

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

MINUTES of Regular Meeting held on February 16, 2011, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Main Boardroom, 7th Floor, 2120 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC

Board Members Present

Mayor Gregor Robertson
Mary Collins
Wade Grant
Patti Marfleet
Jason McLean
Sheryl Williamson
Glenn Wong

Present

Chief Constable Jim Chu
DCC Doug LePard
A/DCC Rob Rothwell
A/DCC Daryl Wiebe
Shona McGlashan, Board Executive Director
Rachelle Radiuk, Board Administrative Assistant

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Introduction of Board members/staff and Police Executive.

1. Adoption of Regular Meeting Agenda

MOVED/SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board approve the Regular Meeting Agenda for February 16, 2011.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED/SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2011.

CARRIED

3. Delegations

Menard Caissy, a member of the public, spoke regarding crime in Vancouver.

4. 2010 Year End Business Plan report and draft 2011 Business Plan

Drazen Manojlovic, Director, Planning, Research and Audit Unit, briefed the Board. The Annual Business Plans were crafted from the 5-year VPD Strategic Plan and ensured that the Department was focussed and accountable on the long-term goals, while remaining as fluid as possible to meet ever-changing policing dynamics.

2010 Year End Business Plan

The report contained a wealth of information. A strategic summary highlighted the following:

- 14 goals led to 63 strategies which generated 209 activities
- out of the 209 activities, 108 had been fully completed, 83 were in progress, and 18 had

- 2010 witnessed a 2.9% decrease in violent crime, 6.3% decrease in property crime, and priority 1 response time stayed relatively level (0.9% increase)
- motor vehicle fatal collisions fell to 9 in 2010 from 15 the year before
- gang-related homicides dropped from 10 to 3 and gang-related “shots fired” calls decreased by 39%

The move to Graveley was well underway which had relieved many facility problems, especially in the 312 Main building.

Questions and discussion. The Board complimented the Department on their work carrying out the goals which had been taken from the Strategic Plan. Comment that if the overall goal was to be the safest major city in Canada, it might be time to start benchmarking with other cities. Discussion regarding how to continue to achieve “buy in” from VPD members and civilians in order to continue moving forward to meet the long-term goals in the Strategic Plan. Comment that the Department could do further analysis to find out exactly which strategies were driving the positive results and focus on those “best practices”. Brief comments around street vending and how to accommodate that for legitimate vendors; the rise in sexual assaults; the effectiveness of red-light cameras on public safety; and City emergency preparedness. Suggestion that additional Department accomplishments could be reflected in the report-back even if they had not been in the original business plan (e.g. SisterWatch program).

MOVED/SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board receive the 2010 Year End Business Plan report back.

CARRIED

2011 Business Plan

Comment that there could be more benchmarks set out to help measure how the Department was doing.

MOVED/SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board adopt the draft 2011 Business Plan.

CARRIED

5. VPD Presentation: Crisis Intervention Training

Insp. Rick Smitas introduced Cst. Heidi Schoenberger and Cst. Cathy Hill who were very involved in driving the crisis intervention training (CIT) program. In 2001 Cst. Schoenberger, while assigned to Car 87, noted an increase in police interaction with persons with mental illness and began to research crisis intervention training in North America. The current program included 32 hours (4 x 8 hours) of instruction, presentations, and interactive dialogue, and was mandatory for all recruits to complete within their first year. The VPD mandate was to train all operational patrol officers and new jail guards. Instructors were experts in various areas of mental health. Discussion of symptoms and de-escalation tools were part of the training. To date, 449 frontline officers had been trained with 4 more classes planned for 2011. Police Services was developing a provincial course and the VPD had suggested adoption of its course as the model. CIT enhanced the Department’s ability to serve members of the public with unique needs and taught techniques to resolve interactions in a manner which benefited all.

Questions and discussion around who was trained first, timing, and refreshers. Chief Chu commented on the cost of training which affected response time and day-to-day duties.

6. Chief Constable's report

Chief Constable Jim Chu reported that approximately 30 VPD officers and civilians had participated in this year's Women's Memorial March and the Department's attendance was very well received. The Department continued to have "SisterWatch" meetings and was recently successful in arresting a very violent offender who received a significant jail term. The Department continued to investigate this offender with a view to linking him to additional violent crimes. Finally, the Chief thanked the Board for attending the Commendation Ceremony which had taken place the previous day.

7. Correspondence & information

Acknowledgement by Board member of a Canadian Forces Liaison Council award received by the Department for its support of reservists.

MOVED / SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board receive as information the following:

- 7.1 *Compliments letters received to date*
- 7.2 *Public Complaints Statistics for January 2011*

CARRIED

8. Public closed question period

Member of the public commented on the Annual Business Plan report and also offered her feedback with regard to the CIT presentation, that in her experience as a front-line psychiatric social worker in a local forensic psychiatric hospital, she could not remember a single complaint with regard to how individuals coming from Vancouver were treated by police, as opposed to the many complaints received from individuals coming from other areas in the Province. Comment that, anecdotally, the CIT appeared to be working.

9. Enquiries and other business

None.

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

<p>APPROVED BY THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD ON MARCH 16, 2011</p>
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At its in camera meeting on February 16, 2011, the Vancouver Police Board:

1. received an report on coordinated operations
2. received an update on the long term facilities plan
3. approved an amendment to the RPM dealing with patrol-based undercover operations
4. received a report setting out strategies to respond to increase in sexual offences
5. received an update regarding the Professional Standards section
6. was briefed by the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constables on matters which they requested be presented *in camera*
7. approved requests for payment of necessary and reasonable legal costs for police officers, pursuant to section 9.9(b)(i) and (iii) of the Collective Agreement with the Vancouver Police Union
8. received a legal update regarding the Missing Women Inquiry