

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023 – 8:00 am**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Superintendent Davy Lee, OIC, RCMP	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement	Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation & Drainage	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada	Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Michelle Price, Community Member
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary	Donna Maser, Legal Representative
Paisley Hammerton, Exempt Administrative Assistant (Casual)	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice

**Regrets:**

Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention	Chuck Stam, Community Member
Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA	

**Guest:**

Rob Dixon, CN Railway Police	
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**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, April 19, 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, March 15, 2023, 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**

Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair joined the meeting via zoom as she is in Penticton attending the BC Economic Development Association’s 2023 Annual BC Economic Summit April 16 -18, 2023. Vice-Chair Read passed along her congratulations to Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation (CEPCO) who won an award at the BCEDA with respect to the District 1881 project.

Round table introductions were made.

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing and Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP reported on the following:

**a) RCMP**

1. Three shootings occurred recently in Chilliwack in a span of eight days. One shooting was a homicide still under investigation by the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT). All three shootings are believed to have links to organized crime. RCMP continue to investigate if there are any connections between the three incidents.
2. A search warrant was executed at a residence in Nanaimo resulting in a significant fire arm seizure in relation to an ATM theft in Chilliwack.
3. RCMP continue to work with community partners including City staff from Parks and Bylaw, Griffin Security, and School District #33 with respect to large groups of youth causing mischief, including property damage, in the Cheam Leisure Centre and Garrison area.
4. There has been an increase in fire-related calls-for-service with respect to vehicle fires and residential fires.
5. The RCMP report an increase in homelessness issues in Sardis.

Superintendent Davy Lee, OIC, RCMP introduced Rob Dixon, CN Railway Police who was in attendance.

Superintendent Lee and R. Dixon raised an issue regarding fatalities on the train tracks. Discussion ensued with respect to incorporating a provision for installing barricades along the rail corridor between Young Road and Broadway

Moved / ) That the City forward a letter of support to CN Railway with respect to having CN Rail corridor  
Seconded ( installing barricades along the CN rail corridor between Broadway and Lickman Road.

Carried unanimously

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

**b) BIA**

No report

**c) Fire Department**

Fire Chief Ian Josephson reported the following statistics for the first quarter of 2023:

1. 1000 calls-for-service, 90% were located in the urban corridor;
2. 17 structure fires, 72 % of the fires were in residential homes and 82% were located in the urban corridor; and,
3. Two fire related fatalities.

Assistant Fire Chief Mike Bourdon reported on the following:

1. Most of the structure fires have been accidental
  - Newmark Building on Victor Street on April 4
  - Travel trailer fire on Island 22; and,
2. A supportive housing project has seen a major decrease in calls for service due to efforts by Staff and RainCity Housing.

**d) Bylaw Department**

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

1. Staffing updates:
  - A replacement has been hired and is currently being trained to cover a staff members maternity leave.
  - Interviews are ongoing for the two Bylaw Assistant Manager positions.
2. Staff are working with CN and Public Works regarding homelessness and rail related issues in the community to alleviate concerns on the tracks.
3. Ongoing issues with youth in the Garrison Crossing area are being monitored and staff are working closely with School District 33.
4. Homelessness issues are ongoing in the Southside and being monitored through proactive patrols.
5. Traffic safety is an issue with individuals experiencing homelessness who travel with large carts that are being left roadside.
6. Issues regarding the Island 22 encampment continues to be monitored and addressed.
7. RV's are being dumped in remote areas in the community likely due to the fact that towing fees are cost prohibitive. There has been an increase in RV's at the Park and Ride.

**e) ICBC**

Tanis Hatch, ICBC, reported on the following:

1. Lower Mainland BCAA Child Passenger Technician Training will take place in May with five participants attending from Chilliwack, including staff from Crime Prevention and the Fire Department. Tanis will provide a resource list of trained individuals to the Fire Department once training is complete. A waitlist will be created to ensure anyone not able to register has an opportunity to do so.
2. Successful police and volunteer distracted driving events last month resulted in six infractions being issued and 3846 vehicles received education.
3. Grad events are being planned for end of May and June for impaired driving.

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

Councillor Mercer requested statistics from regarding ICBC claims and uninsured vehicles since the Province will no longer require insurance tags on vehicle plates.

Sergeant Vrolyk noted that collisions have been reduced by 5% since last year.

**f) School District**

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

1. Custodial staff worked through Spring Break to ensure all debris was removed from district properties.
2. There were three fires at McCammon Elementary School.
3. Ongoing issues at Watson Elementary.
4. To date, there have been 287 individuals on school properties this school year, with 10 repeat individuals. Resource cards are being handed out.
5. Point in Time Count – large number of individuals experiencing homelessness did not partake in the survey but were referred to the Wellness Centre as a great resource.
6. Appreciation was provided to RCMP regarding last night's School District Board Meeting.
7. Graffiti – Youth was charged \$1600 to repair damage of a washroom. Staff are setting a precedent and hoping this type of learning experience teaches youth about consequences.

Doug Mossey, Manager of Transportation and Drainage, Engineering Department, joined the meeting at 8:35am.

**g) Public Works & Parks**

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

1. Staff are busy with spring road maintenance.
2. Contractors have begun cutting grass in public parks, roadside and roundabout areas.
3. Dyke mowing will begin this month.
4. Freshet preparation and dyke inspections are ongoing.
5. Staff is working with all parties involved regarding the youth related issued in the Garrison area.

## 9. REPORTS (continued)

### h) Social Development

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

1. Shelter numbers:
  - Shelter beds- on average 180 out of 181 beds utilized
  - Youth beds – on average 6 out of 9 beds utilized
  - Wellness Centre has on average 60 people attending each day
2. The Point in Time Count concluded on March 8, 2023. Results from the FVRD are expected in June.
3. Reaching Home funding allocations included the following:
  - Indigenous Housing Facilitator – PCRS
  - Prevention and Shelter Diversion – Wilma’s Transition Society and Salvation Army
  - Street Outreach – PCRS
  - Indigenous Youth and Youth Outreach – Cyrus Centre
4. CHC Substance Use Task Team has been created and has reached out to Fraser Health to provide a formal way for agencies and individuals to be referred to detox and treatment. The next meeting is on April 24, 2023.
5. Indigenous Homelessness training will take place on June 13 and 14 with four spaces remaining.

### i) Restorative Justice

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

1. There were four referrals in March, including mischief and uttering threats;
2. 48 volunteers with 76 volunteer hours;
3. 27 active files, three restorative circles in March;
4. Working on increasing agency referrals, with some referrals coming from the Bylaw Department;
5. 39 class sessions in six school in March;
6. A part time Community Coordinator was recently hired and started last week to assist with community awareness and events;
7. Restorative Justice has created a bike program called Restorative Cycle. It is a bike shop that will be set up in the United Way Church to create community awareness, provide bikes to low income individuals, offer bike repairs and act as an educational tool for youth involved in the Restorative Justice system;

It was noted that consideration should be made with respect to providing helmets and the bikes will be marked through the Garage 529 program;

8. Two break and enters at Restorative Justice in the last few months, bars and cameras to be installed through the BIA; and,
9. Silent Auction set for May 6, 2023.

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

**j) Stó:lō Justice**

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

1. Respectful Relationships with Probation training will begin in May at Stó:lō Nation.
2. First Responders Sexual Violence courses to be offered in June and September.
3. Currently supporting people suffering from the loss of two individuals in the fire last week at Shxwhá:y Village. Partnership formed with Fraser Health regarding the mental health aspect of support.
4. Provided thanks to committee members regarding the important work being and positive impact in the community.

It was noted that Stó:lō Justice has a direct connection with the Indigenous Justice Centre, BC First Nations Justice Council.

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

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

1. Speed Watch: 18 deployments in March;
2. Three distracted driving deployments with six violation tickets and a top speed of 95km/h on Teskey Road and Ross Road;
3. Taxi company violations – eight letters were sent to drivers violating speed zones;
4. City Watch – Block Watch has two new registered walk areas on Fairbanks Crescent and Halycon Meadows;
5. Senior College presentation at UFV;
6. 497 Volunteer Hours;
7. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 20, 2023;
8. Michelle will attend the Car Seat training through ICBC; and,
9. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design CPTED evaluation at Shxwhá:y Village

Discussion regarding CPTED ensued. Implementation of a reduced fee structure application through the City and Chamber of Commerce for CPTED assessments for businesses is ongoing. The assessments are free of charge for victims of crime through RCMP referrals and non-profit organizations. CPTED is a requirement for new construction through the building process to drive design to proactively address crime prevention. The challenge for older buildings is the cost to achieve CPTED requirements and implement preventative measures as they relate to assessment outcomes.

**l) Legal Representative**

No report.

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

**m) Crime Prevention/Education**

No report.

**n) Corrections**

Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada noted that a federal strike began April 19, 2023 at midnight however has no impact as corrections is deemed an essential service.

**o) Community Members**

Michelle Price, community member, reported on the following:

1. Noted a presence of RV's in the area of Spadina Avenue and Mary Street.
2. Welcoming a new Executive Director, Kate Healy, on May 1, 2023.
3. 1000 new comers this year so far.
4. The English class for foreign workers continues to grow and has doubled in size.

**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