

**EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012  
Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall  
Edmonton, Alberta  
6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

*Chair A. Yakeley  
Vice-Chair S. Sandhu  
Commissioner C. Palmer  
Commissioner S. Polkosnik  
Commissioner G. McCuaig  
Commissioner D. Hudson  
Councillor D. Loken*

*Mr. J. Rodgers  
Mr. B. Sarabin  
Ms. K. Carlson  
Ms. C. Skaggs*

**ABSENT**

*Commissioner K. Tamaklo  
Councillor T. Caterina*

**GUESTS**

*Chief R. Knecht, Edmonton Police Service  
Deputy Chief D. Korol, Edmonton Police Service  
Deputy Chief D. Campbell, Edmonton Police Service  
Deputy Chief B. Simpson, Edmonton Police Service  
A/Inspector K. Johnson, Edmonton Police Service  
S/Sergeant C. Boehnke, Edmonton Police Service  
Mr. B. Roberts, Edmonton Police Service  
Mr. A. Bent, Edmonton Police Service  
Dr. K. Wells, Chief's Advisory Council*

*Members of the Public (21)  
Members of the Media (5)*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Arlene Yakeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.*

**ACTION BY**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** Councillor Loken – Vice-Chair Sandhu

*That the Agenda for the Commission’s May 17, 2012 Public Meeting be approved.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Absent for the Motion:** Commissioner Tamaklo, Councillor Caterina

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 19, 2012**

**MOVED** Councillor Loken - Commissioner Polkosnik

*That the Minutes for the Commission’s April 19, 2012 Regular Public Meeting be approved.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Absent for the Motion:** Commissioner Tamaklo, Councillor Caterina

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED** Commissioner Hudson – Councillor Loken

*That all consent agenda items be accepted for information.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Absent for the Motion:** Commissioner Tamaklo, Councillor Caterina

**5. PRESENTATION**

**5.1 Chief’s Advisory Council (CAC) – Dr. Kristopher Wells**

*Chair Yakeley introduced Dr. Kristopher Wells, Co-Chair of the Chief’s Advisory Council.*

*Dr. Wells provided a power point presentation “Historical Overview: Chief’s Advisory Council.”*

*He spoke on the following and responded to questions:*

- *Hate and Bias Crime Unit*
- *Key objectives and outcomes identified*
- *Birth of the Chief’s Community Advisory Council (2004)*
- *Who serves on the CAC*
- *CAC’s focus, goals and projects*
- *Value of community liaison committees*
- *Future directions*

*He advised that the CAC is exploring opportunities for collaboration and increasing community engagement and suggested that the Commission could have a role to play in this.*

*Councillor Dave Loken thanked Dr. Wells for the CAC’s great work and the Service for its participation. He added that the Commission would be pleased to participate in whatever way it can. Vice-Chair Shami Sandhu also commended the CAC and the Service.*

*On behalf of the Mayor, City Councillors and the City of Edmonton, Councillor Loken made a presentation to Dr. Wells proclaiming May 17, 2012 as the “International Day Against Homophobia” in the City of Edmonton. The theme for this year is homophobia and transphobia in the workplace.*

*On behalf of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, Dr. Wells thanked the Mayor, Councillors and the City of Edmonton for the proclamation.*

*(Dr. Wells left the meeting)*

**6. CHIEF’S REPORT**

**6.1 Violence Reduction Strategy**

*Staff Sergeant Chris Boehnke, Strategic Business Planning Section, Edmonton Police Service provided a power point presentation on the “Violence Reduction Strategy.” He spoke on*

- *Goals*
- *Violent crime indicator trends – City wide (4 of 8 tracked)*
- *Violent crime indicator trends – Downtown Division, EPS*
- *Homicides*
- *Community Action Team (CAT) deployment initiative*
- *Project Delta Zero initiative*
- *Project D-Blitzes*
- *Firearms strategy*
- *100 Worst Drivers initiative – in consultation with Office of Traffic Safety (OTS)*

*Chair Yakeley thanked Staff Sergeant Boehnke for the presentation.*

**6.2 Edmonton Police Service (EPS) 2011 Citizen Survey**

*Mr. Brian Roberts, Executive Director, Office of Strategy Management, Edmonton Police Service, Mr. Andrew Bent, Strategic Analyst, Integrated Risk Management Branch, Edmonton Police Service and Staff Sergeant Boehnke presented on the EPS 2011 Citizen Survey.*

*Mr. Roberts recognized Rhonda Baxter for her foundation work on the survey before she passed away. Mr. Bent completed Ms. Baxter’s work on the survey.*

*Mr. Bent provided a high level overview of the survey and spoke on the*

- *Background*
- *Satisfaction with the EPS contact*
- *Victimization/Perceptions of Safety*
- *Overall view of the EPS*
- *Public awareness of the Edmonton Police Commission*
- *Summary*

*Mr. Bent and Mr. Roberts responded to questions.*

*Chair Yakeley thanked Mr. Bent for the presentation.*

**6.3 2012 Annual Policing Plan – Q1 Report**

*Staff Sergeant Boehnke provided a power point presentation on the “2012 EPS Annual Policing Plan Q1 Results,” stating that it a dashboard on how the Service gauges and presents its results regarding its plan for the year.*

*Mr. Roberts and Deputy Chief Danielle Campbell responded to questions.*

*Commissioner Gary McCuaig referred to “civil forfeitures” with respect to gang/drug enforcement and asked if this relates to property seized. Deputy Chief Campbell will provide this information to Commissioner McCuaig.*

EPS

*Chair Yakeley thanked Staff Sergeant Boehnke for the presentation.*

**6.4 Key Issues**

*There was no report.*

**(BREAK 7:25 P.M. – 7:40 P.M.)**

**7. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC**

**7.1** *Ms. Muriel Stanley-Venne introduced Ms. Kathleen Sawdo who was hired by the Service to work in the Victim Services Unit. Ms. Sawdo told her story on how she felt discriminated against at work and shared her reasons for feeling this way. She did not feel she received support from other areas of the Service when she came forward with this matter. She spoke on occasions of discriminatory action taken by the Service in response to other aboriginals.*

*Chair Yakeley thanked Ms. Stanley-Venne and Ms. Sawdo for coming forward and asked them to share their information with Mr. Bryan Sarabin, the Commission’s Legal Counsel/Public Complaint Director.*

**7.2** *Mr. El-Sayad Sobieh spoke about an alleged assault incident that occurred in August, 2011 involving police officers, for which he was charged with several offences. He feels there needs to be changes made to the Service in the way officers deal with members of the public.*

**7.3** *Mr. Les Upperville, a resident of Edmonton since 1988, shared his sympathy with the events involving Ms. Sawdo, and suggested that the Service needs to start showing respect for Aboriginal people.*

*Chair Yakeley thanked Mr. Upperville for his comments.*

**ACTION BY**

- 7.4 *Ms. Diane Newman raised concerns with the recent taser incident and passing of the individual in the Service's holding cells. She suggested there needs to be a review of the holding cell area and the Service's treatment of individuals with mental health issues as well as those who require medical assistance. She suggested some of these individuals should be held in calming areas and provided with nutritional snacks.*

*Chair Yakeley thanked Ms. Newman for her comments.*

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**8.1 AAPG Resolutions**

*Mr. Joe Rodgers advised that the resolution brought forward at the recent Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) conference and annual general meeting, with respect to ASIRT investigating those allegations against a police officer classified by the Chief as criminal, was approved and will go forward to the Government of Alberta.*

- 8.2 *Mr. Rodgers advised that he and Ms. Karen Carlson, along with their counterparts in the Calgary Police Commission, met with the Solicitor General and Public Security Department to discuss the changes submitted by the Edmonton and Calgary Police Commissions to the provincial policing oversight standards. Significant changes were made to the document which will be provided to the Commission when available.*

**8.3 Strategic Planning Retreat**

*Mr. Rodgers advised that the Strategic Planning Retreat will be held June 21, 2012. The agenda is being established.*

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9.1 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

*Commissioner Cathy Palmer advised that the reports coming forward from the last Governance Committee meeting to the Commission's public meeting were already dealt with.*

**9.2 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

*There was no report.*

**9.3 INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**9.3.1 Professional Standards Branch Report – April, 2012**

*Vice-Chair Sandhu advised that of the extension requests brought forward to the Commission for approval at its May 17, 2012 closed meeting*

- 4 were no longer required
- 1 was withdrawn by the Service
- The remaining time extensions requested by Professional Standards Branch in its April, 2012 monthly report, were granted by the Commission in accordance with the recommendations contained in Attachment 1 to these minutes.

*Vice-Chair Sandhu further advised that the Internal Affairs Committee at its last meeting discussed the current definitions of frivolous, vexatious and bad faith complaints. The Committee agreed that the definitions would remain unchanged.*

**10. EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

*There were no exemptions from the consent agenda.*

**11. RESPONSE TO EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES**

**11.1 Investigative use of Social Media**

*Chair Yakeley tendered the report for information.*

**12. EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES**

*There were no inquiries.*

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

*There was no other business.*

**14. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/CONCERNS/COMMENDATIONS**

*There were no Commissioner comments/concerns/commendations.*

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Yakeley adjourned the meeting.*

*The Public Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.*

*CERTIFIED as being a record of the matters dealt with at the May 17, 2012 Public Meeting.*

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*Arlene Yakeley, Chair  
Edmonton Police Commission*

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*Ms. Chris Skaggs  
Secretary to the Commission*