

City of Chilliwack
PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2024 – 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	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP
Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Krista Minar, Assistant Fire Chief	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks
Sarah Jones, Manager of Police Support Services	Michelle Price, Community Member
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Paisley Hammerton, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Corporal, Carmen Kiener, Media Relations Officer, RCMP	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice	Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention
Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce	Chuck Stam, Community Member

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 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, December 20, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

4. DELEGATION

5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Update – Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services

Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development gave a brief introduction of Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services.

Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Supervisor, provided a brief history of Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services. Established in 1991 by an RCMP Corporal and an RCMP Constable, as a prevention and education center providing resources and tools for the community, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services were originally delivered by volunteers and a non-profit society. In 2022, the City of Chilliwack took on responsibility for Chilliwack Crime Prevention services, and five staff members. There are currently 76 volunteers with an additional 104 block watch volunteers.

Michelle then highlighted a number of services provided by Chilliwack Crime Prevention. The first being Block Watch which is a program where neighbourhoods can volunteer to oversee a city block area. Volunteers are asked to report any suspicious and or criminal activity occurring in the area.

Speed Watch is a partnership between the RCMP, ICBC and the City. The goal of speed watch is to reduce speeding incidents and any other traffic and road safety initiatives. Volunteers will attend a location and gather statistics; educational letters are sent to those caught speeding and or disobeying traffic laws.

Crime Free Multi Housing is a program where owners, landlords, resident managers are educated to help keep properties free of criminal activity. There are 39 total registered crime free buildings in Chilliwack.

City Watch is a program where volunteers are trained to observe and record information and report it to RCMP. These volunteers are trained in naloxone administration, first aid, note taking, and dispatching. Volunteers patrol hot spot areas for criminal and suspicious activity.

Lastly, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services attends a number of community events including safety fairs, Canada Day, Chilliwack Chiefs Game, etc. They also present on senior safety, security and fraud, etc.

Chilliwack City Council has approved a new position for Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services. The new position allows the program to continue to grow and develop. Discussion ensued regarding the expansion and the development of new programs within Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services.

6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

9. REPORTS

a) RCMP

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

1. The RCMP has seen an increase in SOGI events in the last month or so. There have been four events as of late. The RCMP is continuing to engage with the organizers to ensure attendees and members of the public are safe during these events.
2. The Mobile Integrated Crisis Response team is growing, there are now three RCMP members in the unit.
3. Traffic enforcement is very important. Saw an increase in number of impaired driving from 2022 to 2023 by 30%. Hoping to keep momentum with traffic enforcement.
4. 10 new prolific offenders, the Priority Target Team is continuing to conduct surveillance on these individuals.

b) Fire Department

Fire Chief Ian Josephson reported on the following year end statistics:

1. Calls for Services are 4591, only an increase of 21 calls from 2022
2. 83 structure fires, down 7 from 2022.
3. 82% of fires in the single family and multi-family residential units.
4. 2023 had 2-fire related fatalities and 11 injuries.

The Fire Department will be attending the Home Expo this upcoming weekend with Public Educators.

c) BIA

Trevor McDonald, reported on the following:

1. There are continuing issues arising from a business at Williams & Yale Road. The BIA continues to work with the owner on the property.
2. Cascade Centre is experiencing graffiti and gatherings. Working on speaking with the property owner and getting Griffin Security involved.
3. There is a property at Fletcher and Yale which is a problem. Attempting to work to find a solution.

d) Bylaw Department

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

1. Spoke of the importance of reminding businesses and property owners that they are responsible to clear their sidewalks due to the increase in snow.
2. Started looking at statistics from 2023, primary complaints are related to parking enforcement.

e) ICBC

No report.

f) School District

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

1. No significant issues over winter break.

g) Public Works & Parks

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

1. Heavy snow in Chilliwack overnight. Every available unit is out, primarily working on priority one and two, three when able. Will be available for emergency services in neighbourhoods when needed.

h) Social Development

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

1. For the month of December, the adult shelters are over capacity, youth almost over capacity, and the Wellness Centre had a daily average of 85 attendees.
2. This month to date, shelters are well over capacity, including the EWR, together averaging 207 people a night.
3. Chilliwack Emergency Response Team (CERT) statistics:
 - 21 referrals this past year, 16 resulted in a lower acutely elevated risk.
 - 5 still have acutely elevated risk, either uncooperative or refused services.
 - One was informed about services and one has systemic issues.
 - 1 individual between the ages of 12 -15, 1 between 16 -17, 7 between 18 – 24, 8 between 30-29, 3 between 40-49, 1 between 50-59.
 - Top categories included mental health, housing, substance and alcohol use, and cognitive issues.

i) Restorative Justice

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

1. 8 new Restorative Justice referrals in December from: two (theft under \$5000; assault) from RCMP Community, and three from Loss Prevention Officers (theft under \$5000) and one from the Saskatoon Tribal Council.
2. Completed three restorative circles in December.
3. 37 Peace Circles in six different schools.
4. After school program continues on Tuesday and Thursdays.
5. Hired a new Mentor Coordinator for the pilot project.
6. Operation Red Nose had 153 rides and raised over \$10,000.00.
7. Volunteer appreciation night on January 6th. Over 60 volunteers in attendance.
8. 90 restorative justice hours, 19 school volunteer hours, 52 active volunteers, 109 total hours.
9. Shared story about 13-year old female who took part in a Restorative Justice process. The young female would like to now volunteer with Restorative Justice to help others.

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. 2023 CPS numbers – 4568 volunteer hours
2. 25 presentations
3. Speed Watch had a total of 139 deployments, 65 RCMP tickets issued during deployments.
4. Highest speed 104 kms on Yale Road
5. Highest recorded speed in school zone was 72 kms
6. Covert deployment highest speed was 136 kms at Teskey Rd
7. City Watch did a total of 65 patrols
8. City watch was able to locate 2 stolen vehicles
9. Completed the year with 53 active block watch areas
10. CPS is going to be at the Home Expo this upcoming weekend

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. 12 weeks until Chilliwack Community Services moves downtown. Working through questions from staff and working towards resolutions.
2. Still continue to have individuals camping around the building.
3. Have helped a few seniors moving into the area find shelter.

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