



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 5:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, City Hall  
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC

- PRESENT: Councillor James Wang, Chair  
Councillor Joe Keithley, Member (*participated electronically*)  
Trustee Larry Hayes, Burnaby Board of Education  
Mr. Cory Redekop, Burnaby Board of Trade (*arrived at 5:05 p.m.*)  
Ms. Anne Harvey, Resident Representative (*arrived at 5:05 p.m.*)  
Ms. Linda Liu, Resident Representative  
Mr. Heymann Yip, Resident Representative  
Ms. Chloe Perron, Vice Chair District #1 - Hastings/Brentwood (*arrived at 5:03 p.m. and participated electronically.*)  
Ms. Carolyn Orazetti, Chair District #2 - Burnaby Mountain  
Ms. Tazul Ali, Chair District #3 – Southeast  
Ms. Mary Gates, Chair District #4 – Southwest (*participated electronically*)
- ABSENT: Councillor Dan Johnston, Vice Chair  
Mr. Craig McKee, Resident Representative
- STAFF: Mr. Dave Critchley, Director Public Safety & Community Services  
A/OIC, Supt. Graham de la Gorgendiere, RCMP Burnaby Detachment  
Fire Chief Chris Bowcock, Burnaby Fire Department  
Sgt. Lorena Rostie, Strategic Planning NCO, RCMP Burnaby Detachment  
Ms. Kathryn Matts, Administrative Office 2

#### 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, Councillor James Wang, recognized the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hə́ŋdəmiṇə́m and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.

\*\* Ms. Perron arrived at 5:03 p.m.

\*\* Mr. Redekop arrived at 5:05 p.m.

\*\* Ms. Anne Harvey arrived at 5:05 p.m.

#### 2. MINUTES

##### 2.1 Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Open meeting held on 2021 May 12

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KEITHLEY  
SECONDED BY MR. YIP

THAT the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Open meeting held on 2021 May 12 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 3. **PRESENTATION**

#### 3.1 **Draft Burnaby Transportation Plan** **Presenter: Zeralynne Te, Planner 3**

Ms. Zeralynne Te, Planner 3, advised that the Transportation Plan was advanced as a 3 phased, multi-year process. The phases are:

- Phase 1 – Setting a Direction
- Phase 2 - Building the Proposals
- Phase 3 – Developing the Plan

Ms. Te noted that public consultation and engagement was identified as a critical component in each phase of the Plan's development. The draft Plan was built based on extensive engagement with stakeholders and the public, including Phase 2. Phase 2 encompassed a public survey in which feedback was collected from 583 responses, over 2,000 comments were received and engagement took place with 19 groups from the community, institutions, other municipalities, Metro Vancouver and Translink. Through the engagement process the City received over 200 comments and ideas to help improve the plan.

The Draft Plan and vision is supported by 6 key goals:

1. Access to Transport Options and Choice
2. Green Mobility
3. Safe and Secure Mobility
4. Prosperous Community
5. Healthy Community
6. Connected Community

Targets for the plan are:

- Zero Deaths – no deaths or serious injuries occurring within Burnaby's transportation network.
- By 2050 -  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all trips to be by public transit and active transportation.
- By 2050 – Zero emissions through transportation

Ms. Te identified the Big Moves of the Plan which are:

- By 2030, 80% of the Burnaby pedestrian network, will be completed.
- By 2030, the Phase 1 Cycle Network will be completed.
- By 2030, the City will install 370 additional bus shelters or bus benches.
- By 2025, the City in partnership with TransLink will complete feasibility studies for future rapid transit corridors.
- By 2023, the City will establish policies to:
  - Require multi-family developments to provide secured storage amenities for oversized deliveries and goods requiring cold storage; and
  - Require the provision of EV charging infrastructure for fleet vehicles across businesses, industries and institutions.

In conclusion, Ms. Te advised that policies have been strengthened to support the Big Moves and provide greater clarity regarding the prioritization of active and sustainable modes across future transportation programs and projects. Ms. Te reminded the Committee and the public that they can participate in the Phase 3 Public Engagement process by; visiting the City's webpage; taking the online survey prior to 2021 October 01.

### **3.2 RCMP Strike Force** **Presenter: Corporal Conway Hopkin**

Corporal Conway provided a presentation on the RCMP Strike Force and advised that the Strike Force consists of 13 sworn members. The Units within the Strike Force are comprised of one Robbery and one Property Crime Section. Each Section consists of one Corporal in Charge and five Constables as Investigators. In addition, there is one Civilian Crime Analyst, tasked to assist as needed.

