

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2023 – 8:00 am
VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM

In attendance:

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP
Corporal, Carmen Kiener, Media Relations Officer, RCMP	Corporal, Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP
Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks	Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Jennifer Hahn, Director Human Resources	Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice
Michelle Price, Community Member	Chuck Stam, Community Member
Paisley Hammerton, Recording Secretary	

Regrets:

Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice	Krista Minar, Assistant Fire Chief
Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA
Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce	

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, December 20, 2023, 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, November 15, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Update - Mobile Crisis Response Team

Corporal James McConochie, RCMP, provided an update regarding the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MICR). The program began on November 6, 2023. The crisis-response team is a police officer partnered with a registered psychiatric nurse (RPN). The team is dispatched when there is a 911 call for an individual whom may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. The RPN on shift is able to access medical information before arriving at the scene which allows both the RPN and officer to get a better understanding of the individual.

Previous to the MICR, RCMP officers would attend the call and mental health liaisons would be called afterward. In addition, assessment would be completed when officers arrived on scene. With the MICR, information is gathered before arrived and the nurse and officer are able to speak with the individual and their families when they arrive.

In regard to apprehension, the RPN is able to tell RCMP officers if they believe the individual should be apprehended. If individual is taken to hospital, the RPN is able to streamline the process by triaging on the go. RPN's can also speak with doctors and psych-liaison nurses before arriving at the hospital. This has resulted in a decrease in hospital wait times and has made a significant impact on both the RCMP and hospital staff.

Inspector Harinder Kheleh also noted that he has heard from a number of families who have benefited from the MICR team. Insp. Kheleh noted that it has made a very positive impact for the individual, the families, and the community.

Cpl. McConochie noted that in addition to the positive feedback, apprehensions since November have been cut in half. Insp. Kheleh noted that this allows junior RCMP officers to better understand mental health challenges and apprehensions.

Councillor Mercer emphasized the importance of the MICR team and how important it is to have this type of service in Chilliwack.

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

a) RCMP

Corporal Carmen Kiener, Media Relations Officer, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. The Chilliwack Traffic Unit worked with ICBC to obtain funding for extra traffic enforcement throughout the City during the holiday season.

2. The Community Response Team are working with loss prevention officers in the shopping district. They located \$7,000.00 worth of stolen goods over the last 2 weeks, and apprehended a number of individuals.
3. There was an Amber Alert on December 9th. The Community Response Team was integral in locating and apprehending the suspect and child in Chilliwack.

b) Fire Department

Fire Chief Ian Josephson reported on the following:

1. Calls for Services are 150 calls ahead of last years statistics
2. 80 structure fires, total of 86 for last year.
3. 70% of fires in the single family and multi-family residential units.
4. Stats for 2023 will be brought to January meeting

c) BIA

No Report.

d) Bylaw Department

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

1. Regular day-to-day activities, calls slowdown in December and January.
2. Preparing for calls from residents if it snows. It is up to property owners and businesses to maintain and clear snow on the boulevard in front of their property.
3. Bylaw Enforcement is spending a lot of time in the south-side, downtown, and the rail trail. Relying on CRT team for individuals who are refusing the leave parks.
4. Coming out of Fall fishing season, parking issues near river have decreased.

e) ICBC

No report.

f) School District

Mark Klassen, Manager of Facilities, School District 33, reported on the following:

1. Two separate break ins at A.D. Rundle. About \$18,000 of equipment was stolen.
2. There has been an increase in bike thefts during the day. Encouraging parents to file police reports.
3. Chilliwack Christmas Parade was a huge success.
4. There have been less incidents with fires on school district sites. Working with Assistant Fire Chief, Krista Minar, on how to reduce the risk of fires in covered areas.

g) Public Works & Parks

Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks Operations, reported on the following:

1. Prepping for winter weather. Staff are on standby and monitoring weather forecasts.

h) Social Development

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

1. All of the shelters are over capacity, especially when there is a weather event.
2. The Wellness Center, Ann Davis, outreach teams will not be working on December 25, 26 and January 1, 2023.

i) Restorative Justice

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

1. 9 new Restorative Justice referrals in November from: RCMP (3 for identity fraud, extortion, and assault), four RCMP school referrals, and two from Loss Prevention Officers (theft under \$5000).
2. 36 active files – 18 have mentors.
3. Completed four restorative circles in November.
4. 55 circles in six different schools in Chilliwack
5. United Way after school program at Central Elementary continues every Tuesday and Thursday.
6. Had a restorative circle at Imagine High.
7. Working with Ruth and Naomi's on an assault case. Six staff members from Ruth and Naomi's are completing victim offender conference training in the New Year.
8. 110 restorative justice volunteers, 12 school volunteer hours, 52 active volunteers, total of 112 total volunteer hours in November.
9. Operation Red Nose off and running, 113 rides as of December 16, 2023.

j) Stó:lō Justice

No report.

k) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services (City of Chilliwack)

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

1. Speed Watch completed a total of eight deployments. One of the areas focused on was on Mary Street, specifically at Ontario and Patten Avenue. Speed was not a factor, rather cars rolling through stop signs and not giving courtesy to individuals at crosswalks.
2. Had an information table at two Chiefs games in November.
3. Completed three senior safety presentations at three different locations.
4. Michelle and Dave completed advanced CEPTED training course for certification purposes.
5. 207 total volunteer hours in November.

Councillor Mercer noted that Council approved an additional member for the Crime Prevention Team.

l) Legal Representative

No report.

m) Chamber of Commerce

No report.

n) Crime Prevention/Education

No report.

o) Corrections

No report.

p) Community Members

Michelle Price, Community Member:

1. Increase in bikes thefts and small fires around Mary Street and Spadina. Lots of activity in that area, especially when the weather turns.
2. Applying for next round of Federal funding.
3. Preparing to move locations in April.

Conversation ensued regarding the positive comments and buzz about District 1881.

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