



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

Public Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 5:00pm

Teleconference

PRESENT

Mayor Desjardins, Chair
Mayor Helps
S. Dhillon
C. Huber
S. Powell
B. Smith
E. Southern

P. Stockton
Chief Cst. Manak
DC Watson
DC Laidman
Insp. M. Brown
Insp. Hamilton
Insp. Lindner

Insp. McRae
Insp. Parks
Sgt. Plater
S. Hurcombe
M. MacIntyre
D. Perry

Recording Secretary: Collette Thomson

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

a. **Adoption of the Public Agenda of April 21, 2020**

20-30 **MOTION:** *To adopt the Public agenda of April 21, 2020 as presented.*
MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

2. STANDING ITEMS

a. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Public meeting of February 18, 2020**

20-31 **MOTION:** *To adopt the Public agenda of April 21, 2020 as presented.*
MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

b. **Chief Constable Monthly Activity Report**

Refer to the document provided – for information.

c. **Chief Constable Update**

- Operational updates were provided on high profile calls and files
- COVID-19 pandemic:
 - protocol has been implemented to ensure the health and safety of all VicPD staff and the public they come in contact with; additional costs have been incurred in order to adequately respond
 - crime has increased around Topaz Park since the creation of the temporary housing camp in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; VicPD is working closely with the on-site service providers to ensure the safety of the vulnerable population and the surrounding neighbourhood

- A request will be made to COV Council by VicPD for additional funding for a temporary special duty for two officers to be deployed at Topaz Park during critical times
 - a full debrief will take place once the pandemic subsides to determine if any of the temporary implementations/service reductions could become permanent efficiencies
- d. **Board Committee Chair Reports**
Refer to the report provided – for information.
- e. **Board Co-Chairs Update**
Mayor Desjardins and Mayor Helps will be meeting with ADM Butterworth-Carr to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- f. **BC Association of Police Boards Director’s Update**
The annual BCAPB conference and AGM took place from March 5-7. The theme was *Envisioning Police for the Next Decade*.
- g. **Board Member Engagement Update**
No discussion arising.
- h. **Framework Agreement**
No discussion arising.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Operational Update re: Lower Johnson**
In January, VicPD’s Community Services Division launched “Project Downtown Connect”, a four-month initiative aimed at increasing police visibility and engagement in Victoria’s downtown core. The project began as a pilot in December 2019 and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the business community and members of the public. As part of the project, officers engage with business owners and staff on recommended security improvements and applicable bylaws and provide the business community with a better understanding of how and when to report incidents to the public. Project Downtown Connect was put on hold mid-March as a result of Provincial Health Orders which saw the temporary closure of many businesses.
- b. **Email from Citizen re: Facial Recognition Technology**
Refer to the email provided. Chief Manak advised that VicPD is committed to exploring all types of technology which aids in public safety but are not currently implementing, or considering implementing, facial recognition software. Any facial recognition technology that would be considered for implementation would follow a proper process that includes a Privacy Impact Assessment and compliance with all privacy legislation which includes the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- c. **200226 Letter from GVLRA re: Membership Status**
Refer to the letter provided – for information. No further action will be taken by the Police Board.
- d. **200311 Letter from BCAPB re: 2020 BCAPB President**
Refer to the letter provided - for information.

- e. **2019 VicPD Year End Financial Report**
Refer to the report provided – for information.

ACTION:

- Board member Powell and S. Hurcombe will discuss surpluses and reserve contributions and whether changes should be proposed to the Framework Agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

Mayor Barbara Desjardins

Lead Co-Chair

Date

Collette Thomson

Recording Secretary

Date