



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 31, 2018
City of Lethbridge Council Chambers
4:00 p.m.

In Attendance

Peter Deys, Chair
Simon Griffiths, Vice-Chair
Mayor Chris Spearman
Councillor Jeff Coffman
Victoria Chester
Dawna Coslovi
Rachel Hopf
D. Jean Valgardson
Robert Van Spronsen
Carmen Hellowell (Recording Secretary)

Chief Robert Davis
Deputy Chief Scott Woods
Inspector Bill Anderson
Inspector Tom Ascroft
Inspector Jason Dobirstein
Kamran Ali
Kristen Harding

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by Peter Deys at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Swearing in of New Commission Members
 - Dawna Coslovi and Rachel Hopf were sworn in as new Lethbridge Police Commission Members by Lee Cutforth, Q.C.
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - **Motion by Rob Van Spronsen, Seconded by Victoria Chester that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 4) Chief's Certificate of Recognition
 - Chief Davis presented a Chief's Certificate of Recognition to Allan Black for assisting police with the arrest of a violent offender
- 5) Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2017 Open Meeting
 - **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded Rob Van Spronsen that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 6) Presentation to Retired Commission Members
 - Presentation was made to Lee Cutforth and Marion Wiebe who were thanked for their service on the Lethbridge Police Commission

- 7) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, appointment of Public Complaint Director
 - **Nomination by Victoria Chester that Peter Deys become Chair of the Lethbridge Police Commission.** As there were no other nominations, Peter Deys accepted and was acclaimed Chair
 - **Nomination by Victoria Chester that Simon Griffiths become Vice-Chair of the Lethbridge Police Commission.** As there were no other nominations, Simon Griffiths accepted and was acclaimed Vice-Chair
 - Public Complaint Director for the Lethbridge Police Commission will be Rob Van Spronsen
- 8) Business Arising
 - There was no business arising
- 9) Standing Items
 - a) ALERT Update – Inspector Ascroft
 - January 2018 update of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) and Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) distributed in agenda package
 - b) Calls for Service – Inspector Dobirstein
 - Total calls for service for 2017 was 33,643 (approx. increase of 3,000 from 2016)
 - November Step Initiative – Occupant Restraints with 37 violation tickets issued
 - December Step Initiative – Checkstops (LPS partnered with BTPS and RCMP)
 - Questions from Commission:
 - Any reason for increase in impaired tickets from previous years? Not any one answer, will check into and report back next meeting
 - Any trend analysis as to why the increase in calls for service? With 2016 removed due to low data, there is a fairly natural incline. Getting some bigger city issues to drive numbers up
 - Calls for service information pertains to the previous beats, future information will show the new beat implementation
 - Is there a situation that needs attention or are there concerns regarding the Shelter? Numbers do cause some concern but LPS has more strategies in how the shelter is policed and there is a better focus in how the shelter is managed
 - DUIs are related to alcohol only
 - Total number of calls for service looks quite proportionate in beats. Explanation that number of calls and length of time calls take are different. LPS has realigned the beats to four which could end up showing more calls in a beat(s) going forward but it will be more balanced in relation to time per call
 - Question about the size of beats as the population increases. Adjustments will be made as population increases but the changes to beat will depend on calls and length of time for calls
 - c) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis
 - November Compliments: 3 Citizen/External, 1 Community Partners, 2 Internal
 - December Compliments: 4 Citizen/External, 2 Community Partners, 1 Internal
 - d) Community Issues – Inspector Dobirstein
 - Provided report from the Downtown Policing Unit

10) New Business

- a) Unfounded Sexual Assault Review – Sergeant Stef
- Explained why sexual assault is one of the most difficult crimes to investigate
 - Threshold required to lay charges and how concluded cases will be re-opened if new evidence comes to light
 - Approx. one year ago the Globe and Mail compiled their own report where they canvassed police organizations and came up with the finding that 1 in 5 claims in Canada are cleared as unfounded
 - LPS reviewed their 2015 and 2016 files to ensure the investigations were complete and to gather statistics, shared the findings of this review with Commission for their information
 - Questions by Commission:
 - Difference provided between unfounded and unsubstantiated
 - Is there a standard set across Canada? Yes through Stats Canada
 - Is evidence required by Crown quite standard across the province? Yes on the same level across the province
 - Have the complainants been advised of the change from unfounded to unsubstantiated? No but this process could change going forward
 - Does every police officer investigate a crime of a sexual nature or is there a special unit? Every officer is trained but the LPS Violent Crime Unit deals with sexual assault files
 - Chair Deys thanked Sgt. Stef for the presentation and for looking into the potential option about notifying victims of changes in status of files
- b) LPC File Retention Schedule and Policy & Procedure Amendments – David Sarsfield
- Provided presentation to Commission as LPC FOIP Coordinator
 - Compliance review was performed for the Lethbridge Police Commission in 2015 and deficiencies were noted
 - Audit performed for Commission included dealing with FOIP and record retention. (Thanks to former member Marion Wiebe for her work in this regard)
 - Explained FOIP legislation and the changes since it was first implemented
 - Balance between being open and transparent and information released is not personal or private
 - City of Lethbridge passed records retention and disposition Bylaw July 2017
 - Draft Records Retention Schedule developed for Police Commission based on the City's model
 - Police and the Police Commission are two separate entities
 - Provided proposed changes to the LPC policy and procedures
 - Commission agreed to table this discussion to next meeting to allow members time to review information
 - **Motion by Rob Van Spronsen, Seconded by Rachel Hopf that the suggested Lethbridge Police Commission retention schedule and proposed amendments to the Lethbridge Police Commission Policy and Procedure Manual be postponed to the February Commission Meeting....Carried**
 - Chair Deys thanked David Sarsfield for his presentation and the assistance he regularly provides to Commission
- c) CAPG – Chair
- i. Annual Membership Fee

- Canadian Association of Police Governance 2018 membership fee of \$1097 was received for the Lethbridge Police Commission
 - Agreement to renew this annual membership
 - **Motion by Victoria Chester, Seconded by Dawna Coslovi that the Lethbridge Police Commission pay the 2018 CAPG Membership Fee....Carried**
 - i. 2018 Webinar Bundle
 - Commission previously approved the one month January webinar as the webinar was held before this meeting
 - Agreement to purchase the 2018 year webinar bundle
 - **Motion by Victoria Chester, Seconded by Simon Griffiths that the Lethbridge Police Commission pay for the 2018 CAPG Webinar Bundle....Carried**
 - i. Call for Resolutions for Annual General Meeting deadline April 6, 2018
 - Provided as information
- d) AAPG – Chair
 - i. Annual Membership Fee
 - Alberta Association of Police Governance 2018 Membership fee of \$500 was received for the Lethbridge Police Commission
 - Agreement to renew this annual membership
 - **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Rob Van Spronsen that the Lethbridge Police Commission pay the 2018 AAPG Membership Fee....Carried**
 - i. Save the Date – AAPG Conference
 - 2018 AAPG Conference will be held in Lacombe, AB on April 27 & 28
 - Additional details will follow in the coming months
- e) Lethbridge College Police Cadet Training Certificate Program – Chief Davis
 - Cadet class occurred in 2017 in partnership with Lethbridge College, Medicine Hat Police Service (MHPS), Blood Tribe Police Service (BTPS), Taber Police Service (TPS) and Lethbridge Police Service
 - Revamp of the cadet program so cadets can attain academic credentials for their training and included competencies to go along with classroom learning
 - Advanced Education has since completed a review of Lethbridge College’s proposal for a new Police Cadet Training certificate program and it has been approved
 - Solicitor General has recognized this training for First Nations Police Service recruiting
 - Provides ability to cross train the cadets of the LPS and BTPS, coincides with the focus that Truth and Reconciliation begins at the grass roots level
 - This month BTPS has launched a recruit class with MHPS
 - Chief is proud of the partnerships in place and the hard work of all involved
 - Questions/comments by Commission:
 - Commission provided their congratulations in this regard
 - Can the academic credentialing be transferable to U of L or other institutions? Transferable through Lethbridge College and will report back regarding others
 - Are there partnerships like this elsewhere? This is unique for Alberta and the BTPS, MHPS and LPS. (explained how some police services use Depot in Regina for training in some cases)

- f) LPS Significant Projects and Key Highlights – Chief Davis
 - Report distributed in agenda package and Chief provided a few highlights
 - Now able to act on information stemming from various LPS projects
 - Group ProActive looked at health of the organization – recent exercise came up with the New Mission, Vision and Values
 - Proud to be a regular member of the opioid coalition and ALERT efforts
 - Appointment of the Deputy Chief
 - Rescue vehicle has arrived in Lethbridge, currently having decaling completed
 - Efficiency with Smart Squad – rolled out to 11 members per team, finding efficiencies LPS never anticipated, leading the edge of policing in AB, down the road could potentially deploy officers to different areas in LPS as needed
 - Safe exchange zone – exchanges from product to child exchanges in custody agreements
 - Questions/comments by Commission:
 - Where does Smart Squad come from? Alberta start up
 - Confirmation that Smart Squad is still in a pilot project stage with LPS. Explained how the project has rolled out with a single officer who trains two officers per team who then train the next, helps manage costs and better learning through training. Return on this project is well worth it, with definite monetary savings
 - Are the vehicles carrying naloxone? Kits provided to officers to carry per shift, not stored in vehicles due to expiration dates
 - In a recent ride along witnessed an officer using Smart Squad, members speaking highly of it (events that used to take 3 hrs could be wrapped up in 45 mins)
 - Will there be a presentation to Commission? Messaging will be provided within LPS, Commission, Council and public. Encouraged Commission to attend a ride along with an officer who uses Smart Squad in the meantime

- 11) Correspondence – Chair Deys
 - Articles for information only

- 12) Inquiries by the Police Commission
 - None

- 13) Inquiries by the Public
 - Merv Hudemka
 - Shared continued violations he has witnessed on 7 Ave S and inquired about enforcement
 - Wondered if the cameras installed on 7 Ave S and 13 Street S could be used as a monitoring tool for traffic not following signage. Councillor Coffman will inquire with Infrastructure Services about the purpose of the cameras
 - Insp. Dobirstein will pass on the concerns to the Traffic Unit
 - Michael Vercillo
 - Shared ongoing concerns relating to owning property in the downtown, situations involving him and his tenants on private property, issues are escalating
 - Officers are continuing to fight an uphill battle, difference used to be the enforcement used
 - Decisions are made to help those less fortunate and they have unintended consequences

- 14) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.