Corporal Conway stated that the Burnaby Strike Force mandate is to:

- handle serial robbery & property crime offences in Burnaby
- handle serial, multi-jurisdictional or violent robberies and property crimes with a Burnaby Nexus
- act as liaisons for all multi-jurisdictional offences within the mandate
- provide primary surveillance team for Burnaby Detachment
- Provide Public Safety training in conjunction with our Crime Prevention Unit.

Corporal Conway provided visual examples of a variety of forms of evidence collection and advised that its timely collection and preservation allows for a better chance of crimes being solved.

In conclusion, Corporal Conway advised that Strike Force monitors all crimes within their mandate, determines if there is a "series" or a particularly violent offence, assumes conduct of the investigation, gathers evidence, develops a target profile and takes investigational steps to locate and arrest the person(s) responsible. Strike Force then maintain conduct of the file through the entire court process.

### **3.3 RCMP Soccer Camp** **Presenter: Corporal Jason Pickering**

Corporal Jason Pickering, provided a presentation on the Burnaby RCMP 2021 Soccer Camp. Corporal Pickering advised that Constable Morris, a former Vancouver Whitecap, along with Constable Ready are two officers who provide support to the camp. The first Burnaby RCMP Soccer Camp started in 2017 with 20 participants. The camp has grown over the years and in 2021 there were 2 camps with 100 participants in total. This year's camps took place:

- August 10 and 11 @ Edmonds Park (50 youths)
- August 17 @ Confederation Park (50 youths)

To date staff have been able to accommodate all Burnaby residents who meet the criteria for the camp but continue to look to expand and grow the program.

Corporal Pickering advised that the goal of the camp is not just to teach kids great soccer skills. The goal of the program is to provide a positive first encounter with children/youth and the RCMP and to build relationships in the Community. The speaker stressed that the RCMP want to engage with the Community but they also want to be a part of the Community. The program promotes engagement with police as positive role models, promotes positive peer experiences, and youth engagement and empowerment.

In conclusion, the Corporal provided a video highlighting the children's enjoyment of the program with shared feedback from the participants, parents and caregivers who spoke highly of the program.

### **3.4 Burnaby Fire Prevention Division** **Presenter: Chief George Assaf**

Chief Assaf, Burnaby Fire Prevention Division, provided a presentation that gave an overview of what the Fire Prevention Division does. Chief Assaf advised that in the Fire Prevention Division the team conducts investigations, responds to complaints, assesses new construction, provides inspections, develops fire safety plans and delivers public education. The Chief provided additional information on each of these areas.

#### **Investigations**

The speaker advised that the Fire Prevention Division is responsible for investigating all fires that occur in the city, and reporting data to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, such as cause, origin, damage, and value of property at risk.

#### **Complaints**

Chief Assaf stated that the Division receives complaints from a variety of sources: concerned citizens; fire crews; and, city employees in the course of their work. Complaints are investigated and mitigated.

### New Construction

Chief Assaf explained that the Fire Prevention Division is involved in several stages of new construction projects from approving fire truck access, to ensuring that life safety measures are all in place per code. When occupancy permits are issued, regular inspections are conducted for the life of the building

### Inspections

The Fire Prevention Division is inspecting several thousand properties each year. The goal of the Division is to inspect all multi-family residential properties, schools, care homes, commercial retail units, warehouses, and industrial sites on a regular basis.\

### Fire Safety Plans

Chief Assaf advised that every public building is required to have a fire safety plan. The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for reviewing the plans. The plans are kept on the property so that fire suppression crews can quickly find important information, such as floor layouts, utility rooms, and access points. Plans are reviewed every five years to ensure they are kept up to date.

### Public Education

The Fire Prevention Division has a new Public Education Officer who is working to enhance engagement with schools, office buildings, and the public through Fire Safety programs. While this engagement has been complicated by Covid, it is creating more opportunities to explore virtual tours and online learning.

In conclusion, Chief Assaf thanked the Committee for the opportunity to provide the synopsis of the Fire Prevention Division.

## **4. Delegation**

### **4.1 Suncrest Community – Increase in Crime and Safety Concerns** **Speaker: Mr. Bill Petrovas**

Mr. Bill Petrovas, appeared before the Committee to discuss the increase in crime and safety concerns he has in the Suncrest Community. Mr. Petrovas began his presentation by thanking the first responder's who put their lives on the line for the Community most recently at a house fire on Sussex and Victoria Street.

Mr. Petrovas grew up in Burnaby and his family have lived and worked in Burnaby. In addition, Mr. Petrovas volunteers as the Director of Edmonds Business and Community Association and has enjoyed working with the City of Burnaby to improve the Community, be it through the Edmonds Community Centre or the anti-graffiti program.

