

**EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015  
Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall  
Edmonton, Alberta  
6:00 P.M. – 7:35 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

*Chair S. Sandhu  
Vice-Chair G. McCuaig  
Commissioner C. Palmer  
Commissioner D. Hudson  
Commissioner K. Tamaklo  
Commissioner J. Lilley  
Commissioner K. MacKenzie  
Councillor S. McKeen*

*Mr. J. Rodgers  
Ms. B. Bokenfohr  
Ms. H. Gulyas  
Ms. C. Skaggs*

**GUESTS**

*A/Chief B. Simpson, Edmonton Police Service  
Deputy Chief T. Harder, Edmonton Police Service  
Ms. J. Buksa, Edmonton Police Service  
Inspector A. Murphy, Edmonton Police Service  
A/Superintendent G. Hogg, Edmonton Police Service  
Sergeant J. Pennie, Edmonton Police Service  
Constable R. Lawley, Edmonton Police Service  
Constable C. Frattin, Edmonton Police Service  
Constable S. Boy, Edmonton Police Service  
Inspector D. Jones, Edmonton Police Service  
Mr. B. Blackburn, Alberta Health Services  
Mr. J. Brown, Alberta Health Services  
Ms. J. Brown, Alberta Health Services  
Ms. T. Wright, Alberta Health Services  
Councillor M. Oshry, Office of the Councillors*

*Members of the Public (44)  
Members of the Media (5)*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Shami Sandhu called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.*

*Chair Sandhu called for one minute silence in memory of RCMP Constable David Wynn.*

**1.1 Announcement of 2015 EPC Chair and Vice-Chair**

*Chair Sandhu advised that he was re-elected as Chair and Commissioner Gary McCuaig was re-elected as Vice-Chair of the Commission for the calendar year of 2015.*

**1.2 Introduction of New Edmonton Police Commission Member**

*Chair Sandhu introduced the Commission's new member Karen MacKenzie.*

*He also introduced Councillor Michael Oshry who was invited to attend the meeting as a visitor.*

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** *Commissioner Palmer – Commissioner Tamaklo*

*That the Agenda for the Commission's January 22, 2015 Public Meeting be approved.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 20, 2014**

**MOVED** *Commissioner Hudson – Vice-Chair McCuaig*

*That the Minutes for the Commission's November 20, 2014 regular Public Meeting be approved.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Items #4.5 and #4.6.4 were exempted.*

**MOVED** *Commissioner Lilley – Commissioner Tamaklo*

*That Consent Agenda items #4.1, #4.2, #4.3, #4.4, #4.6.1, #4.6.2, #4.6.3, #4.6.5 and #4.6.6 be accepted for information.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. PRESENTATION**

**5.1 Inner City PACT**

*Deputy Chief Tony Harder introduced A/Superintendent Graham Hogg, Sergeant Jim Pennie, Constable Ryan Lawley, Constable Celia Frattin, Constable Sylvie Boy, and Mr. Blayne Blackburn, Mr. Jason Brown, Ms. Jennifer Brown and Ms. Tammy Wright, Alberta Health Services.*

*Constable Lawley spoke about the Inner City Police and Crisis Team, what it is, its purpose, strategies, external partners, value, challenges and future.*

*Sergeant Pennie provided two case studies.*

*Constable Lawley, Constable Frattin and Mr. Blackburn responded to questions.*

*Commission members thanked Constable Lawley and Sergeant Pennie for the presentation.*

**6. CHIEF'S REPORT**

**6.1 Violence Reduction Strategy Update**

*Deputy Chief Harder provided an update on*

- *CAT Strategy*
- *Project Warrant Execution*
- *HuOS Project*
- *Navigation Coordinator Program*
- *Statistics on criminal activity in the downtown area*

*He responded to questions.*

**6.2 Key Issues**

*A/Chief Brian Simpson highlighted the following events impacting the Service:*

- *Domestic violence (multiple homicide)*
- *Training front line officers on radicalization and extremism. Other officers and non-sworn personnel will receive on-line training*
- *Creation of 6<sup>th</sup> Division – with the move of 120 personnel and support staff to the new location in Northwest Division.*
- *Consideration of another Division in response to the City's talk of annexation*
- *Creation of a facility for officers to attend to complete their paperwork and use for some training needs at the old information centre at Gateway Boulevard*

**7. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC**

**7.1** *Taz Bouchier, a Community Elder, acknowledged the loss of RCMP Constable David Wynn. She also acknowledged that Edmonton is sitting on Treaty 6 territory. She advised that 80% of the Service's clients are Aboriginal and suggested this information should be included in Edmonton Police Service presentations.*

*She suggested that trauma training should be given to police officers and staff. She advised that she worked at the Remand Centre and was familiar with the barriers when working with uniformed officers. She added that she has worked well with the Service in the past.*

*She spoke about her concern with the recent promotion of Sergeant Mike Wasylyshen. She referred to his presence at the healing circle and expressed her concern that it was more of a healing circle for him. She recommended*

- that the Service work harder at promoting its relationship with the Aboriginal community and that it fire Sergeant Wasylyshn to demonstrate this.*
- 7.2 *Brian Charlebois suggested that the nature of the position Sergeant Wasylyshen is in is inappropriate. It gives him the opportunity to demonstrate authority which he has shown, in the past, is a problem for him. He added that, based on the information the public is receiving, the optics of this promotion does not look good, and suggested the Service choose another candidate.*
- 7.3 *Christina Harde, a local Girl Guide leader for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students, advised that her students look at police officers as safe people in the community. In her opinion, she did not feel the promotion of Sergeant Wasylyshen was a safe move. She suggested it be reassessed.*
- 7.4 *Adam Steinsen suggested that with all the positive work the Service is doing with the Aboriginal community, the promotion of Sergeant Wasylyshen does not look good for the Service. This promotion makes it difficult for the average person to respect the force.*
- 7.5 *Lori Harsh advised that she is a vocal supporter of the Edmonton Police Service, but does not support an officer, who has contributed to violent actions in the past, mentoring other officers. It is not a safe feeling for members of the community.*
- 7.6 *Nicholas Hermansen referred to Bill C36, the newly passed legislation, and expressed his concern that the Service has trouble enforcing it. The City of Edmonton needs to be leaders in enforcing the Bill to provide safety to prostitutes in the body rub industry.*
- 7.7 *David Laing advised that being an organizer himself he has had a good relationship with the Service. He expressed his concern with the promotion of Sergeant Wasylyshen, suggesting that, considering Sergeant Wasylyshen's past actions, promoting him raises a red flag.*
- 7.8 *Kerri Thomison advised that everyone makes mistakes and moves forward - "We can't hash out the past."*
- 7.9 *Diane Newman spoke on privacy and the Service's policy. She does not have a feeling of safety and security. She expressed her concern with wiretaps.*
- 7.10 *Blake Hamer referred to the Inner City PACT presentation and commended the initiatives being put in place. He appreciates officers using their authority for the good of the community, which he suggested is conflicted with the promotion of Sergeant Waylyshen. Someone with his past should not be put in a position of authority.*
- 7.11 *Donald Langford, Executive Director Metis Child and Family Services and Cultural Advisor for Amiskwaciy Academy, Edmonton, advised that children are taught kindness, love, consideration and forgiveness. He does not see*

*hate and vengeance. Everyone deserves a second chance. Many have had second and third chances. He runs a social agency where individuals ask for a second chance. Although he does not approve of Sergeant Wasylyshen's past actions, he felt Sergeant Wasylyshen deserves a second chance.*

- 7.12** *Terry Noel advised that many individuals wanted to attend today's meeting but were afraid to come and speak out. Community members need to be given the same opportunity as Sergeant Wasylyshen. The Service has to be serious about who is getting promoted positions. Promoting Sergeant Wasylyshen does not deliver trust. There will be a rally at Churchill Square, February 7, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. for members of the community to make their voices heard.*

**8. CHAIR REPORT**

**8.1 Appointment of Commission Members to Standing Committees**

*Mr. Joe Rodgers presented the following slate of Committee members for 2015.*

Governance Committee

*Commissioner Keli Tamaklo  
Commissioner Cathy Palmer  
Vice-Chair Gary McCuaig  
Councillor Scott McKeen*

Finance and Audit Committee

*Commissioner Derek Hudson  
Commissioner John Lilley  
Commissioner Karen MacKenzie*

Professional Standards Committee

*Vice-Chair Gary McCuaig  
Commissioner John Lilley  
Commissioner Cathy Palmer*

*The Commission Chair is ex-officio member on all Committees.*

**MOVED** *Commissioner Hudson – Commissioner MacKenzie  
That the Commission approve the slate of Standing Committee  
members as presented for 2015.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9.1 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

*There was no report.*

**9.2 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

*There was no report.*

**ACTION BY**

**9.3 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**9.3.1 Professional Standards Branch Monthly Report – December, 2014**

Vice-Chair Gary McCuaig advised that of the extension requests brought forward to the Commission for approval at its January 22, 2015 closed meeting

- Extensions were not required on ten files
- Extension times were amended on twelve files
- Extension was denied on one file
- The changed time extensions and the remaining time extensions requested by Professional Standards Branch in its December, 2014 report, prepared for the Commission's January 22, 2014 Closed Meeting, were granted by the Commission in accordance with the recommendations made by the Professional Standards Committee, as set out in the attached table "January 2015 PSB Extension Requests and PSC Recommendations"

**10. EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.5 Letter from Dr. Bland re GDM4**

Councillor Scott McKeen advised that he knows Dr. Bland and commended him for his letter.

**4.6.4 #2014-057**

Commissioner John Lilley referred to paragraph 49 of the decision stating that it offers positive feedback to the Service.

**11. EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES**

Commissioner Lilley requested a CAT Deployment scheduled for 2015. The Service will provide this information through Mr. Joe Rodgers.

EPS/Joe  
Rodgers

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

**12.1 Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Update – Commissioner Cathy Palmer**

Commissioner Cathy Palmer advised that a number of initiatives are underway resulting from the Economics of Policing Meeting she attended held before Christmas. She will share the information with Commission members by email.

Commissioner  
Palmer

She recently attended an Economics of Policing Workshop and will forward an article to Mr. Rodgers to share with Commission members.

Commissioner  
Palmer/Joe  
Rodgers

She and Mr. Rodgers will be attending the second Summit on Economics of Policing and Community Safety being held in Ottawa, in early March, 2015. Mr. Rodgers advised that the Commission may receive a third invitation which he will send to members.

Joe Rodgers

**ACTION BY**

*She will be attending Lobby Days in Ottawa at the end of April. She will share the information with Commission members.*

*Commissioner  
Palmer*

**12.2 Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) Update – Commissioner Derek Hudson**

*Commissioner Derek Hudson advised that AAPG Board will be meeting in Red Deer, January 24, 2015.*

**13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/CONCERNS/COMMENDATIONS**

**13.1** *Commissioner MacKenzie thanked Commission members, staff and Edmonton Police Service members for the welcoming meeting.*

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.*

*CERTIFIED as being a record of the matters dealt with at the January 22, 2015 Public Meeting.*

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*Shami Sandhu, Chair  
Edmonton Police Commission*

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*Ms. Chris Skaggs  
Secretary to the Commission*