



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

**OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 31, 2017  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.**

### In Attendance

**Lee Cutforth, Chair  
Peter Deys, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Joe Mauro  
Victoria Chester  
Simon Griffiths  
D. Jean Valgardson  
Robert Van Spronsen  
Marion Wiebe  
Kristen Harding (Recording Secretary)**

**Chief Robert Davis  
Inspector Bill Anderson  
Inspector Jason Dobirstein  
A/Inspector Dwayne Smith  
Brenda Kenward**

### Regrets

**Councillor Liz Iwaskiw  
Inspector Tom Ascroft**

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Cutforth at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - **Motion by Peter Deys, Seconded by Marion Wiebe that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 3) Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Presentation to the Lethbridge Police Service
  - LPS officially received its CALEA parchment and letter formally recognizing the agency's seventh accreditation. Chief Davis read the letter, noting accreditation is an achievement to be proud of, sets the Service at a higher level than the provincial standards and thanked the Commission for their support.
  - LPS is one of only three agencies in Alberta to be accredited (Camrose and Alberta Transportation are the others)
  - Questions by Commission:
    - Cost? – Insp. Anderson explained it is approximately \$10,000 per year.

- Is CALEA geared more toward American agencies and that's why there aren't many accredited Canadian agencies? Chief Davis explained it ebbs and flows. In Alberta there are provincial standards but they are adequate. CALEA makes LPS better than adequate. Police agencies across North America are facing greater scrutiny and adequate isn't good enough.
  - Chief also advised Canadian policing follows U.S. trends and is becoming more litigious like the U.S. It is to our advantage to be on top of this through CALEA.
  - Has CALEA changed the protocol? Chief Davis confirmed the on-site audits are now every four years with remote assessments annually.
- 4) Presentation of Chief's Certificate of Commendation – Chief Davis
- Presented to Cathy Flexhaug and Carol Tidmarsh for their efforts that contributed to the LPS property and exhibit processing and storage procedures being recognized by CALEA as one of the best in North America.
  - Chief Davis also complimented Jodie Kelly, accreditation coordinator and Erin Lix, policy analyst, for their work making sure the organization meets more than 480 CALEA standards.
- 5) Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2017 Open Meeting
- **Motion by Peter Deys, Seconded Rob Van Spronsen that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 6) Business Arising
- There was no business arising
- 7) Standing Items
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
- May 2017 report for Lethbridge Region ALERT was circulated previously to members
  - Update since the report:
    - Project Street Sweeper – joint project between Lethbridge ALERT and Priority Crimes Unit. To date 16 persons have been arrested, 144 charges laid, \$150,000 worth of property recovered, 11 stolen vehicles recovered, 6 firearms recovered, \$10,000 worth of drugs seized.
    - May 17 – Lethbridge ALERT, Fort Macleod RCMP and Blood Tribe Police executed search warrants in Fort Macleod and seized fentanyl. Two persons charged.
    - May 17 – Search warrant executed in Lethbridge and approximately 400 fentanyl pills seized. Two people charged.
    - May 29 – firearms trafficking investigation culminated in seizure of 1,500 guns and one million rounds of ammunition from a business in Cardston. Investigation ongoing.
    - Integrated Child Exploitation Unit remained busy in May providing support to other provincial ICE units.

- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Dobirstein
  - Still anticipating commencement of several weather related parts of the project
  - No longer construction staff on site full time
  - Several deficiencies to be corrected
  - Unlikely building will be completed and ready for public tours prior to summer, official opening event will wait until fall
  - Questions from Commission:
    - Is there a one or two year warranty on the work? Insp. Dobirstein explained City Facility Services is managing the project. He will follow-up with their staff with respect to warranty.
    - What is the status of the fire alarms and the elevator not working? Insp. Dobirstein explained that incorrect alarms were installed so now proper alarms are replacing them. The elevator can be used once the alarms are operational.
  
- c) Calls for Service – A/Inspector Smith
  - Calls for Service for April distributed in agenda package and A/Inspector Smith provided highlights from the report:
    - Year to date calls for service 9,400, which is about 200 less than 2016
    - Conventional tickets 1,438 and YTD total is 5,015
    - Select Traffic Enforcement Initiative for May was speed enforcement
    - Property offences are up but projects underway to address the issue
    - Questions by Commission:
      - How are the property crime calls interrelated? A/Insp. Smith explained increased drug use contributes to increased property offences as addicts steal to support their habit.
      - Is there a province that is banning photo radar? Chief Davis explained photo radar is not used in Ontario (except some Intersection Safety Devices) and there has been a call by the Solicitor General’s office to review photo radar use in Alberta. LPS does not have further information about the review. A/Insp. Smith added LPS recently went through a provincial audit and the only recommendations with respect to photo radar usage was to add additional signage at several locations. Provincial guidelines must be followed when selecting roadways that will be monitored and LPS is in full compliance. The issue in other communities relates to the percentage of conventional vs. photo enforcement. In some other jurisdictions 90% is photo enforcement and 10% is conventional. In Lethbridge the breakdown is 60% photo enforcement and 40% conventional.
      - When photo radar monitors Crowsnest Trail (Highway 3) and there are violations, who gets the money? A/Insp. Smith explained the funds go to the City of Lethbridge.
      - Are people leaving vehicles unlocked or are criminals smashing windows to get in? Chief Davis explained both scenarios occur. People

leave keys in the ignition with the vehicle running and unlocked, but even locked vehicles are fairly easy to steal. Some are targeted thefts related to the drug trade and organized crime.

- Who is responsible to educate the public on theft prevention? Chief Davis explained the Police Service plays a role but so do numerous other stakeholders including the Insurance Bureau of Canada.
- Would it be better to remove valuables and just leave vehicles unlocked? Chief Davis explained stealing the vehicle itself and property from within are two different scenarios. Some vehicles are specifically targeted for theft by organized crime. Valuables should always be removed from vehicles and doors locked.

d) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis

- April Compliments: 8 Citizen/External, 2 Community Partners
- Some highlights:
  - Cst. Scarpelli – man came to the front counter with a request for increased patrols in his neighbourhood. He recognized Cst. Scarpelli as the officer who had arrested him years ago and acknowledged that was the catalyst that turned his life around.
  - Sgt. Talbot and Cst. Stewart – citizen expressed gratitude for their work during a welfare check.
  - City Payroll acknowledged Brenda Kenward and Kyla McFadden for their positive attitudes, ability to always meet deadlines and efforts testing a new financial system website.

e) Community Issues – A/Inspector Smith

- Monthly update was provided in the agenda package
- Public Library – officers are continuing to manage calls, particularly involving people who have been banned from the premises. Presence of police has helped reduce incidents. Cst. Darroch works very closely with library security and LPS is in the process of arranging to provide additional training.
- Malls – no increase in problems at Park Place or Lethbridge Centre, but police continue to monitor. Centre Village has new security staff which has helped alleviate issues.
- Galt Gardens – police continue to work with Paladin Security to monitor the increase in drug use, discarded needs and other issues.
- Sgt. Klassen is working with the Downtown BRZ and has developed a card outlining available resources. Online reporting, specifically relating to calls for information is being encouraged to identify issues and trends.
- Adjustments will be made to shift patterns to better respond to calls during peak times and proactive projects will be initiated throughout the summer.
- Questions by Commission:
  - Presence of police walking in Galt Gardens has been noticed. Is this something that will continue? Chief Davis explained in the past downtown officers have used mountain bikes in the summer, but does not subscribe

to this approach and has directed officers spend more time on foot so they are more visible and more approachable. Chief Davis also advised that Insp. Ascroft and A/Insp. Smith have been walking the beat and he commends their efforts. Upon graduation, the new cadet class will spend the first weeks of their career on foot.

- Seems to be negative activity occurring at Save On North and London Drugs. Is it improving or more work being done to address it? A/Insp. Smith explained there have been improvements since new security has been hired and Cst. Walshe has been monitoring the area.
- Have problems in the London Road area improved or is it being displaced? Chief Davis explained the presence of the downtown officers on foot has been more concentrated and support shift members are conducting targeted enforcement initiatives focusing on drug and property crime.

## 8) New Business

### a) Annual Lethbridge College Community Survey – Inspector Dobirstein

○ Report distributed in agenda package

○ Questions by Commission:

- What is LPS' reaction to the survey? Insp. Dobirstein noted the results are in line with previous years findings. The majority of people are happy with the police service. With respect to priorities the Service understands crime prevention is a high priority for citizens, along with drug enforcement and traffic enforcement. The data is consistent and nothing unexpected.
- Will the Service continue to survey the community? Yes. Chief Davis explained the Executive is also discussing how to enhance the survey – ask additional questions, make it more interactive and beneficial.
- Crime prevention is listed as the first priority. Is that referring to personal safety and property safety? What is crime prevention? Insp. Anderson pointed out Page 28 of the report references crime prevention which includes check stops, traffic enforcement, equipment checks, visible police presence and lectures on safety.
- Do citizens want to spend money on surveillance cameras? Yes. Chief Davis noted people want to see more CCTV cameras as they see them in other jurisdictions and feel they would be useful in high crime areas.

### b) Benchmarking Project – Chief Davis

- Last 2-3 years have been involved in benchmarking through a City of Lethbridge initiative following an AUMA conference. As a police service, our only comparator is Medicine Hat and the Chief's understanding of benchmarking is for true benchmarking comparison we need a larger sampling.
- It's also been a challenge trying to not only agree on interpretations but get the data to a point where we're matching apples to apples.
- Red Deer did not take part. Other cities of comparable size opted out. It is extremely demanding with respect to capacity and without a statistically valid size sampling it's futile.

- Chief's recommendation is to end participation in benchmarking. What would be of far greater value is an updated version of a document created by the Solicitor General in 2013 that compared police agencies throughout the province. Chief would like to see City Council (through AUMA) and Commission advocate for the Solicitor General to re-produce this document and continue producing it as a regular means of comparison between agencies.
  - A motion will be needed for LPS to disengage going forward and if passed, the Chief would write a letter to the City Manager advising of this.
  - **Motion by Councillor Mauro, Seconded by Marion Wiebe that the Lethbridge Police Service no longer continue in the Benchmarking Project with the City of Lethbridge and Chief Davis advise the City Manager of this direction....Carried**
- c) Lethbridge Police Commission Policy & Procedure Updates – Marion Wiebe
- LPC Policy & Procedure Manual suggested amendments was included in the agenda package. Marion Wiebe reviewed the sections to be amended.
  - Questions by Commission:
    - Should 2.2 say “each term, but no later than the January meeting?” Wording reflects provincial legislation.
    - 2.3(3) refers to alternate, instead of alternative dispute resolution. Correction will be made.
  - **Motion by Marion Wiebe, Seconded by Jean Valgardson to accept the amendments as read....Carried**
- d) Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) Conference
- Annual Conference was held May 12 & 13 in Edmonton
  - Several Commission members attended and Rob Van Spronsen provided a summary.
  - Conference focused on the role of Police Commissions versus the role of police. There were additional sessions that discussed police relationships with Indigenous people and how they are being built and one from the Solicitor General regarding the establishment of new measurements on police performance.
  - Jean Valgardson thanked Marion Wiebe for the years she has represented the Lethbridge Police Commission on the AAPG board. The new LPC representative is Victoria Chester.
- 9) Enquiries by the Police Commission
- Peter Deys noted he has heard news reports about different jurisdictions having differing practices with respect to identifying victims. Chief Davis explained the members of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police participated in a conference call a few weeks ago and determined the FOIP and legal representatives from each agency will meet to develop a standard as practices differ across the province.
- 10) Enquiries by the Public

- Merv Hudemka questioned what types of vehicles are being stolen and why. Chief Davis noted auto theft is one part of Project Street Sweeper and while he can't get into specific investigational details the types of vehicles being stolen vary but there are certain makes specifically targeted because there is a market for them. The Insurance Bureau of Canada has noted Dodge vehicles are currently a hot commodity in the western provinces. Organized crime groups will often break down vehicles for the parts or re-vin them for sale.

11) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.