

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, August 16, 2023 – 8:00 am**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE / DOGWOOD ROOM**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair	Councillor Nicole Read, Vice-Chair
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, RCMP	Karen Stanton, Director of Public Safety and Social Development
Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP	Brian Foote, Education/Crime Prevention
Garrett Schipper, D/Director of Development and Regulatory Enforcement	Chris Wilson, Assistant Fire Chief
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Holly Ferris, Manager of Social Development
Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA
Ian Josephson, Fire Chief	Justin Mallard, Chamber of Commerce
Donna Maser, Legal Representative	Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Services
Paisley Hammerton, Recording Secretary	

**Regrets:**

Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities	Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada
Andrew Pipke, Senior Road Safety Specialist	Joanne Jefferson, Stó:lō Justice
Chuck Stam, Community Member	Michelle Price, Community Member
Tanis Hatch, ICBC	Leanna Kemp, Chamber of Commerce
Superintendent Davy Lee, OIC, RCMP	

**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, August 16, 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, July 19, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION**

Staff Sergeant Grant Floris, A/Operations Officer, RCMP, introduced new RCMP members Constable Paige and Constable Epp. The Constables both provided brief background information and left the meeting at 8:04 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, A/Operations Officer, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. Staff levels are trending upwards. Another experienced officer arriving in October.
2. The OIC had a meeting with Fraser Health regarding Car 67. It was noted that there are quite a few nurses wanting to be a part of the program. The program is expected to run seven days a week.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of nurse required for the Car 67 program. Staff Sergeant Floris specified that the nurses must be psychiatric nurses or have experience in psychiatric nursing.

3. There were several firearm-related calls from one individual. Tracked the individual and was located and arrested in Nova Scotia. Will be charged in Nova Scotia and returned to BC to face charges here.
4. Bicycle theft stats are up.
5. Located the body of the missing individual at Cultus Lake on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor Mercer inquired about whether the RCMP are getting a new firearm. Staff Sergeant Floris clarified that the RCMP is looking for a replacement for the current pistol. The timeline for a new firearm is unknown as it has to go through a federal procurement process.

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, RCMP reported on the following:

1. Looking forward to Chilliwack Pride Festival and Flight Fest this upcoming weekend. Additional members will be conducting bike patrols and community engagement during the events.
2. Making progress with Fraser Health regarding security issues that can prevent walkaways who are committed to the psychiatric unit.

**b) Fire Department**

Fire Chief Ian Josephson reported on the following:

1. There were 2,200 calls for service, a slight increase from 2022. 88% in downtown and Sardis response areas.
2. 41 structure fires. 86% have been in downtown and Sardis
3. 34 out of 41 structure fires have been in single-family and multi-family homes.
4. 7 fire-related injuries and 2 fatalities

Discussion ensued regarding the Fire Departments' response times. Staff are working to get response times for all 2022 structure fires.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Wilson reported on the following:

1. Temporarily opened two cooling centres; located in Rink 3 at Sardis Sports Complex and Evergreen Hall.
2. Met with Chilliwack Airport staff for a post-incident review discussion as a small aircraft clipped a light standard on the highway on its' final approach.
3. Planned a full day of training with Trans Mountain on October 11. Running through pipeline emergencies and community awareness.
4. Met with Molson's Brewery to review ammonia response plans. Revised ERP for ammonia leaks will be tested by the end of the year.
5. The Emergency Operations Centre is now primarily located at Tyson Rd. Only municipality in the lower mainland that has a permanent standing EOC.

**c) BIA**

Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, Downtown BIA, reported on the following:

1. Currently in event season.
2. Incidents are way down.
3. Working on a QR code system which is the first of its kind. There will be a QR code located on the doors of businesses. The code will supply a phone number for the owner of the building or business. This allows RCMP, Griffin, and Bylaw, as well as individuals to contact businesses if there is an incident.
4. Focusing on cleaning up the downtown area and fixing buildings.

Discussion ensued regarding QR codes. Members discussed the importance of the QR code system as it is much easier to contact the business owner rather than trying to get ahold of a contractor. Members agreed the program could have a City-Wide effect.

**d) Bylaw Department**

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

1. One of the Bylaw Officers was involved in a fairly serious accident at Young and Southlands. Mr. Schipper wanted to thank the first responders who attended the accident.
2. The Rail Trail is currently a large problem. There has been an increase in fires along the trail between Knight Road and Tretheway. Officers are patrolling every day, numerous times a day.
3. Lots of individuals moving from the North to the South side. Bylaw is spending more time patrolling the South side.
4. Having some challenges with ATVs on the dykes, particularly from Rosedale to Gill/Jespersion Road. There is signage about no ATVS on the dykes.
5. Bylaw is having challenges with all of the out-of-town plates due to the pipeline. The pipeline employees are not abiding by parking rules. Bylaw is having difficulty enforcing the rules and ticketing vehicles as they do not have the ability to pull up plates from other Provinces.

Discussion ensued regarding the pipeline employee parking issues. Members discussed the difference between towable offenses and non-towable offenses. Pipeline employees have rented out houses and are living in areas with less parking. Members discussed ways to remind pipeline employees about parking issues.

6. Reached out to Tanis to discuss ICBC decals.

e) **ICBC**

No report.

f) **School District**

No report.

g) **Public Works & Parks**

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

1. Parks Crews are trying to keep vegetation alive. This includes the riparian area near Chilliwack Lake Road which requires traffic control.
2. Open drainage maintenance program is ongoing. Cleaning ditches throughout the community including fish-bearing creeks and streams.
3. In-stream work on Vedder River at Crossing Park. Cleaning up rock work that eroded during the atmospheric river event in November of 2021.

h) **Social Development**

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

1. July shelter numbers were close to capacity.
2. Adult shelter was over capacity for 10 nights last month.
3. Wellness Centre is well utilized with an average of 100 participants per day.
4. Continued with biweekly shop talk meetings and situation table meetings.
5. Hosted Crisis Intervention and De-escalation of Potentially Violent Situation training on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for Chilliwack front-line workers.
6. Lots of training upcoming including Indigenous Homelessness, Family and Natural Supports Framework training. Working on dates for three other training opportunities.
7. Received funding from UBCM for Poverty Reduction Plan.
8. In ongoing discussions regarding the continuation of the Wellness Centre.
9. Ongoing meetings with the Federal Government in regard to implementing coordinated access (coordinating all services in Chilliwack for people experiencing homelessness).

Discussion ensued regarding the updated homeless count analysis by the Fraser Valley Regional District.

i) **Restorative Justice**

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

1. Three new referrals – one from RCMP and two from loss prevention officers.
2. 30 active restorative justice files, 24 of the 30 have mentors.
3. Four restorative circles were completed in July.
4. New partnership with School District – Classroom conversations at nine different schools.
5. Received a grant from United Way for an after-school program at Central Elementary.
6. In the process of hiring eight classroom facilitators
7. Grand Opening for Restorative Cycle on September 9<sup>th</sup>
8. Did a fundraiser at Superstore and raised over \$1,000.00.
9. Attended the Chilliwack Farm Market and will attend the Downtown Market at the Coliseum in September.
10. Annual General Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
11. 75 volunteer hours and 48 active volunteers.

**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 had eight deployments in July.
2. 52 warning letters were sent out.
3. Focused on Stewart Park, Crescent Drive, 52023 Yale Road. Top speed was clocked in at 106km/h on Keith Wilson Road.
4. On September 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a car seat clinic at the Alliance Church from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.
5. City Watch did six patrols, focused on group gatherings around local areas.
6. Crime Free Multi-Housing had three safety socials in July.
7. Crime-Free and Block Watch are giving home-safe packages from the Fire Department to gated communities.
8. Safety Bear attended Canada Day and Legion.
9. 447 volunteer hours.
10. Involved in Flight Fest on August 20.

**l) Legal Representative**

No report.

**m) Chamber of Commerce**

No report.

Mr. Mallard asked the committee about Bill C-18, the Online News Act, and whether members have adjusted or increased efforts to spread information. Discussed ensued regarding Bill C-18 and its effect on communication.

**n) Crime Prevention/Education**

Brian Foote reported on the following:

1. Met with Mark Klassen from SD33. Spoke about doing a seminar/workshop on CEPTED.

**o) Corrections**

Councillor Mercer spoke about an email from Peter Lang, Correctional Service of Canada, who was unable to attend, regarding the fire at a property on Lewis Avenue:

Discussion ensued regarding fire safety measures and the controlling of outdoor water sources. Garrett Schipper confirmed that Bylaw, RCMP, Technical Safety BC, and Fire did inspect the property on Lewis Avenue last year and ensured it met building codes.

**p) Community Members**

No report.

**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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