Mr. Petrovas advised that the Suncrest Community has a Facebook page with 345 members. Members have posted videos on the Facebook page when they see

crimes in action once they have been reported to the RCMP. Mr. Petrovas stated that the purpose of him appearing before the Committee is to look at best practices of the other Districts in Burnaby and ask for some recommendations and solutions that can help improve safety in the Community. Mr. Petrovas advised that the area he refers to as the Suncrest Community is from Boundary Road and Patterson along Imperial down to Marine Drive.

Mr. Petrovas requested that the Committee identify best practices that the Community groups can incorporate. He also inquired if it would be possible for the Public Safety Committee to have a Facebook page where the Districts could post data and videos of crime.

In conclusion, Mr. Petrovas wondered if it would be possible to look at a partnership with a corporation like TELUS to ensure that residents purchased security cameras that are recommended.

The Committee thanked Mr. Petrovas for his delegation.

Staff advised that they do have initiatives within the Community Safety Plan and the purpose of the Plan is to advise of best practices. Staff further advised that they are in the process of reviewing the Community Safety Plans and looking at new initiatives to be included in the Community Safety Plan.

Staff undertook to follow up with Mr. Petrovas and provide information.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **5.1 Memorandum from Acting Deputy City Clerk – Re: Burnaby Transportation Plan Update: Draft Burnaby Transportation Plan**

A memorandum was received from the Acting Deputy City Clerk advising that Council, at the 2021 July 26 meeting adopted the recommendations contained in the above noted report. The staff presentation earlier in the agenda addressed this report.

### **5.2 Memorandum from Director Public Safety and Community Services – Re: Translink Property Concerns**

A memorandum was received from Director Public Safety and Community Services providing a response to correspondence received by Committee member Trustee Larry Hayes, regarding overgrowth and garbage around transit stops as well as increased lighting for public safety. The memo advised that staff have liaised with Translink and subsequently BC Hydro who also owns property along the area east of the Royal Oak station. Staff have worked with BC Hydro to assist

with the clean-up of the area along with requesting future regular maintenance to prevent significant overgrowth and litter in the future.

The memorandum advised that in regards to lighting in the area, the City Engineering department is currently in negotiations with TransLink and BC Hydro and in the process of selecting a contractor. The improvements include lighting, widening the path, creating dedicated lanes for pedestrians and cyclists, and an art component. The memo advised that the project is broken into three phases:

- 2021 - Patterson Avenue to Metrotown
- 2022 - Metrotown to Royal Oak Avenue
- 2023 - Royal Oak Avenue to Edmonds

**5.3 Memorandum from Director Public Safety and Community Services – Re: Emergency Radio Building Amplification**

A memorandum was received from Director Public Safety and Community Services, providing a response to an inquiry from the committee regarding the number of buildings in Burnaby that have complied with the Emergency Radio Building Amplification Bylaw.

The memo advised that the Burnaby Fire Department Chief Fire Prevention Officer advises there are currently 36 building permits which appear to fall under the requirements of the bylaw. Of these, 13 have applied for a system to be designed, 17 need to apply or are in the process of applying for system design, and 6 are being reviewed and may not require radio amplification.

**5.4 Memorandum from OIC Burnaby Detachment RCMP – Re: Traffic Concerns and Volunteer Programs**

A memorandum was received from OIC Burnaby Detachment, regarding traffic concerns in the area between Beresford and Imperial and Nelson to Patterson. The memo advised that two previous files, both in February, were generated in regards to speeding in this area and follow up had occurred in both cases. The memo also advised that there is no current update on when Speed Watch and Cell Watch will be resurrected. It is not likely that volunteer programs will resume prior to 2022.

**6. REPORTS**

**7. MONTHLY REPORTS**

**7.1 DISTRICT #1**

No report was submitted.

**7.2 DISTRICT #2**

Ms. Carolyn Orazetti, thanked the RCMP for collaborating with the North Road Business Improvement Association to distribute Hate Crime Awareness posters throughout the city after the influx of Asian Hate Crime in the Community. A survey conducted after the poster campaign showed a 73% success rate from survey responders.

**7.3 DISTRICT #3**

No report was submitted.

**7.4 DISTRICT #4**

No report was submitted.

**7.5 RCMP – APRIL-JULY 2021**

A/OIC Supt. Graham de la Gorgendiere, Burnaby Detachment, provided a monthly report outlining the key activities taking place within the City. The speaker noted an overall downturn in crime stats with a slight uptick in residential B&Es in District 2 and District 3.

The A/OIC advised that the RCMP Soccer Camp in August was very successful. There was tremendous interest in the two camps.

The Traffic Section conducted 233 inspections on Commercial Vehicles from April – July and 149 Vehicles were removed from the roadways. 455 offences were observed.

