



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE M I N U T E S

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 5:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, City Hall  
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC

- PRESENT: Councillor James Wang, Chair  
Councillor Dan Johnston, Vice Chair (*participated electronically*)  
Councillor Joe Keithley, Member (*participated electronically*)  
Trustee Larry Hayes, Burnaby Board of Education (*arrived at 5:05 p.m. and participated electronically*)  
Mr. Cory Redekop, Burnaby Board of Trade (*arrived at 5:05 p.m. and participated electronically*)  
Ms. Anne Harvey, Resident Representative (*participated electronically*)  
Ms. Linda Liu, Resident Representative (*participated electronically*)  
Mr. Heymann Yip, Resident Representative  
Ms. Chloe Perron, Vice Chair District #1 - Hastings/Brentwood (*arrived at 5:03 p.m.*)  
Mr. Aki Ediriweera, Chair District #2 - Burnaby Mountain  
Ms. Tazul Nisha Ali, Chair District #3 – Southeast (*participated electronically*)  
Ms. Mary Gates, Chair District #4 – Southwest (*participated electronically*)
- ABSENT: 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. Lynne Axford, Administrative Office

### 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 hənq̓əmin̓əm 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.

\*\* Mr. Larry Hayes arrived at 5:05 p.m.

## 2. **MINUTES**

### 2.1 **Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Open meeting held on 2021 March 17**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KEITHLEY  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON

THAT the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Open meeting held on 2021 March 17 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 3. **PRESENTATION**

### 3.1 **Burnaby Gang Enforcement Team (BGET)** **Presenter: Sergeant Sharon Matharu**

**Sgt. Sharon Matharu**, Burnaby Gang Enforcement Team (BGET), appeared before the Committee and provided an overview regarding the Team's activities since it was created in 2021 January 25. The speaker advised RCMP staff resources for the two groups include four (4) Constables and one (1) Corporal for each group reporting to the Sergeant with both groups working closely with two (2) Criminal Intel Constables.

The BGET mandate is to reduce the risk to public safety resulting from the actions of organized or criminal gang groups.

The speaker advised this work is intelligence led with a focused approach on activities related to violent crimes, crime groups, firearms and drugs. All areas are analyzed from historical data, current trends, crime areas, venues, premises and patrols to better serve the community.

Sgt. Matharu noted that education is a priority. BGET work closely with the Youth Section to identify youth at risk, conduct curfew checks, as well as helping to identify anyone who wants to end the gang life.

Sgt. Matharu advised that BGET and CIS have received training on:

- Guns and gangs symposium
- Hate motivated crimes
- Outlaw motorcycle gangs
- Crime Stoppers
- Hidden compartments
- Civil forfeiture/asset management

The speaker cited a number of example files showcasing the amount of drugs, cash and stolen property that were seized. Statistics from January to April highlight BGET's accomplishments in seizures, and individual checks as follows: \$38,700 in cash, 17 weapons, 18 warrants/breach executed, 23 charges, 40 arrests, 357 files created, 69

violation tickets, 615 persons checked, and 419 vehicles checked. In addition, Sgt. Matharu advised that an increase in fentanyl has been seen on the streets.

In closing, Sgt. Matharu conveyed the importance of preventative education to identify at-risk youth. The speaker noted resources were being sourced to provide a collaborative approach for schools in Burnaby.

The Chair thanked Sgt. Matharu for the presentation, and expressed appreciation for the valuable work being undertaken by the Burnaby Gang Enforcement Team.

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **4.1 Memorandum from the OIC Burnaby Detachment - Re: Youth Section Program/Police in Schools**

A memorandum was received from the A/OIC Burnaby Detachment in response to news media coverage on the withdrawal of School Liaison Officers in New Westminster and Vancouver. The A/OIC provided the background of the RCMP Youth Section Officers and their role to support students within the school district.

RCMP leadership will continue to engage with the Burnaby School Board to meet the needs of Burnaby students and staff.

The A/OIC advised that each Burnaby high school has a safe school specialist who works closely with the RCMP Youth Section officers to support students to ensure student and staff safety.

##### **4.2 Correspondence from Mr. Yip - Re: Radio Amplification in High Rise Buildings**

Correspondence was received from Mr. Yip expressing concern regarding the lack of radio amplification in high rise buildings prior to 2018, and impacts on first responders as well as residents occupying the buildings.

Staff advised building permits for high rise construction may take approximately two years. At the present time, these buildings are not mandated to install radio amplification, but rather encouraged. A bylaw to address this matter is forthcoming.

Arising from discussion, staff undertook to investigate the matter and report back to the Committee.

##### **4.3 Correspondence from Mr. Yip - Re: Guns & Gang Initiatives**

Correspondence was received from Mr. Yip regarding Federal funding in support of an RCMP Gang Enforcement Team in Burnaby.

Staff advised that Federal funding guidelines prohibit financial support of federal agencies. As the RCMP falls into this category, resources continue to be accessed through other sources including the Province as well as the Burnaby Mobilization and Resiliency Table (BMART).

