



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 27, 2017
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Lee Cutforth, Chair

Peter Deys, Vice-Chair

Councillor Liz Iwaskiw

Councillor Joe Mauro

Victoria Chester

Robert Van Spronsen

Marion Wiebe

Carmen Hellawell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis

Deputy Chief Scott Woods

Inspector Bill Anderson

Inspector Tom Ascroft

Inspector Jason Dobirstein

Kristen Harding

Kamran Ali

Regrets

Simon Griffiths

D. Jean Valgardson

- 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 Marion Wiebe, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 3) Presentation of Chief's Certificate of Commendation – Chief Davis
 - Two presentations made to Constable Ryan Darroch for performing CPR which saved a man and a woman's life
 - Presented to Constable Spencer Hodgson for preventing a suicidal male from attempting to jump from a parking structure
- 4) Recognition to Constable Darroch and Constable Darby – Chief Davis
 - This past June three bikes were stolen from a property leaving limited transportation options for a family. Chief Davis recognized Constables Ryan Darroch and Mike Darby for purchasing replacement bikes out of pocket for this family and Canadian Tire North for donating bike locks. Chief is aware there are other acts of kindness by

- LPS members that he and the community does not hear about and wanted to recognize the compassion and generosity when he can
- Chief Davis also acknowledged that it was Constable Darroch who solved a recent sexual assault in the Henderson Lake area. There had been a composite sketch released to the public in which the subject had a distinct tattoo on the cheek. Cst. Darroch was on foot patrol at the shelter and recognized the tattoo/person and then ultimately obtained a confession
- 5) Introduction of LPS Financial & Administrative Manager – Chief Davis
- Chief Davis introduced Kamran Ali, LPS Financial & Administrative Manager, and welcomed Mr. Ali and his family to Lethbridge
 - Mr. Ali brings a wealth of experience and Chief Davis is confident LPS will learn a great deal from him and his previous experiences
- 6) Approval of Minutes of June 28, 2017 Open Meeting
- **Motion by Victoria Chester, Seconded Robert Van Spronsen that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 7) Business Arising
- a) Stats re: Theft over and under \$5000 – Chief Davis
- Information was circulated and Commission will review and provide any questions at the next meeting
- b) LPS Policies on Retaining ones fingerprints, DNA, etc. – Inspector Anderson
- LPS comes into possession of fingerprints via the Identification of Criminals Act, crime scene examination, fingerprints submitted for the purpose of elimination, Police Information Checks
 - LPS fingerprint and DNA retention schedules closely parallels that of the RCMP National Repository Identification Unit in Ottawa
 - LPS considers written requests for destruction of fingerprints if the criteria of the RCMP National Repository Unit are met and a non-conviction for the offence for which the fingerprints were taken is registered
 - Collection of DNA as per the Criminal Code of Canada, collection of physical evidence from a crime scene or person suspected of a criminal offence or victim
 - Any DNA collected and not forwarded to the DNA Databank is subject to LPS retention schedules
 - As this question was channeled via Councillor Coffman, Inspector Anderson will forward this information to him via email
- 8) Standing Items
- a) ALERT Update – Inspector Anderson
- July – September 2017 report for Lethbridge Region ALERT distributed in agenda package
 - Update since the report:
 - ALERT 2016-2017 First Quarter Report covering April 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 was published. ALERT provided assistance to agencies 37 times

- Annual Report demonstrates ALERT’s success in combatting serious and organized crime throughout Alberta
 - Shared the report highlights regarding Lethbridge
- b) Building Expansion Update – Inspector Ascroft
- Essentially complete, items in various stages of resolution
 - Ramp from the north lot to Scenic Drive is awaiting pavement
 - Permanent bicycle compound has to be installed
 - Second overhead door has to be constructed in the parkade
 - Concerns with the existing coating on the parking surface
 - Chair Cutforth asked that this item now be removed from Standing Items
 - Questions from Commission:
 - Grand Opening Date? Hoping for October but will advise Commission
 - Success of the Safe Exchange Zone in the LPS parking lot? Deputy Chief Woods explained the background of why this was implemented and the trickling effect throughout the country. LPS Facebook page received over 300,000 likes when announced
- c) Calls for Service – Inspector Ascroft
- Increase in calls for service during the months of June, July and August
 - Property crime has increased due to the opioid crisis
 - Questions from Commission:
 - Red Light Infractions could be lower this past month due to the cameras being moved to another location as some locations do not produce as many violations
 - Would LPS be able to handle what could be a significant amount of work and extra funds needed to assist with issues such as the supervised consumption site? Chief Davis will report back at the next meeting
- d) Financial Report – Kamran Ali
- Reporting period January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 reflects an overall surplus of \$246,019 with Revenue accounts generating a surplus of \$55,312; Wage accounts a surplus of \$276,039, Other Operating Expenses a deficit of \$151,413, and Interdepartmental a surplus of \$60,616. Overall the Service is in a surplus of \$41,003 per month (Q1 - \$51,030) compared to budget through the first six months
 - Clarification provided what would constitute external funding
- e) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
- June Compliments: 6 Citizen/External, 1 Community Partners, 1 Internal
 - July Compliments: 5 Citizen/External, 1 Community Partners
 - August Compliments: 1 Citizen/External, 2 Community Partners, 1 Internal
 - Some highlights:
 - Citizen/External - Citizen acknowledged LPS officers for their involvement during a lock down drill at a west side school

- Community Partner - LEARN Lethbridge staff thanked Constable Les Vonkeman, Constable Kara Hagen, Joe Prepsl and Jordan Winter who assisted at the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Walk in June
 - Internal – Coworker acknowledging the work that Constable Darroch is doing in the downtown
 - Commission member asked why it appears some officers are so successful. Chief shared that some members bring skills learned from time spent in other units as an example
 - f) Community Issues – Inspector Ascroft
 - Monthly update was provided in the agenda package, Inspector Ascroft provided highlights and acknowledged Sergeant Klassen who currently oversees the Downtown Policing Unit and was present at the meeting
 - Questions from Commission:
 - Clarification that the shelter building is in need of repairs. Graffiti has been painted over, improvements occurring
 - River House is run by an organization called Family Ties, contracted to assist with housing people with complex needs and it is closely monitored
- 9) New Business
- a) ARCHES Presentation – Stacey Bourque
 - Inspector Ascroft introduced Stacey Bourque, Executive Director of ARCHES
 - Incorporated as Lethbridge AIDS Connection in 1988, name changed to Lethbridge HIV Connection in 1999, name changed to ARCHES in 2015
 - Support for people living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C
 - Harm reduction programming, outreach education and prevention programs
 - Community-based take home naloxone
 - Housing First Clinical Team
 - Harm reduction supply distribution
 - Counselling and nursing services
 - Encourage people to live safer and healthier lives by increasing access to services and providing support for positive change
 - Explanation of what is known about drug use and drug users in our community, needles distributed and returned, public injection and where it takes place around our community
 - Explanation of the opioid crisis, the benefits of supervised consumption services and what is being planned for in our community
 - Questions/comments from Commission:
 - Does Lethbridge have various partners in place to gather information and tackle this issue from a holistic approach? Yes, Executive Leaders Coalition on Opioid Use which was formed in the fall of 2016 is a group made up of 16 different organizations in the city including ARCHES, LPS, AHS, etc.
 - With the proposed location close to nightclubs is there a concern in overlap with people then coming to the consumption site? ARCHES has a good relationship with the nightclub in close proximity and will stay in contact.

Neighbourhood coalition will be formed to ensure the integrity of the neighbourhood is maintained which LPS will be a part of

- Comment that NDP members are on board with this initiative and with the CPR soon to close off access near the Stafford Bridge it is emergent this consumption site be established
- What would happen if needles wouldn't be distributed? Rates of HIV and Hep C would skyrocket, rates of death would increase, individuals entering into detox and treatment would decrease significantly. Currently reducing the number of new infections directly attributed to injection drug use
- How many people use ARCHES? Lethbridge has approx. 3000 chronic drug users, approx. 700 individuals come into ARCHES per month and staff interact with approx. 500 individuals on the street
- ARCHES serves approx. 6000 individuals in southwest Alberta directly or indirectly
- Regarding harm reduction the safe injection site will address the issue of discarded needles located throughout the city. Recent \$32,000 grant provides ARCHES staff the ability to target a needle debris clean up in the city with a hotline which can be used for reporting

b) 2016 Lethbridge Police Service Annual Report – Chief Davis

- Report was distributed in agenda package, highlight being the Smart Squad technology in which Commission will be further updated. LPS is one of two police services piloting this and it is redefining how we are doing policing. Chief shared that during his budget presentation to Council that Mayor Spearman asked him what efficiencies LPS is looking into, this is an example
- Questions/comments by Commission:
 - Appreciate the new template of the annual report
 - Update on safe sobering site? One of the issues is that former intoxicated persons are now opioid users. Also needed legislation change, AACP put a resolution forward, it has been drafted but has not been completed. AHS is involved as this is a health issue. Intox and detox explained. Detox currently in AHS. Mayor has been a big part lobbying with local MLAs
 - Clearance rate data regarding domestic violence will be verified
 - The annual report will be posted online
 - Sixth class constables discussed, an efficiently piece for LPS and still in negotiation with the Lethbridge Police Association
 - Wondered if the calls per beat could be more detailed to identify what type of crime is occurring, for public awareness. There is an online tool called Crime Mapping so individuals can track this
 - LPS is looking at realigning the patrol beats
 - Authorized strength vs actual strength. Authorized is based on budget. Actual strength can vary due to time required for recruiting and other factors. LPS is now at 170 officers
 - Ratio of male to female officers – LPS is actively recruiting female officers and has been a focus for LPS. One female officer is currently on leave of

absence teaching at Lethbridge College and will be actively recruiting for LPS. Negotiated part time work has been successful in retaining female officers. Chief acknowledged the President of the LPA and the first female officer who applied for part time work for their efforts in this process

- Community Participation – public enjoy seeing and speaking with officers at events, any strategy to have more officers at events? Chief had previously shared a document with Commission in May and will bring that information to the next Open Meeting for discussion

10) Enquiries by the Police Commission

- LPS hopes to receive the armoured vehicle around February
- Sign posting the hours of operation at the front door of LPS has since been updated to be more clear for public

11) Enquiries by the Public

- Merv Hudemka
 - Wondered if LPS uses their drone with being so many restrictions and if there are infractions from public flying them. Advised there are many rules but LPS can use drones for critical incidents. Infractions are reported to Transport Canada
 - Are there bylaws for bicycles to be operating at night (reflection)? Yes there are regulations and the enforcement would be on a case by case basis
 - Was the ordnance that was found live or deactivated? LPS will report back at the next meeting

12) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.