



## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, City Hall**

**4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Dan Johnston, Chair (*participated electronically*)  
Councillor James Wang, Vice Chair  
Trustee Larry Hayes, Burnaby Board of Education  
Mr. Cory Redekop, Burnaby Board of Trade  
Ms. Emily Li, Resident Representative (*arrived at 5:03 p.m.*)  
Mr. Heymann Yip, Resident Representative  
Ms. Sue From, Chair District #1 - Hastings/Brentwood  
Mr. Aki Ediriweera, Chair District #2 - Burnaby Mountain (*participated electronically*)  
Ms. Tazul Nisha Ali, Chair District #3 – Southeast (*participated electronically*)
- ABSENT:** Mr. Stephen Baron, Resident Representative  
Ms. Mary Gates, Chair District #4 - Southwest
- STAFF:** Mr. Dave Critchley, Director Public Safety & Community Services  
Chief Superintendent Deanne Burleigh, Officer in Charge, RCMP  
Ms. Monica Macdonald, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Shelly Reinhart, Council Support Assistant  
Ms. Samantha Thompson, Council Support Assistant

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the Open Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and conducted the roll call. The Chair, Mr. Ediriweera, and Ms. Ali participated electronically.

For the benefit of the members that were participating electronically, the Administrative Officer read the names of members and staff present in the Chamber.

The Chair, Councillor Dan Johnston, recognized the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this shared territory.

*\*Ms. Li arrived at 5:03 p.m. and participated electronically.\**

The Chair acknowledged the recent passing of Committee member Councillor Nick Volkow.

## **2. MINUTES**

### **2.1 Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Open meeting held on 2020 March 12**

MOVED BY TRUSTEE HAYES  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting held on 2020 March 12 be now adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Items 3.1 - 3.5 were provided on the 2020 July 02 Council Correspondence Package, and referred to the Committee for consideration. A note on the correspondence from staff stated that the City's recently implemented Community Safety Plan was developed through community engagement and research on the vision of a safe community for all. Further, the Plan will be reviewed in consultation with community members on a regular basis to explore and implement initiatives that further support a safe community.

### **3.1 Correspondence from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO-Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (CIM) - Re: A Call to Action on Recent Anti-Racism Movements**

Correspondence was received from Mr. Sébastien Goupil, Secretary-General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO-CIM, calling on municipalities to condemn all manifestations of racism, including anti-black racism and profiling, and to re-commit to the CIM's values and objectives. The writer provided information on resources available, as well as a list of actions for municipalities to consider.

### **3.2 Correspondence from the YouthCo HIV & Hep C Society - Re: Act Now to Address RCMP Violence**

Correspondence was received from Ms. Sarah Chown, Executive Director, YouthCo HIV & Hep C Society, calling upon Council for action to support Black lives and reduce police violence in Burnaby. The writer requested consideration of the following: redirecting financial resources, currently allocated to the Burnaby RCMP detachment, to community-driven social supports and responses to violence; address ongoing inequities related to housing, access to public spaces, and services such as childcare; commit to abolishing police and prisons that reinforce inequities and oppress marginalized communities; and condemn anti-Black and anti-Indigenous violence and harm enacted by the RCMP.

### **3.3 Correspondence from Erin Bush - Re: City of Burnaby Anti-Racism Commitment**

Correspondence was received from Erin Bush urging Council to redirect money away from the Burnaby RCMP and instead prioritize services that help strengthen Burnaby communities. The writer expressed concerned that the proposed changes to the City's equity policy are highly general, didn't speak to tangible changes, and needed a cultural strategy around reconciliation and decolonization.

The Committee inquired regarding follow up action, as well as policing standards in Canada verses those in the United States of America.

The Director Public Safety and Community Services referred to the staff note provided under item 3.1 of the agenda. The Director further advised that he is a local government representative on the Advisory Committee for Provincial Policing Standards (ACPPS). The ACPPS works to establish policies and procedures to ensure policing is delivered in a fair and equitable manner to all citizens. It is through this Committee that issues such as racial profiling and historical undesirable police practices are brought forward, discussed and policies and procedures are implemented to improve upon those standards.

