to contractors to clean property.
- Bylaw is preparing for seasonal complaints such as snow removal on sidewalks. Looking at hiring contractors for snow removal in certain areas, particularly around schools in addition to fining properties.

**e) ICBC**

No Report

**f) School District**

Mark Klassen, Manager of Facilities, SD33, reported on the following:

- No incidents on Halloween, worked with Griffin. Noticed a very large increase in Fireworks.
- Rotary Christmas Parade on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, starts at Chilliwack Secondary School.
- Custodian team are cleaning up debris in alcoves. Attempting to prevent small fires.
- Working with RCMP and others regarding "Safe Walk to School" initiative. Mark noted that there has been a noticeable difference in terms of students' exposure.

Mayor Ken Popove joined the meeting at 8:20am.

**g) Public Works & Parks**

Joe Koczur, Superintendent of Public Works, reported on the following:

- Preparing for winter conditions, snow fences are going up on Annis and Evans Roads.
- Ditch maintenance, clearing leaves and other vegetation.

Open adjourned at 8:35am.

The open session re-opened at 9:21am.

**h) Social Development**

Kim Spice, Social Development Coordinator, reported on the following:

- Adult shelters – average of 174 out of 202 beds utilized each day; highest day being 182.
- Youth shelters – average 3 beds utilized each day of 9; highest day being 6.
- Wellness Centre day-space averaged 119 people each day; highest day being 238.
- Turnaways averaged 5 each day; highest day being 19.

**i) Restorative Justice**

No Report

**j) Stó:lō Justice**

No report

**k) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)**

Michelle Wulff, Crime Prevention Supervisor, reported on the following:

- Business Watch program has officially launched. Getting a lot of positive responses. 17 active businesses currently and are wanting to take advantage of safety training.
- Finding businesses on both south and north side are having similar challenges. Shoplifting is increasing, especially as the holidays approach
- Speed Watch had 9 deployments, top speed was 100km at Bradner and Teskey.
- Crime Free Multi Housing coordinator is working on creating a quarterly newsletter and meeting with managers.
- 414 volunteer hours in October.

Discussion ensued regarding new position for Bylaw Enforcement. Position will be focused on monitoring vacant homes.

**l) Legal Representative**

No report.

**m) Chamber of Commerce**

No report.

**n) Education/Crime prevention**

No report.

**o) Corrections**

No report.

**p) Community Members**

Michelle Price, community member, reported on the following:

- CSS is having a multi-cultural celebration this week. Celebration will be held at the Paramount on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Councillor Mercer asked the RCMP to prepare a presentation regarding the SLO – school liaison officer – program at the next meeting.

**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

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Councillor Mercer, Chair