**4.4 Memorandum from the Acting Deputy City Clerk – Re: Proposed Controlled Substance Property Bylaw and Amendment to Bylaw Notice Enforcement**

A memorandum was received from the Acting Deputy City Clerk advising that Council at the Open Council meeting held on <img alt="redacted" data-bbox="638 171 661 184"/> received and adopted the recommendations as outlined in the above noted report. A copy of the report was provided to the Public Safety Committee for information.

**5. MONTHLY REPORTS**

**5.1 DISTRICT #1**

Ms. Lisa Bruschetta, Vice Chair, submitted a monthly report advising that Mr. Todd Polich, Graffiti Coordinator, City of Burnaby provided a presentation on how to report graffiti.

The Vice Chair noted that Ms. Chloe Perron has been elected as the new Chair for District #1.

**5.2 DISTRICT #2**

Mr. Ediriweera, Chair, provided a report outlining activities taking place within the District. The Chair noted, D#2 have been collaborating with the RCMP to create resources to combat anti-Asian hate. In addition, the Chair advised the Hate Crime Presentation provided by Cpl. Laura Hirst in April, was well received with other CPAC members attending.

**5.3 DISTRICT #3**

Ms. Tazul Ali, Chair, provided a report outlining activities that took place for March and April. The Victim Services organized an Online Security and Scam presentation by the BBOT which was well received.

The Chair noted that members were happy to continue having their meeting via Zoom.

**5.4 DISTRICT #4**

Ms. Mary Gates, Chair submitted a report from outlining items raised during a round table discussion on activities taking place in the community.

Arising from discussion, staff undertook to respond to the report regarding any outstanding matters.

**5.5 RCMP - FEB/MAR 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 B&Es.

The A/OIC advised there were two homicides where IHIT was deployed in early February, plus a serious hit-and-run resulting in a death.

The Traffic Section participated in a three day Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Blitz conducted from February 23 – 25, to coincide with the 2021 International Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Kick-off. This blitz was coordinated with other agencies including Coquitlam RCMP, Integrated Road Safety Unit, Port Moody Police, Transit Police, Delta PD, West Vancouver PD, Upper Fraser Valley Highway Patrol, British Northern SF Police, Coquitlam Bylaws, Surrey Bylaws and the Passenger Transportation Branch.

The blitz resulted in the following enforcement statistics:

- 238 Inspections
- 131 Trucks out of Service (55%)
- 374 Violations
- 216 Mechanical Defects

In March, Burnaby Traffic Section partnered with the Passenger Transportation Branch on an initiative led by them, focused on illegal Ride Sharing Operations. Two days on this initiative resulted in \$71,000 in Violation Tickets for operating without a permit, operating with no drivers licence, and a number of other infractions.

The Prolific Offender Suppression Team seized replica firearms from individuals in two separate files.

The Community Response Team conducted numerous successful investigations including a large drug seizure resulting from the execution of a search warrant at a high rise in the Brentwood area. In addition, they partnered with loss prevention officers on two occasions to target prolific shoplifters at Burnaby malls. This operation resulted in the arrest of 50 shoplifters and recovery of over \$5,000 in stolen goods.

The Youth Section supported the Annual Pink Shirt Day to raise awareness and provide education on the effects of bullying. In addition, they raised \$1,555 for the BC Special Olympics through a “hose down” Polar Plunge in partnership with the Burnaby Fire Department.

## **5.6 BURNABY FIRE DEPARTMENT - MARCH 2021**

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

The Chief advised that a multi-unit commercial warehouse fire occurred on March 30, and through aggressive firefighting, area businesses were protected prior to any significant damage being done or operational impacts from downtime. The speaker emphasized their number one mandate is protection and safety of life. The second is, protection of property (home, possessions and business).

Chief Bowcock explained that wild fires season saw a decline last year, due to the number of people staying home. In anticipation of improvements with the pandemic, people will once again start to utilize the parks and trails. As a result, more training and focus has been done on wild fire protection.

The speaker advised building inspections for fire and safety take time given the growth and development within the City. In many cases, issues are uncovered that require further inspections before they come into compliance. Chief Bowcock explained he was proud of the progress that were being made in the City along with the support of its citizens.

The Committee expressed interest that the number of medical first responder calls were 40% and requested that statistics for overdose and medical calls be entered into the same graph format in the annual count.

Arising from discussion, staff undertook to provide this information for future meetings.

The Chair suggested that the Public Safety Committee attend the Fire Department Graduation Ceremony once it is safe to do so.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of New Business brought forward at this time.

**7. INQUIRIES**

**Translink Property Concerns**

Mr. Larry Hayes advised he had received correspondence from an active community member seeking clarification on the steps to have Translink clear overgrowth, and garbage in the areas around transit stops, as well as increased lighting for public safety.

Staff advised that the City works continuously with Translink regarding these matters, and noted Translink commitment to increase the lighting in areas deemed unsafe. Staff explained that during a cleanup of City-owned lands, where it borders Translink, both properties will be cleared in support of crime reduction.

Arising from discussion, staff undertook to follow up on the matter with Translink.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Councillor James Wang  
CHAIR

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Ms. Lynne Axford  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER