

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

MINUTES of Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday, September 6, 2011, 10:00 am -11:15 am 7th floor boardroom, 2120 Cambie Street

Board Members Present

Mayor Gregor Robertson, Chair
Mary Collins
Wade Grant
Jason McLean
Glenn Wong

Present

Chief Constable Jim Chu
DCC Adam Palmer
DCC Warren Lemcke
DCC Doug LePard
Shona McGlashan, Board Executive Director
Rachelle Radiuk, Board Administrative Assistant

Absent

Patti Marfleet
Sheryl Williamson

The Chair called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

1. Adoption of Extraordinary Meeting Agenda

MOVED/SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board approve the Meeting Agenda for June 15, 2011.

CARRIED

2. VPD 2011 Stanley Cup Riot Review

Drazen Manojlovic, Director of Planning, Research and Audit Section, presented the VPD 2011 Stanley Cup Riot Review report to the Board. In order to create the report, countless documents and communications had been analyzed, 115 individuals had been interviewed, and 393 questionnaires had been completed by members, over the previous 10 weeks.

There were a number of key findings, including:

- the planning and framework for policing the Stanley Cup Finals was completed and first reported to the Board in March 2011, with several updates over the following months
- the crowd which attended Game 7 was much larger than expected and primarily comprised of young intoxicated people
- Game 7 strategy and deployment were appropriate given there was no credible evidence a riot would occur
- liquor interdiction in public spaces was very difficult
- riot instigators were joined by thousands of “joiners” who committed criminal acts, and tens of thousands of others acting as “cheerleaders”
- the VPD and policing partners quelled the riot in a short period of time (approximately 3 hours) while exhibiting exceptional professionalism, courage, and restraint.

There were a number of lessons learned, including:

- events needed a balanced demographic with boundaries to minimize crowding and drinking
- CCTV “live” cameras were very effective in enhancing public safety enabling the Department to redeploy as the crowd shifted
- liquor needed to be interdicted both locally and regionally and liquor fines should be increased
- public transit needed to be slowed down coming into the downtown area if crowd capacity was reached
- regional police needed more joint training as well as a set communication structure for large regional events
- regional events policing needed Provincial support and funding.

A number of recommendations came out of the review, including:

- administrative and operational processes (such as briefings, debriefings, record-keeping, etc.) had room for improvement
- additional safety equipment was required
- additional crowd management training was required
- wireless priority services for police would greatly enhance communication
- Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services should be integrated with PSU training and tactics. BC Ambulance Service was already integrated (and embedded) and had been a tremendous success
- standards for live site design, location, and logistics should be established.

The Department had policed large events since the June 15 riot (namely the Celebration of Light) and many findings and recommendations set out in this report had been successfully implemented. These included a regional liquor interdiction strategy (involving, in particular, the Transit Police), developing and using a voice-over powerpoint briefing which ensured that the message to members was consistent, clear overall responsibility being taken (in the case of the COL, by the Deputy City Manager), activating a Gold Command to coordinate regional resources, adding an additional Bronze Command to supervise the periphery, bringing in an RCMP tactical troop for COL for the first time, and lastly, storing tactical equipment in vans which could be moved as needed.

Questions and discussion. DCC Adam Palmer gave an update on the member who had been most seriously hurt during the riot. Lengthy discussion including safety equipment the Department would be seeking for members who were not part of PSU; communication systems; CCTV; deployment of certain equipment and redeployment of officers; policing the upcoming Grey Cup celebrations; who had “final authority” for public events when it came to safety; funding cuts by City for police training; cost recovery for non-VPD members (funding request had been rejected by Province);¹ delivery of people downtown by transit; timing and possible legislation needed for implementation of recommendations; intelligence gathering including use of social media; and local and regional liquor interdiction. Acknowledgment and thanks from Department to their regional policing partners for their very valuable cooperation. The Board also thanked the men and women of the VPD for their hard work during this difficult time.

¹ Note: Lower Mainland RCMP detachments and some municipal forces did not ask for cost recovery following the riot.

MOVED/SECONDED:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board receive the Vancouver Police Department 2011 Stanley Cup Riot Review report and encourage the Department to move forward with the recommendations and report back to the Board in due course.

CARRIED

3. Integrated Riot Investigation Team briefing

DCC Warren Lemcke introduced Insp. Les Yeo, Team Commander, IRIT. Insp. Yeo updated the Board on the progress of the investigation. The mandate of the Team was to identify and charge all individuals who committed criminal offences and participated in a riot on June 15, 2011. Some of the offences included participating in a riot, robbery, mischief, break and enter, assault, and arson. 268 criminal incidents had been identified to date with each incident involving 1 to 300 suspects. There were currently 59 members from various police agencies involved in the investigation. To date the Department had received 4400 email tips, 221 crime stoppers tips, 150 phone tips, 1600 hours of video, 2100 video files, and tens of thousands of images, all of which needed to be sourced for future use in court. 259 people had been identified, 47 people had turned themselves in, and 1123 people had been named in tips which required investigation. Investigative challenges included gathering evidence from leads; cross-sourcing of images and video; and sourcing evidence. A new webpage had been introduced by the VPD the previous week to help identify suspects. To help facilitate the processing of video evidence, the Department had made arrangements to attend the Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Video Association (LEVA) lab at the University of Indianapolis. LEVA would be able to process 1600 hours of video in approximately 3 weeks. This would help prove the essential elements of rioting which was the number one charge the Department would be seeking, which was an indictable offence.

Questions and discussion regarding delay in laying charges, possibility of special court to deal with riot charges, cost recovery for investigation, the vast differences between the recent riots in Britain versus Vancouver, and how the riot investigation might be different with CCTV.

4. Enquiries and other business

None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

APPROVED BY THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011