



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

### OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 28, 2017  
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers  
4:00 p.m.

#### In Attendance

Lee Cutforth, Chair

Councillor Liz Iwaskiw

Councillor Joe Mauro

Victoria Chester

D. Jean Valgardson

Robert Van Spronsen

Carmen Hellowell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis

Deputy Chief Scott Woods

Inspector Bill Anderson

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

A/Inspector Dwayne Smith

Kristen Harding

Brenda Kenward

#### Regrets

Peter Deys, Vice-Chair

Simon Griffiths

Marion Wiebe

Inspector Tom Ascroft

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Cutforth at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Introduction of Deputy Chief Scott Woods
  - Chief Davis introduced Deputy Chief Woods to the Commission
- 3) Approval of Agenda
  - Addition – 8.d. Carding and Street Checks
    - Chair Cutforth advised there has been media coverage in relation to an issue of carding and LPS received a formal complaint this week. Commission does not discuss open complaints at this meeting but asked Chief Davis to provide information from a policy level
  - **Motion by Rob Van Spronsen, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the agenda be approved as amended....Carried**
- 4) Presentation of Chief's Certificate of Commendation – Chief Davis
  - Presented to Constable Ryan Darroch for performing CPR that saved a man's life

- 5) Approval of Minutes of May 31, 2017 Open Meeting
  - **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded Victoria Chester that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 6) Business Arising
  - There was no business arising
- 7) Standing Items
  - a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
    - June 2017 report for Lethbridge Region ALERT distributed in agenda package
    - Update since the report:
      - ALERT Annual Report April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017 was published
      - Demonstrates ALERT’s success in combatting serious and organized crime throughout Alberta
      - Provided assistance to agencies 646 times, conducted 1097 investigations
      - Shared highlights from Lethbridge over the past year
    - Question whether ALERT would assist with car prowlings but that responsibility would fall to LPS and initiative of Project Street Sweeper
  - b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Dobirstein
    - Sub trades have completed installation of all the exterior windows
    - Still awaiting completion of items such as the second overhead door in the parkade, paving of the east ramp and tow truck pull-out off of 1 Avenue
    - Working with project manager and general contractor to ensure completion of outstanding items and deficiencies
    - Question whether the fire alarm system situation has been fixed? Explanation that there is a piece yet to be concluded before an elevator can be operational
  - c) Calls for Service – A/Inspector Smith
    - Calls for Service for May distributed in agenda package and A/Insp. Smith provided highlights from the report
    - Question whether the increase in thefts has occurred over the year or just this month. A/Insp. Smith advised last month had an increase but was not certain about the full year
  - d) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
    - May Compliments: 2 Citizen/External, 2 Community Partners, 2 Internal
    - Some highlights:
      - Citizen thanked Cst. Darroch for his assistance in recovering a stolen bicycle
      - Thanks to Cst. Pagliericci from a couple he evacuated from their home in the middle of the night when their neighbour’s house caught on fire
      - Chief Chaffin of CPS thanked Regimental Sergeant Major S. Davis and Cst. Warner for their assistance in honouring the memory of retired CPS Detective

- Cathy Flexhaug and Carol Tidmarsh for their efforts that contributed to LPS property and exhibits processing and storage procedures being recognized by CALEA as one of the best in North America
- Chief Davis advised that Brenda Kenward is transferring to Infrastructure Services and personally thanked her for all of her hard work on behalf of the entire Executive and wished her all the best

e) Community Issues – A/Inspector Smith

- Monthly update was provided in the agenda package and A/Inspector Smith provided highlights:
  - Cst. Darroch has assisted with issues at the Public Library resulting in a huge decrease in drug use, trafficking, negative behaviour
  - Elk Compound – cleaned up and monitoring
  - Park Place Mall – nothing new to report
  - Centre Village Mall – Cst. Walshe patrolling
  - With warmer weather, project in place that focuses on downtown, explanation how LPS is communicating this to downtown business owners
  - School Resource officers and recruits will assist patrol teams to alleviate strain due to summer holidays
- Questions by Commission:
  - Explanation provided of crime prevention through environmental design
  - Regarding assistance to Lethbridge Centre, LPS performs walk throughs
  - Is LPS involved to assist problems such as bushes along Crowsnest Trail? Meetings take place with CP Rail and the City of Lethbridge, fencing and controls are in place
  - Citizens can assist with issues by notifying police or online reporting
  - Use of police cars vs bicycles in downtown? There is a blend of walking, bicycles and a van to be visible. Citizens have commented they appreciate seeing officers walking downtown and Chief Davis advised that all recruits will start their career in that capacity

8) New Business

a) 2016 Lethbridge Police Service Statistical Report – Chief Davis

- Summary of the 2016 annual LPS statistics was distributed in agenda package
- Questions by Commission:
  - Wondered why the format changes at the bottom of the document to only three year comparators. Chief advised it could be due to how the Collision Reporting Centre provides their data, has been this way in past years
  - Explanation of clearance rate provided
  - Regarding thefts, Chief Davis explained that property crime is prolific throughout western Canada and correlates with our opioid crisis. Car prowling is abundant and encouraged citizens to report them. Thefts have a broad category. Explained the process of loss prevent officers in stores. Project Street Sweeper is key in addressing theft problems and to gather intelligence and identify patterns

- Does LPS have statistics regarding theft under and over \$5000. Chief Davis advised he could get the information
  - Enforcement numbers vary relating to what type of enforcement performed
  - Has Missing Person Data increased due to public education? Chief Davis advised it is a factor but a lot of information comes from group home staff
- b) Armoured Rescue Vehicle – Inspector Dobirstein/Sergeant Cherpin
- Insp. Dobirstein introduced Sgt. Cherpin and Sgt. Carrier who presented on the need for LPS to have an Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV), highlights:
    - Lethbridge is increasingly experiencing calls for service dealing with violent armed subjects that pose an escalating safety risk to the public and officers
    - Explained several recent incidents in Lethbridge involving firearms and weapons
    - Rescue vehicle is not a military vehicle, has no offensive capabilities and is strictly a defensive piece of equipment to protect the public and officers
    - Deployment would be strictly limited to Level II Critical Incidents
    - Explained benefits of having a rescue vehicle
    - Explained current locations of rescue vehicles in Alberta, closest being Medicine Hat and response time is a factor
    - Lethbridge is the only municipality over 60,000 people in Alberta and Saskatchewan that does not have a rescue vehicle
    - Five options for purchase with four options being new vehicles at a cost ranging from \$286,125 - \$362,771, the fifth being The Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team selling LPS their old rescue vehicle for \$8000
    - Given budget constraints and fiscal responsibility the only current viable option is five, vehicle specs provided
    - LPS Tactical Team has saved funds within their lifecycle/evergreen account so there would be no extra cost to the service, city or taxpayers
    - Total cost is \$16750 first year and thereafter \$3500 per year, costs funded through the LPS current authorized budget
    - Provided photos of similar vehicles operating in Lethbridge and proposed LPS identifier options for ARV
  - Questions/Comments from Commission:
    - Explanation of Level II Critical Incidents, ballistic capability, negotiation port
    - Concern raised about the wording tank and militarization. Discussion ensued how the ARV would not move LPS toward militarization. Previous discussion of recruits being visible and relationship building an example
    - ARV would only be used for Level II Critical Incidents, for negotiated resolution instead of using force
    - Historically some Commission members had concerns about this topic so this was presented to Commission for explanation and support
    - Discussion that the fifth option would be a better use of public funds
    - Confirmation that the funds to get the vehicle to Lethbridge and active would come from evergreen funds and LPS budget thereafter

- Standard Class 5 licence required, officers already received training through Medicine Hat Police Service
- Explained who would be located at the vehicle during critical incidents
- Opportunity to assist other communities, have responded to Blood Tribe Police Service and RCMP in the past
- Discussion that the world we live in today has progressed and we need to protect the community
- **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the Lethbridge Police Commission support the Lethbridge Police Service acquisition of the armoured rescue vehicle as presented...Carried**  
Opposed....Councillor Iwaskiw

c) CAPG Webinars – Victoria Chester

- Canadian Association of Police Governance has monthly educational webinars that can be purchased
- Cost is \$100 per webinar for CAPG members and a further discount with purchase of annual subscription
- All members can view the webinars with the annual subscription
- **Motion by Victoria Chester, Seconded by Councillor Iwaskiw that the Lethbridge Police Commission purchase the annual subscription for the CAPG Webinars for the support of continuing education....Carried**

d) Carding and Street Checks – Chief Davis

- Chief Davis advised that he will speak to the policy piece only
- LPS does not engage in carding, it is not in LPS policy
- Carding is a sensationalized term from the US which drifted to Ontario and has since drifted across the country
- Spent first 24 years of policing in Ontario so knows of this past issue which has been addressed
- LPS performs a field interview which is then captured in a street check, definition from LPS policy provided
- Information is placed in a street check report which is an intelligence gathering report and does not automatically include race
- LPS is a member of Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for past 20 years, part of why CALEA was created in the US was as a result from racial issues in policing
- CALEA continually assesses policies and remains current
- Recent events of Ferguson and Baltimore are topical at CALEA
- Inspector Anderson oversees the LPS Accreditation Unit, is diligent and a CALEA assessor
- Street checks are an integral piece of policing and based on activities not race, information placed in NICHE database widely used across Canada
- Under the Police Act LPS has a duty to the preservation and maintenance of public peace and prevention of crime within the municipality

- With a rash of property crimes this is where we can identify a geographical area and time frame
- Known criminals, offenders with release conditions or someone being in the presence of known criminals are examples of being subject to a street check
- Found it offensive that LPS is being accused of race based policing
- Chief is extremely proud and confident in LPS policies and confident that the officers have the commitment of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Years ago Chief met a current LPS officer at a national training centre who provided all attendees a copy of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which speaks to the commitment, rigor and sincerity to this charter by LPS members, link that with CALEA standards and Chief is confident in our officers
- LPS has a bias free policing policy which is continually scrutinized and reviewed annually, officers receive training annually
- Example provided of interactions with LGBTQ+ community, created better policy from it. LPS is committed to reviewing policy, making LPS better
- Grew up on the Six Nations Reserve, went into policing to protect aboriginal people, has been a part of his entire career, is the first aboriginal police chief in a non-aboriginal police force in the province – for anybody to suggest otherwise is wrong and personally offensive
- Wants to work in harmony and is extremely proud of the working relationship with the Blood Tribe community and their police service
- Restricted to what can be said due to the complaint and the integrity of that process but is always committed to look at policies

9) Enquiries by the Police Commission

- Question on behalf of a Council Member asking what is LPS policy regarding obtaining personal information such as fingerprints/photos/DNA. Insp. Anderson will pass on this information for the Council Member

10) Enquiries by the Public

- There were none

11) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.