

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, April 17, 2024 – 8:00 am**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair	Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development
Corporal, Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP	Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP
Andy Brown, Fire Chief	Krista Minar, Assistant Fire Chief
Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA	Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement
Tanis Bieber, ICBC	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Stam, Community Member	Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice
Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Mayor Popove	Paisley Hammerton, Recording Secretary
Lilly Yakmission, Recording Secretary	

**Regrets:**

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Corporal, Carmen Kiener, Media Relations Officer, RCMP
Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development	Michelle Price, Community Member
Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks	

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Read 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, April 17, 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, March 20, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION**

**5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Corporal Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP, presented on the following:

1. Alexa Awards. Alexa Midler was 4 years old when she was struck by a drunk driver in 2008. Her parents looked at it as an opportunity to advocate for their daughter and created the Alexa awards in her honor. Officers are eligible for the award when they reach a certain number of impaired investigations. Three members of the Chilliwack RCMP have received awards this year so far. The Alexa award is a strong advocate for the province in coming up with proactive strategies to reduce impaired driving.

Mayor Popove joined the meeting at 8:15 am

**6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**9. REPORTS**

**b) RCMP**

Corporal Brad Rendall, Community Policing, RCMP reported on the following:

1. Working with BC Hydro and SRY lines on the rail trail by Hocking Ave. With summer coming, they moved rail ties out of the yard due to risk of fire. Coming up with a plan to mitigate the situation.
2. Caught a number of distracted drivers during a traffic blitz in March.
3. Mini version of a youth academy at PRTC, April 23rd. Policing experience for interested youth, 1day event. Grade 10 and grade 12. Expecting around 30 youth.
4. Training more individuals on bicycles to increase visibility in community starting next week. This will enable RCMP members to get further out in the community and extend patrols.

Inspector Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. There were 2717 calls last month, looking at 3 main areas: crimes against person, property crime, and other criminal code. Crimes against persons were down 6 %, property crime is down 12% compared to same time last year. Criminal code files saw an increase of 16%.
2. Media blitz on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in regards to multijurisdictional drug project involving our local team. Communities given these types of files generally land on headquarters team. Drug team was able to see some really good results.

**c) Fire Department**

Fire Chief, Andy Brown, reported on the following:

1. Still in process of interviewing for Assistant Fire Chief of Training and Operations and Fire Clerk.
2. Finished Youth camp. 15 students, 6-day camp. 60 parents and family members attended graduation ceremony, BBQ after.
3. 19 POC firefighters graduated.

4. 16 Career members successfully completed Emergency Scene Management level 2, and 1 new career member starting.
5. Starting Fire Behavior Training.
6. Two new tenders that just arrived, mechanics are doing service on them.
7. Building a type two engine for wildland deployment. Some concerns about taking a frontline engine out of service. We will be using training engine so this will not deplete frontline capacity.
8. 180 firefighters completed Responding to Interface Fires course. The Fire Department will be rotating 4 members throughout the season for deployment.

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

9. 1057 calls from January to March, on track for 4600 this year. Top calls are medical, assist to BC ambulance, alarms and outdoor burning.
10. 230 inspections over the past month.
11. Public education events which have resulted in 1051 members of the public being educated face to face. Big changes in social media. Had a reach of about 7000 this time last year, and now have a reach of 38,000.
12. Provincial snowpack is 63% across BC compared to 88% last year. Not expecting any freshet flooding at this time.
13. Emergency Support Services Team consists of 17 volunteers who meet monthly. They are in constant need of more bodies and support. If anyone is interested they can reach out. Strong working relationship with First Nations Emergency Services Society.

**d) BIA**

Trevor McDonald, BIA, reported on the following:

1. Meeting tomorrow morning with city councilors at RAN, going to look at Street Team up-close. RAN puts out 8 individuals out in the community Thursday to Sunday, working for 3 hours a day.
2. Kudos to Griffin – Saw some of their best work last week.

**e) Bylaw Department**

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

1. Need to follow up with Brad Rendall and SRY, Trethewey connection behind salvation army is becoming a huge problem. Concerns with people sleeping on the tracks, and fires on and along the tracks.
2. Motor homes are becoming a bigger problem. Parking on the streets and moving them every couple of days to avoid being towed. More private properties are now taking on RV's. Concern to us with respect to highway improvement, the camps at Cole Rd and Brader Rd. If we tow, we are currently towing to the landfill. We have to hold on to them for at least 30 days. If no one claims, we have to pay for disposal.
3. All Bylaw officers are now trained on bicycles. Doing patrols with RCMP as well as rail trail, and rotary trail. 60-70 km a day on the bikes.

