



## LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION

### OPEN LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 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 Hellawell (Recording Secretary)

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

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by Chair Deys at 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Agenda
  - **Motion by Rob Van Spronsen, Seconded by Dawna Coslovi that the agenda be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 3) Chief's Certificate of Recognition
  - Chief Davis presented a Chief's Certificate of Recognition to Kale Lewchak for assisting police with the arrest of an individual and assisting a victim of a vehicle collision
- 4) Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2018 Open Meeting
  - **Motion by Rachel Hopf, Seconded Jean Valgardson that the minutes be approved as circulated....Carried**
- 5) Business Arising
  - a) LPC File Retention Schedule and Policy & Procedure Manual Amendments – Chair Deys
    - Stemming from presentation last meeting by David Sarsfield, LPC FOIP Coordinator
    - **Motion by Jean Valgardson, Seconded by Rob Van Spronsen that the proposed Lethbridge Police Commission retention schedule and amendments to the Lethbridge Police Commission Policy and Procedure Manual be approved as presented...Carried**

6) Standing Items

a) ALERT Update – Inspector Ascroft

- February 2018 update of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) and Internet Child Exploitation Unit (ICE) distributed in agenda package and reviewed
- Additional note - There were 31 vehicles stolen in January with 27 now recovered (21 of those in Lethbridge) - 90% had keys in the vehicle. Obvious solution here for crime prevention to not have keys accessible
- Question by Commission:
  - Any link between the ALERT event of Feb 7 and recent spike in carfentanyl? Drugs in this case did not make it to Lethbridge, no link found

b) Calls for Service and Community Issues – Inspector Dobirstein

- Slight change in reporting to focus on the new Own Your Zone, maintaining officers in their assigned beats, information relates to each specific zone, Top 3 emergency services zones – highest number of calls
- Info is shared with the Duty Staff Sergeants to assist with the deployment of officers
- Explained examples of projects the Downtown Policing Unit are involved in with making positive change
- Questions from Commission:
  - Number of assaults at 97 appears high, is that related to the shelter? Don't have a specific answer, number can fluctuate each month, will look into. Seeing a lot more meth on the street which has more violent behaviour associated
  - Drug overdose calls relating to police zones? Police did not respond to all of the calls, many EMS managed them on their own

c) Monthly Compliments – Chief Davis

- January Compliments: 2 Citizen/External, 3 Community Partners, 1 Internal
- Citizen: Constables Michelle LeBlanc, Leslie Pollard and Wes Olsen – compliment regarding their professionalism when dealing with a mental distress call
- Community Partner: Constable Chris Stock – compliment from instructor at Lethbridge College for his presentation to a Criminal Justice class, very professional and provided realistic examples relating to a career in policing
- Internal: Constable Joel Odorski – thanks provided regarding his assistance at a vehicle collision while on his personal time

7) New Business

a) Professional Standards Unit Annual Report – Sergeant Christos/Sergeant Lawrence

- Provided the 2017 disciplinary statistics for the LPS as well as other non-punitive occurrences
- Legislation through the Police Act and Police Service Regulations
- Allows for investigation into complaints initiated by a citizen against policies and services provided by a police service or conduct of an officer
- Allows for investigation into officer conduct which has been identified internally
- Explained what encompasses a Citizen Contact
- Questions by Commission:
  - Explained the difference between a misconduct and discreditable conduct
  - Recommendations that include training are put forth from Chief's direction with deadlines set. Example from a 2017 investigation, training was in place within a month

- Chair Deys, on behalf of the Commission, thanked both officers for their presentation and for all of their assistance provided to the LPC Public Complaint Director position
- b) Police and Crisis Team (PACT) – Sergeant Klassen
- Provided presentation to Commission regarding the program in partnership with Alberta Health Services (AHS) and LPS
  - Assists vulnerable individuals and families impacted by addictions and mental health
  - Ultimate goal to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system and hospital emergency departments into services and treatment to address the underlying cause of behaviour
  - PACT began operating as a pilot project in November 2017
  - Letter of understanding between AHS and LPS allows information sharing and collaboration with a focus on partnerships in the community
  - Modeled after the PACT program in Medicine Hat, evolving to meet our community's specific needs
  - Explained how referrals are received
  - Questions/comments from Commission:
    - Exciting project, great for community. Any gaps so far? Gaps have been found such as the need for permanent housing, intox and detox sites
    - How long is the pilot project expected to run? Partnership with AHS is very positive, do not have an allocated time
    - Officer being in uniform – important to make sure individuals know police are involved in the PACT team
    - What happens during the days PACT is not scheduled? Can be numerous messages left. Other PACT programs have expanded into a triage for the front line. Currently at two days a week, due to budgeting
    - Is data being collected? Yes as of 2018 it will be housed in Niche, a spreadsheet
    - Seeing success? Some success to coordinate services, examples provided
    - Clarification that Senior Mental Health is a partner as well
    - Are there meetings with other communities who have PACT? Have collaborated with Medicine Hat and continue to share information
    - Clarification that other communities have this program full time
    - Funding – LPS provides one officer currently and AHS provides one staff
    - Chair Deys thanked Sgt. Klassen for her presentation
- c) Stats Canada changes to UCRing – Inspector Anderson/Jenn Birrell
- Insp. Anderson introduced Jenn Birrell who is the LPS UCR Specialist who provided a presentation on new standards for reporting founded and unfounded incidents
  - Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in cooperation with the policing community collects police reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey
  - UCR Survey was designed to measure the incidence of crime in Canadian society and its characteristics
  - UCR data reflects reported crime that has been substantiated by police and produces a continuous historical record of crime and traffic statistics reported by every police agency in Canada since 1962
  - Changes as of January 2018 – discontinuation of unsubstantiated categorization and changes to the definition of founded and unfounded complaints

- This will impact LPS by reflecting an increase in the number of criminal incidents, a lower clearance rate and fewer persons charged
  - Questions/comments by Commission:
    - Will LPS reopen cases to see if they need updating? Yes stemming from the presentation last month from Sgt. Stef
    - Will the statistics be reported differently? Macleans will have different stats, best to note these changes for next year and review the LPS annual report
  - Chair Deys thanked Jenn Birrell for her presentation
- 8) Inquiries by the Police Commission
- None
- 9) Inquiries by the Public
- Merv Hudemka
    - Councillor Coffman provided a reply to question raised last month regarding cameras on 7 Ave/13 Street South – bicycle detector cameras used to trigger the activation signal and do not record video
    - Question regarding software used for data analysis for crime forecasting. Deputy Chief Woods explained there are many programs on the market but LPS is moving to data driven policing and pulling data relating to that. Law is specific that LPS cannot look into accounts without authorization
  - Tony Sprado
    - Attended to discuss the role of the police commission and civilian oversight provided
    - Presented a few months ago sharing his concerns about the findings of a LERB decision
    - Wondered how the commission agreed that the process that took place was fair
    - Chair Deys advised this complaint was already handled through the LPC through the Professional Standards Unit and later when Mr. Sprado appealed the decision to the LERB
    - Chair Deys explained that Mr. Sprado appears to have exhausted all avenues with this complaint and LPC is satisfied with the action taken by the Chief and LPS
- 10) Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.