The Committee advised that the School Liaison Officers program was initiated from the school community (Parent Advisory Committee), and noted how now some people in that community no longer want the RCMP Officers in the schools.

Trustee Hayes advised that there is a range of comments in the school district regarding the RCMP Officers in schools - some in support, some not. More education needs to be done on the role of the RCMP in schools. There is a misconception by many that, after watching American television footage, our Officers in schools have metal detectors and are armed, which is far from the reality in Burnaby schools. The District's experience with the RCMP has been positive, proactive and valuable. The District will be putting together a Committee to focus on racism in schools and hiring an anti-racism officer.

### **3.4 Correspondence from Georgina Johnston - Re: Long-Term Community Safety**

Correspondence was received from Ms. Georgina Johnston calling upon Council and Members of The Public Safety Committee to defund the Burnaby RCMP and invest in initiatives that support long-term community safety such as harm reduction services, child care support, comprehensive mental health intervention and social support, peer-based programming, housing initiatives, and homeless shelters.

Chief Superintendent Burleigh advised that the RCMP values their partnership with the School District and their connection with educators and students. Further, it is an opportunity to showcase how the RCMP has moved from an enforcement role to a prevention and education role. The RCMP will continue to be in the schools. Chief Superintendent Burleigh noted that the RCMP needs to have more discussions not only with educators and the School District, but also with students so that they are aware of the RCMP role and what the RCMP can do as part of the education community and system.

Regarding racism, the Chief Superintendent advised that the RCMP Commissioner has acknowledged the existence of systemic racism. At the local level, the Detachment is discussing how they might deliver their services differently; such as, having a dedicated Diversity Coordinator and enhancing their communications team.

The Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC) District #1 Chair advised that the CPAC's also have a role in having conversations with young members and creating a sense of community between Officers in the schools and students.

**3.5 Correspondence from Anthony Yuen - Re: Call to Action for the City of Burnaby**

Correspondence was received from Mr. Anthony Yuen expressing concern for Black and Indigenous lives, and calling upon Council and the Public Safety Committee to defund the Burnaby RCMP and invest in public services that support long-term community safety.

**3.6 Memorandum from the Deputy City Clerk - Re: Community Safety Plan**

A memorandum was received from the Deputy City Clerk advising that, at the Open Council meeting held on 2020 June 08, Council adopted a motion to support the implementation of the Community Safety Plan.

Staff advised that they will be providing a bi-annual progress report on the initiatives identified in the Plan to the Committee for their review. Further, staff will provide an annual report, through the Committee, to Council.

**4. REPORT**

**4.1 Report from the Director Public Safety and Community Services - Re: Placement of Nasal Naloxone Spray at City Recreation Centres and Libraries.**

The Director Public Safety and Community Services submitted a report providing information regarding the placement of nasal naloxone spray at City recreation centres and libraries.

The Director Public Safety and Community Services recommended:

1. THAT Public Safety Committee receive this report for information purposes.
2. THAT Public Safety Committee recommends Council receive this report for information purposes.
3. THAT a copy of this report be provided to the Library Board for information purposes.

MOVED BY TRUSTEE HAYES

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT the recommendations of the Director Public Safety and Community Services be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **5. MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **5.1 DISTRICT #1 - no submission**

No report was submitted at this time.

### **5.2 DISTRICT #2 - March to June 2020**

Mr. Aki Ediriweera, Chair, provided the following report of activities that took place in District #2 between March and June 2020:

- businesses have been gradually opening in the community and are grateful for the support the RCMP has provided;
- as an attempt to proceed to the highway, Drivers have been making dangerous U-turns in the intersection of Norland Avenue and Sprott Street;
- the removal of the pedestrian sidewalk on Douglas Road between Regent and Norland Avenue has posed a challenge for pedestrians as the opposite direction of Douglas Road does not have a proper sidewalk; and,
- the June meeting was successfully conducted via Zoom with a good turn out, the September meeting will also be facilitated through Zoom.