**f) ICBC**

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on the following:

1. Working on 3 projects:
  - Think of Me pilot project. 3 elementary schools: Sardis, Vedder, and Chilliwack. Program where kids fill out a postcard with a heartfelt message on it for drivers to think of them when travelling through school zones. Still in initial phases.
  - 2 Motorcycle skills events with BC Highway Patrol and APD. Riders from Abbotsford and Chilliwack to train with police.
  - Choose your ride event in Chilliwack to talk to youth about impaired driving.

**g) School District**

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

1. Spring break went well, thank you to RCMP and Griffin.
2. Addressing ongoing challenges with youth around the Watson area.
3. New legislation regarding individuals who are found to disrupt school activities. Waiting on more information regarding this.

**h) Public Works & Parks**

No report.

**i) Social Development**

Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development, reported on the following:

1. Dropping numbers in terms of overall shelter usage this month. Most accessible shelters, pathways program, , salvation army have been at or over capacity. Youth is at capacity. Room within women's shelters.
2. Announcement by the Province about 73 new beds to address homelessness in Chilliwack, including 43 modular units at interchange. Modular housing that they will bring and locate on site, zoning is in place to support it. The intent is to provide supportive housing for individuals who are older that are experiencing homelessness. The other 30 beds are going to be integrated into the wellness center on Trethewey. Lookout society has reported 7-8 individuals using the shelter to date, maintaining front part of the building as the resource center. Emphasized the need to maintain that use as it was developed as a place for providing intensive wrap around supports, space for service providers. Looking for longer term site, that is better developed to suit the need of this center beyond the current funding commitment.
3. Meet monthly with service providers. Regular topic is making sure the beds are reserved for individuals in Chilliwack. If there are reports of individuals who are not residents we will follow up.

Garrett Shipper responded he is working with Lookout Society to clean up around the property. Garrett inquired if individuals will be able to stay within the shelter or if they have to leave during cleaning hours etc. Karen Stanton will follow up on this.

**j) Restorative Justice**

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

1. 53 active files as of end of March.
2. 7 new Restorative Justice referrals for Month (Mar) from: RCMP School - 1 (1 theft under \$5k), Loss Prevention Officers - 4 (3 theft under \$5k, 1 fraud under \$5k) BC Corrections – 1
3. 9 restorative circles completed in March. 3 Victim offender conferences, 6 community accountability panels. All done by Volunteers.
4. 25 files that had mentors, 14 mentors some doing more than one file.
5. School program, 27 Peace circles, 7 Different schools done in Chilliwack in the month of March. United way afterschool program on Tues and Thursdays. In process of completing application for next school year.
6. Community events coming up, mentor training June 1<sup>st</sup>, Goodride gravel event May 11<sup>th</sup>.
7. Restorative Cycle - Since opening in September to March we have sold 124 bikes. 106 bikes donated by the community (52 from the RCMP). Restorative cycle has now donated to the community 32 bikes and 17 helmets. 263 volunteer hours in the cycle shop, 73 of these are done by responsible parties as a part of their community service work.

**k) Stó:lō Justice**

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

1. Participating in a Public Safety Modernization Initiative.
2. Programming starting in May. May 7<sup>th</sup>, Respectful relationships. Path the Red Road – 2-day Addictions program.
3. Ride with corrections on mobile unit to find clients who may be in harms way.
4. Visiting with more communities, hoping people come in and explore support options. Asked to help rename Ford Mountain Correctional Centre. One of the elders was gracious enough to give them a new name.
5. AJLC May 22<sup>nd</sup> at SAY.
6. Attended BC First Nations Justice Council forum, talked about how to build collaborative relationships.

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

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

1. Speed watch did a total of 15 deployments; highest speed was on No. 3 Rd at 94 km.
2. Crime free multi housing quarterly resident’s manager workshop is coming up. Fire department will be attending as guest speakers
3. Met with Leanna Kemp and Trevor McDonald, implementing tips from them with the business watch program.
4. Looking forward to new hire starting on May 6
5. Upcoming events in May: Car seat clinic at YCMA May 25<sup>th</sup>.
6. Met with E-division volunteer management office, venue will be used for training session for volunteers and volunteer coordinators. Volunteer appreciation dinner next week April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**m) Legal Representative**

No report.

**n) Chamber of Commerce**

Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce, reported on the following:

1. Sardis business event symposium May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 9 pm at Cottonwood Theatre. Marketing tips and tricks, hiring information, recruitment and retention best practices, bigger focus around public safety.
2. Local Lens project has been approved and is moving forward nicely. Once content bank is created videos will launch around mid-May. More information to come.

**o) Education/Crime prevention**

Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention

1. Kudos for the excellent presentation by the Fire Department on being Fire Smart in Ryder Lake. Residents are still talking about the presentation and making changes. Made a great impression on people.

**p) Corrections**

No report.

**q) 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

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Councillor Mercer, Chair