

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2025 – 8:00 am**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Jeff Shields, Vice-Chair
Inspector, Harinder Kheleh, Operations Officer, RCMP	Assistant Fire Chief, Krista Minar
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
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services	Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities
Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention	Chuck Stam, Community Member
Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce	Lilly Yakmission, Recording Secretary
	Leah Lavallee, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:**

Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Tanis Bieber, ICBC	Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce
Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks	Fire Chief, Andy Brown

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Bud 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 15, 2025, 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 18, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION**

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP, introduced new RCMP members Constable Garry Singh and Constable Whitney Gaskell. Staff Sergeant Grant Floris provided brief background information for both Constables and they left the meeting at 8:08 am.

**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:

1. December was a busy month for the RCMP.
2. The RCMP participated in “Skate with a Cop” on December 15, 2024 at the Sardis Sports Complex. The event went well and the RCMP is planning another skate to take place in February 2025 at the Chilliwack Coliseum.
3. The Community Response Team has been active in assisting the Bylaw Department with Health & Safety Inspections.
4. Staff Sargent Grant Floris will be attending a meeting with representatives from the Special Olympics as members will be participating in the Polar Plunge in February. This event raises funds for the Special Olympics and will take place at Cultus Lake.
5. RCMP will also participate in the Torch Run in June.

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

1. The RCMP has refreshed the prolific offenders list for 2025.
2. Calls for Service were up 4% in 2024.
3. Both crime against person and property crimes were down about 1% for 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding a significant increase in domestic violence across the country. Inspector Harinder Kheleh suggested that the increase may be due to an increase in reporting.

**b) Fire Department**

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

1. Fire Department’s Calls for Service were 4,795 in 2024.
2. Both the Fire Department and Emergency Support Services will be presenting this weekend at the Chilliwack Expo.

Discussion took place on the dangers of continuous flame butane lighters amongst vulnerable populations and recent measures taken by the City of Vancouver to reduce potential fire risks:

- In 2024, the City of Vancouver enacted a bylaw to ban the sale of lockable butane lighters. Violators are subject to a \$1000 fine.
- Between Jan 2023 – April 2024, reporting to the OFC (Provincial Office of the Fire Commissioner) shows 3120 fires were attributed to careless use of butane lighters in Vancouver. Approximately, 360 were in single residence occupancy buildings. Devices recorded as probable cause of approximately 79 fire-related injuries and 6 fire fatalities. –
- Fire Prevention BC is working on a proposal to ban continuous flow lockable butane lighters throughout the province
- The Fire Prevention Association is looking into an industry guide for Canadian requirements for lighters

**9. REPORTS CONTINUED**

Discussion ensued with respect to creating a bylaw that would ban the retail sale of continuous flame lighters in Chilliwack. Members of the committee made the following recommendation to Council:

Moved / ) That Council direct staff to create a bylaw to prohibit the sale of continuous flame  
Seconded ( butane lighters.

Carried Unanimously

**c) BIA**

No report.

**d) Bylaw Department**

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

1. Calls for Service in 2024 were 3,176 compared to 2,572 in 2023.
2. Tickets written in 2024 were 740 compared to 287 in 2023.
3. Bylaw continues to be very busy and as a result, Council has approved the hiring of another Bylaw Officer that will primarily focus on vacant homes.
4. This year the Bylaw Department coordinated the Toys for Tickets initiative. Items collected were donated to local community organizations to help families in Chilliwack.
5. This winter the Bylaw Department, Fire Department, and RCMP volunteered in the Salvation Army food drive.

**e) ICBC**

No report.

**f) School District**

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

1. "Safe Walk to School" has resumed now that school is back after the winter break.
2. Primary after-hours concerns on school grounds are usage of the sports fields, dogs, bike riding, and youth alcohol consumption.

**g) Public Works and Park**

No report.

**h) Social Development**

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

1. Adult shelter numbers were an average of 181 of 228 beds utilized each day, with the highest number 197
2. Youth shelter numbers were an average of 5 of 9 beds utilized each day, with the highest number 7

**9. REPORTS CONTINUED**

3. Wellness Center numbers were an average of 133 each day, with the highest number 245 which was on Christmas.
4. Turnaways averaged 6 a day with the highest day being 16. Most of the people who are being turned away have either been banned from the facility (typically for violence) or have quite complex of needs that the facility is not equipped to manage.
5. Reaching Home is funding an additional 10 beds at Ruth and Naomi’s between January 1 and March 31. The Winter Warehouse is open at Ruth and Naomi’s from October 15 – April 15 and provides 26 beds, totalling 36 additional beds in the community over the winter months.

Discussion ensued regarding how the Wellness Centre numbers are tracked for usage. Tracking is based on “unique visits”. If a person leaves for a few hours or more and returns, this is considered a new visit.

**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:

1. Business Watch currently has 24 businesses registered.
2. Block Watch currently has 52 block areas registered and is in the process of working in the Ryder Lake area.
3. Speed Watch had 162 deployments in 2024 with 851 warning letters sent.
4. Crime Free Multi Housing has 32 active registered buildings.
5. CPS as a whole in 2024 completed a total 5,934 volunteer hours.

**l) Legal Representative**

No report.

**m) Chamber of Commerce**

No report.

**n) Education/Crime prevention**

No report.

**o) Corrections**

No report.

**p) Community Members**

No report.

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**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

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