The Gang Enforcement Team seized over \$60,000 in cash, 52 arrests, 14 vehicles seized and 36 weapons seized.

The A/OIC highlighted one investigation that started back in June with the Drugs Section. It was a 4 month long investigation, culminating with a search of four residences that resulted in seizure of at least \$1/2 million in drugs seized, a ghost gun and four civilians arrested.

The Community Response Team conducted numerous successful investigations including an incident in July where a vehicle was stopped and checked with a history of cannabis. In speaking with the driver, officers learned there was illicit cannabis in the trunk of the vehicle. Upon opening the trunk and seizing the illegal cannabis, officers observed another unknown substance in the vehicle. The purple/tar like substance was seized from the vehicle and later determined to be illegal methamphetamine.

The Bike Section conducted five Bike Safety Presentations at schools throughout Burnaby in June.

The Youth Section supported school graduations back in June as well as the Soccer Camp in August.



## **7.6 BURNABY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Bowcock provided a monthly report outlining activities that have taken place throughout the City.

The Chief advised that one of the key pieces affecting the summer months was the regional heat waves through July and August. Burnaby Fire Dispatch took proactive measures by: increasing staffing to effectively manage high call volumes; increasing Fire Company numbers to effectively respond to all calls for service; and, increasing operational command officer on duty.

Chief Bowcock advised that during these three heatwaves, (especially the first one in 2021 June) there was a substantial increase in the public's need for emergency medical aid. The heightened demand for emergency medical service exceeded the available resources across the Metro Vancouver region. There was an increase in reported cardiac emergencies and sudden deaths. The EComm 911 Emergency Call network was overwhelmed by call volume creating long call answering wait times. BC Ambulance Services was overwhelmed with calls for medical aid response and care.

The Chief stated that in order to care for and provide for the needs of Burnaby's citizens during regional emergency events, such as those experienced during the heat dome event of 2021 June, there is a growing need for the City to prepare to be self-reliant, to the greatest extent possible, with regard to emergency call taking, dispatching, medical and fire response.

The Chief explained that the Department had been maintained in a heightened state of readiness based on the increased risk of structure and wildland fire events due to the extreme heat and drying conditions present within our city and the province. The Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area by its nature as a pristine environmental space is at high risk of wildfire caused by limited opportunities to provide fuel management activities, the general drying of the forest due to regional weather change, and increased human use and interactions.

The speaker advised that the provincial state of emergency related to the wildfires, was a concern and proved taxing across the fire service. As a result of significant weather changes in late August, the risk to the province from wildfire events was dramatically reduced.

Chief Bowcock concluded by advising that the last 3 months have seen a very slight reduction in the overdose events attended by the Fire Department compared to the spring months of 2021. However, these statistics are still very concerning.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Crime Concerns**

Mr. Cory Redekop advised that there has been an increase in calls and emails to the Burnaby Board of Trade regarding crime. In addition, they are seeing more members such as those in Winston Street area, Royal Oak area and Big Bend area, looking for proactive measures as crime reduction. The business community would like to see a bigger presence in those areas; some suggestions raised by members are bike patrols, and increased drive through of the neighbourhood.

Staff advised that they would look at having the bike teams patrol the areas mentioned. Staff further advised that they would look to add the areas to the Boost and Bust program.

### **Business Watch Program**

Mr. Cory Redekop inquired if staff could advise how the Business Watch program is working and is there a larger role that the Burnaby Board of Trade can play in promoting the program.

Staff advised that they would have the RCMP Communications team follow up.

### **On-Line Crime Reporting Tool**

Mr. Cory Redekop advised of concerns that have been raised regarding the on-line crime reporting tool and inquired if there are opportunities to expand this program to allow for capture of CCTV information.

Staff advised that they are cognizant of the need to look at increased technology use for crime reporting but want to ensure they aren't taking on work that should be undertaken by the EComm contracting service the City is already paying for.

### **Catalytic Converter Thefts**

Mr. Heymann Yip expressed concerns with catalytic converter thefts and the need to enforce regulations on scrap metal recyclers on catalytic converters.

Arising from discussion, staff undertook to provide information on this item at the next meeting.

## **9. INQUIRIES**

### **Non-Emergency Wait Times**

Mr. Heymann Yip inquired if there has been any information provided by E-Comm regarding non-emergency wait times.

Staff advised that the wait times experienced on non-emergency calls to E-Comm is unacceptable. Staff stated that this is a significant issue and it is being explored with rigor. EComm has been tasked with supplying additional information both financial and operational so City staff can make further assessments.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, the Open Committee meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

---

Councillor James Wang  
CHAIR

---

Ms. Kathryn Matts  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER