



VICTORIA & ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD

Public Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023 at 5:00pm
Boardroom & Zoom

PRESENT

Mayor Desjardins, Chair
S. Dhillon
P. Faoro
M. Hayes
C. Huber

I. Lee
Chief Cst. Manak
DC Watson
DC Laidman

Insp. C. Brown
Insp. K. Jones
S. Hurcombe
C. Major
D. Philip

Recording Secretary: Collette Thomson

1. PRESENTATION

a. Greater Victoria Police Diversity Advisory Committee

GVPDAC Co-Chairs, VicPD S/Sgt. Jennifer Ames, and Brenda Freeman, provided a comprehensive overview of the GVPDAC community engagements, recruiting, priorities, and the needs of the committee. The GVPDAC mission and mandate were discussed, and a summary of the recent community engagement opportunities were provided.

2. STANDING ITEMS

a. Territorial Land Acknowledgement

b. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Lead Co-Chair Mayor Desjardins declared a conflict of interest relating to matters pertaining to the Framework Agreement arbitration.

c. Approval: Public Agenda of March 21, 2023

23-19 **MOTION:** *To approve the Public agenda of March 21, 2023 as amended by moving New Business item (a) to Standing Items for this meeting only.*
MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

d. Approval: Public Minutes of February 21, 2023

23-20 **MOTION:** *To approve the Public Minutes of February 21, 2023 meeting as presented.*
MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED

e. Board Co-Chair Updates

- Board planning session will take place on May 3
- Board media training is being planned; date to be determined
- The Union of BC Municipalities is seeking to fill two vacancies on the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable; Mayor Desjardins submitted an application on behalf of the Board
- A new Board member is expected to be appointed in April to fill the final vacancy
- A new Esquimalt Board representative is being sought due to the pending resignation of Board member Crowder

Board member Hayes left the meeting at 5:27pm.

f. Committees Update

Refer to the report provided – for information. Committee matters arising included:

- Union of BC Municipalities policing modernization round table
- BC Association of Police Boards notice of AGM and call for resolutions; resolutions are currently being considered by the Board
- Robert’s Rules of Order training
- Overtime report
- Monthly financial report
- Council budget decisions

g. Board Member Engagement Update

Board member Huber recently volunteered at the Coldest Night of the Year Walk, and Mayor Desjardins attended the Welcome Day & Newcomer Expo.

h. BC Association of Police Boards Director’s Update

Planning continues for the BCAPB conference and AGM in Nelson on May 25-26.

i. Chief Constable Update

Refer to the document provided – for information. Chief Manak provided an update on operational calls and files of note.

Rise & Report from March 21, 2023 In-Camera session:

Late Night Task Force (LNTF)

- Manak advised that the LNTF funding has recently been removed from the City budget which allowed VicPD to deploy four police officers every Friday and Saturday night to the downtown entertainment district. It is critical to provide a high visible presence in the downtown core and within the bars, nightclubs, and licensed premises to proactively keep people safe. Officers are routinely engaging, and many times, ejecting violent criminals and known gang members and their associates from licensed premises on most weekends. They prevent aggressive and violent behavior.

- The timing of the City’s decision allowed no time for VicPD to incorporate the \$220,000 shortfall into the 2023 budget. If VicPD funds the 2023 LNTF through the OT budget, then Esquimalt will be contributing 13.67% (current budget allocation formula) for a service that does not benefit them. Regardless, the 2023 OT budget is based on current deployment and historical data and cannot accommodate this expenditure.
- The City advised that the LNTF funding was removed as a budget item as the other elements of the Late Night Great Night program no longer exist. They are of the position that the LNTF funding should form part of the core budget as violent crimes and gang activity is not limited to the weekends.

23-21 **MOTION:** *That the Board request that Chief Manak attend a public session of City Council to request a reinstatement of the \$220,000 funding for the Late Night Task Force.* **MOVED/SECONDED/CARRIED** **OPPOSED: LEE**

- j. **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Engagement Update**
Refer to the document provided – for information

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Approval: Attendees for Upcoming Conferences.**
Refer to the document provided. Board member Lee expressed interest in attending the CAPG conference. Attendees will be confirmed at the April Committees meeting.

3. RISE & REPORT *(From February 21,2023 In-Camera Board meeting)*

- a. **E-Comm Presentation**
Refer to the document provided – for information.
- b. **230216 Letter from VicPD & IH to Min. Farnworth re: Co-Response Team**
Refer to the document provided – for information.

4. CORRESPONDENCE *(For information only)*

- c. **230309 Letter from E-Comm re: Next Generation 911 Levy**

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Lead Co-Chair

Collette Thomson
Recording Secretary

Date

Date