### **5.3 DISTRICT #3 - no submission**

Ms. Tazul Ali, Chair, advised that District #3 will be hosting a Zoom meeting in September.

### **5.4 DISTRICT #4 - no submission**

No report was submitted at this time.

## **5.5 RCMP - February to May 2020**

Chief Superintendent Deanne Burleigh provided an overview of the following activities that took place between February and May 2020, and commented on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their service delivery:

- crime statistics – theft from auto is up in Districts 1, 2 & 3 and Business Break & Enters (B&E's) are up in Districts 1, 3 & 4;
- Traffic Services - February successful Commercial Motor Vehicle road check resulted in 297 commercial vehicles checked with 147 vehicles removed from roads;
- with a reduction of vehicles on road (COVID-19) there was an increase in aggressive drivers and excessive speeding, doubling statistics compared to last year, and a number of vehicles were removed from the roads;
- investigated 392 collisions, 51 involved non-life-threatening injuries, there were no fatalities;
- to address the increase in business B&E's, partnered with the City's graphics design team and created posters which were put up around the City business areas, and organized foot, bike and vehicle patrols at various times of the week;
- Bike Section - responded to a report of a man in Central Park with a pellet gun, responded to a call regarding a confused elderly woman walking barefoot, assisted with frontline calls for service (COVID-19);
- Community Response Team officers located and arrested the driver of a car involved in a hit and run, arrested two men in response to a break and enter in North Burnaby, prevented a man from the suspected attempt of a business break in, located a prolific offender with a history of weapon offences, and located an individual who is a known property offender that was wanted on a warrant from North Vancouver;
- Child Abuse and Sexual Offences Unit worked on an investigation that led to charges against a man in the alleged sexual assault of a child;
- Drug Section arrested two women resulting in the seizure of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, counterfeit pills of unknown substances and approximately \$1500 in cash;
- Crime Prevention Unit connected with students at Simon Fraser University considering a career in law enforcement at "behind the badge" – shut down in March due to the pandemic;
- Burnaby Citizen Crime Watch – shut down in March due to the pandemic;
- Victim Services Unit (VSU) had to change service delivery models (COVID-19) but was the only VSU which remained operational in the Lower Mainland with the onset of the pandemic;
- new initiative - crime reporting went on-line.

Further to her report, Chief Superintendent Burleigh advised of the following changes in the policing environment in the last year: a slight decrease in calls for service; decrease in property crime; and an increase in violent crime. In a proactive response to the latter, the Detachment will be establishing a dedicated Gang Enforcement Unit to be operational in the fall.

In conclusion, Chief Superintendent Burleigh advised that the Detachment has created a committee consisting of senior management, including City managers, to lead them through implementation of health and safety COVID-19 protocols and assist in maintaining policing service levels and standards. In terms of illness, there have been exposures to the virus but no instances of COVID-19.

The Committee inquired regarding the Detachment's mental health response.

Chief Superintendent Burleigh advised that mental health and wellness checks often fall to the RCMP because they are a 24/7 agency. The Detachment is pursuing the option of a mental health car, and will be discussing a possible partnership with the Health Authority. Further, the Detachment has dedicated Officers performing health and wellness checks after having consulted with mental health professionals, drug addiction specialists, and other care workers in the community.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought before the Committee at this time.

**7. INQUIRIES**

There were no inquiries brought before the Committee at this time.

**8. CLOSED**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WANG  
SECONDED BY TRUSTEE HAYES

THAT the Committee, in accordance with Sections 90 and 92 of the Community Charter, do now resolve itself into a Closed meeting from which the public is excluded to consider matters concerning personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Without objection, the Open Committee meeting recessed at 5:59 p.m. and, following the conclusion of the Closed portion of the meeting, reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, the open meeting of the Public Safety Committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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CHAIR

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER