



*Guardian of Public Trust*

**EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING  
VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 21, 2021  
Edmonton Police Commission Office  
Scotia Place, Tower 2  
Suite #1803, 10060 – Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
12:05 P.M. to 2:40 P.M.**

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**PRESENT**

**(In Office Via Zoom)**

Chair Micki Ruth

Commissioner Janet-Sue Hamilton

**(Via Zoom)**

Vice-Chair John McDougall

Commissioner Laurie Hawn

Commissioner Aneela Hussainaly

Commissioner Ashvin Singh

Commissioner Erick Ambtman

Commissioner Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse

Commissioner Kemi Kufuor-Boakye

Councillor Sarah Hamilton, Commissioner

Councillor Tim Cartmell, Commissioner

**EPC STAFF**

**(In Office Via Zoom)**

Matt Barker, Executive Director

Chris Skaggs, Secretary to the Commission

**(Via Zoom)**

Bonnie Riddell, Strategic Policy & Research Analyst

Deana MacFadyen, Public Complaint Director/Legal Counsel

**GUESTS (Via Zoom)**

Chief Dale McFee, Edmonton Police Service (EPS)

Deputy Chief Kevin Brezinski, EPS

Deputy Chief Al Murphy, EPS

Deputy Chief Darren Derko, EPS

Chief Innovation & Technology Officer Ron Anderson, Innovation & Technology Bureau, EPS

Chief of Staff Brian Sinclair, Office of the Chief, EPS

Superintendent Warren Driechel, Information Technology, EPS  
 Superintendent Nicole Chapdelaine, Integrated Community Safety, EPS  
 Inspector Mitch Flaman, Equity & Inclusion Branch, EPS  
 Staff Sergeant Michelle Greening, Office of the Chief, EPS  
 Executive Director Enyinnah Okere, Value & Impact Division, EPS  
 Executive Director Rob Davidson, Finance Division, EPS  
 Executive Director Justin Krikler, Legal & Regulatory Services Division, EPS  
 Executive Director Darren Eastcott, Human Resources Division, EPS  
 Director Louise Fitzpatrick, Risk Management, EPS  
 Director Brian Rector, Community Solutions Lab, EPS  
 Director Michael James, Corporate Communications, EPS  
 Methods Analyst Matthew Cheung, Equity, Inclusion & Human Rights Branch, EPS  
 Administrative Assistant Heather Jacobsen, Office of the Chief, EPS

**(Via Zoom)**

Members of the Public (3)  
 Members of the Media (4)

	Agenda Item	Action By
1.	<p><b><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b></p> <p>Executive Director Barker called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M.</p>	
1.1	<p><b><u>2021 Edmonton Police Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Election</u></b></p> <p>Executive Director Barker assumed the position of elections officer and Chaired the election of the Commission Chair.</p> <p><u>EPC Chair Position</u></p> <p>Executive Director Barker advised that Commissioner Micki Ruth has let her name stand for the position of Chair. There being no further expressions of interest for the position Commissioner Ruth was acclaimed as Chair of the Commission for the calendar year 2021. Chair Ruth assumed the Chair.</p> <p><u>EPC Vice-Chair Position</u></p> <p>Chair Ruth advised that Commissioner John McDougall has let his name stand for the position of Vice-Chair. There being no further expressions of interest for the position Commissioner McDougall was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Commission for the calendar year 2021.</p>	

	Agenda Item	Action By
2.	<b><u>PROTOCOL ITEMS</u></b>	
	<p><b>2.1 <u>Acknowledgement of Treaty Six Territory</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth opened the meeting with the following acknowledgement:</p> <p><i>“The Edmonton Police Commission acknowledges the traditional land on which we are gathered today, is on Treaty 6 Territory. I would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries such as: Nehiyaw (Cree), Dene, Anishnaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Sioux and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis homeland and the home of one of the largest concentrations of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.”</i></p>	
	<p><b>2.2 <u>Introduction of New Commission Members</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth introduced Commissioner Calahoo-Stonehouse and Commissioner Kufuor-Boakye and, on behalf of the Commission, welcomed them as new members of the Commission.</p>	
	<p><b>2.3 <u>Retirement of Deputy Chief Veitch</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth acknowledged Deputy Chief David Veitch's retirement and, on behalf of the Commission, extended thanks and appreciation for his many years of service and wished him well.</p>	
	<p><b>2.4 <u>30 Years of Service for Chris Skaggs</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth acknowledged and congratulated Ms. Chris Skaggs on her 30 years of service with the Edmonton Police Commission and, on behalf of the Commission, thanked her for her dedicated work all these years.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u></b></p> <p><u>Change:</u> Item #14 was moved to follow Item #11.</p>	

	Agenda Item	Action By
	Members unanimously approved the agenda as amended.	
4.	<p><b><u>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION</u></b></p> <p>In response to Chair Ruth there were no conflict of interest declarations.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>CONSENT AGENDA</u></b></p> <p>Members unanimously adopted Consent Agenda items</p> <p>5.1 Edmonton Police Commission Public Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020</p> <p>5.2 Edmonton Police Commission Budget Variance for the Period Ending November 30, 2020</p> <p>5.3 Edmonton Police Service Budget Variance for the Period Ending November 30, 2020</p> <p>5.4 Professional Standards Branch 2020 Q4 Report</p> <p>5.5 Calendar of Upcoming Events – January-March 2021</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>PRESENTATION</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>6.1 <u>New Bias Awareness Training for Edmonton Police Service Members</u></b></p> <p>Methods Analyst Cheung provided a presentation on “Fair and Impartial Policing: Managing Unconscious Bias Training Strategy”. He introduced the “Managing Unconscious Bias” eLearning module, outlined the learning objectives and spoke to what participants will be able to do when completing the module. He advised that the Service reached out to key community members and internal membership when developing the module.</p> <p>He spoke to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roundup: Bias Explained</li> <li>• The training rationale for the Service and why it matters</li> <li>• The Edmonton Police Service’s approach</li> </ul> <p>Inspector Flaman advised that this type of training started before the events of the past year. He spoke to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next steps: education and initiatives</li> </ul>	

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action By</b>
	<p>Chief McFee, Inspector Flaman, Executive Director Okere and Methods Analyst Cheung provided their comments and responded to questions.</p>	
<p><b>6.2</b></p>	<p><b><u>Edmonton Police Service Radio Communications Access and Security</u></b></p> <p>Chief Innovation &amp; Technology Officer (CITO) Anderson provided a presentation on “EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communication System) to AFRRCS (Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System) Switchover”.</p> <p>He provided a brief history on AFRRCS and the reason it was initiated in 2014 at the provincial level. He spoke to the present state of the radio communications network which started to transition in 2017 and is now complete. He spoke to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDACS (which is not an encrypted system) – what it is and who used it</li> <li>• AFRRCS (an encrypted system) – what it is and its benefits</li> <li>• Reasons for encrypted channels</li> </ul> <p>Director James spoke about the matter of media access to radio communications which was available with the EDACS system but is no longer available with the new AFRRCS system. CITO Anderson advised that currently media inquiries are managed through the Service’s Media Relations staff. Chief McFee added that the Service is working on a solution for better access for the media and will come back to the Commission when that is determined.</p> <p>Chief McFee and CITO Andersons responded to questions.</p>	<p>EPS</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b><u>INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC</u></b></p> <p>The following members of the public addressed the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dwayne Goodstriker           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spoke on systemic racism</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Philip Coutues           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spoke about Rossdale Flats being made inaccessible to aboriginals and the need for it to be made accessible</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action By</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dave Breakenridge – Managing Editor, Edmonton Journal/Sun/Examiner               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spoke to the concerns with media not having access to radio communications with the new AFRRCS system and explained the media’s need to have this access</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<b><u>CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT</u></b>	
	<p><b>8.1 <u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Chief McFee congratulated Ms. Skaggs on her 30 years’ service with the Edmonton Police Commission and extended an appreciation and thank you for the work she does.</p> <p>Chief McFee spoke to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A firearms investigation that started December 20, 2020 and ended January 12, 2021 in downtown Edmonton, which yielded a significant amount of cash, firearms, ammunition and drugs</li> <li>• After 3+ years of work the Edmonton Police Service Information and Technology Unit has rolled out e-ticketing for police officers which replaces the manual processes</li> <li>• Community Safety &amp; Well Being Bureau identified one of Edmonton’s highest youth offenders for its diversion program. The outcome has been positive</li> <li>• An individual was apprehended by the Service and released to their mother who was connected with mental health services and care providers</li> <li>• There were 298 dispatch events and 184 occurrence files relative to the Convention Centre</li> <li>• A number of moves within the Edmonton Police Service have taken place</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>8.2 <u>Residential Review and Compliance Unit Update</u></b></p> <p>Superintendent Chapdelaine presented the report, adding that the Service is recommending ceasing its semi-annual reporting to the Commission. She explained that it is redundant with the report going annually to Council from the Problem Properties Working Group under David Aitken’s Branch (Community Standards and Neighbourhoods, City of Edmonton).</p>	

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action By</b>
	<p><b>MOVED</b> Commissioner Ambtman – Commissioner Hawn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Edmonton Police Commission approve the Edmonton Police Service’s recommendation to no longer provide a semi-annual “Residential Review and Compliance Unit” report to the Commission”; and</li> <li>2. That the Edmonton Police Service replace the report to the Commission with the Problem Properties Working Group’s report that goes forward to City Council annually.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Members agreed that the Problem Properties Working Group’s report to Council can be included on the Commission’s Consent Agenda for information when it comes forward from the Service.</p>	EPS
9.	<p><b><u>CHAIR REPORT</u></b></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
10.	<p><b><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT</u></b></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>11.1 <u>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
	<p><b>11.2 <u>FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>11.2.1 <u>Introduction of New Director Audit and Risk</u></b></p> <p>Commissioner Singh introduced Director Fitzpatrick and provided a brief history of her background, adding that she will be developing an Audit Plan for the Edmonton Police Service.</p>	
	<p><b>11.3 <u>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>11.3.1 <u>Summary of Compliments</u></b></p>	

	Agenda Item	Action By
	<p>Commissioner J-S Hamilton shared seven compliments received by the Edmonton Police Service.</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p>The following item was brought forward:</p> <p><b><u>EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth asked if the Service is reviewing its Social Media Policy to ensure a balance between freedom of speech with what it could mean in relation to the impact on the police service in the public domain”. Chief McFee advised that it is in the process as the result of an incident that occurred in the Service’s media relations area.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p><b><u>MEDIA INQUIRIES</u></b></p> <p>Members of the media were in attendance as participants or observers.</p> <p>The following members of the media brought forward inquiries for which Chief McFee, CITO Anderson and Director James responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rob McAnaly – Managing Editor, CTV           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spoke to the access for media to encrypted radio communication in other jurisdictions and the need to find common ground with the Edmonton Police Service regarding access to information with the new system</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Anna Junker, Edmonton Journal           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asked about Bias Training – when it started and if it will be ongoing</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Andrew Jeffrey, CBC           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asked if thought was given to introduce a way for media to receive the transmission of radio information</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Nicole Weisberg – CTV           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asked if changes in technology or legislation brought the current change to encrypted radio technology, and if there are timelines for the Edmonton Police Service to work with the media on this</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



	Agenda Item	Action By
13.	<p><b><u>EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA</u></b></p> <p>There were no exemptions from the Consent Agenda.</p>	
14.	<p><b><u>EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES</u></b></p> <p>This item was brought forward following Item #11.</p>	
15.	<p><b><u>OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>15.1 <u>Appointment of Commission Members to 2021 Standing Committees</u></b></p> <p>Executive Director Barker spoke to his report and how the proposed slate of Standing Committee members was prepared. There were no changes to the slate he presented.</p> <p><b>MOVED</b> Vice-Chair McDougall – Commissioner Hawn      That the Commission approve the proposed slate of Standing Committee members for 2021 as confirmed.  <b>CARRIED</b></p>	
	<p><b>15.2 <u>Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Update - Commissioner Ruth</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth advised that the CAPG held its first meeting of the year with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.</p> <p>She further advised Commission members that the Police Sector Network is hosting a free short conference on “Future Policing” if there is an interest.</p>	
	<p><b>15.3 <u>Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) Update - Commissioner McDougall</u></b></p> <p>Vice-Chair McDougall advised that the AAPG is meeting next week. He added that the 2021 AAPG “in person” Conference is cancelled. The AAPG is looking at shortening the Conference so it can be held virtually.</p>	
	<p><b>15.4 <u>REACH Update – Commissioner Hawn</u></b></p> <p>Commissioner Hawn reported on the Operational Highlights for January 2021 for the REACH organization.</p>	

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action By</b>
16.	<b><u>COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/CONCERNS/COMMENDATIONS</u></b> There were no comments/concerns/commendations.	
17.	<b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b> The meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.	

CERTIFIED as being a record of the matters dealt with at the Commission's January 21, 2021 Public Meeting.

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Micki Ruth  
Chair, Edmonton Police Commission

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Chris Skaggs  
Secretary to the Commission