



Guardian of Public Trust

**EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
(VIA ZOOM)**

MINUTES

**Thursday, February 18, 2021
Edmonton Police Commission Office
Scotia Place, Tower 2
Suite #1803, 10060 – Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
12:00 P.M. to 2:22 P.M.**

PRESENT

(In Office Via Zoom)

Chair Micki Ruth

(Via Zoom)

Vice-Chair John McDougall
Commissioner Janet-Sue Hamilton
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

(Via Zoom)

Bonnie Riddell, Strategic Policy & Research Analyst
Deana MacFadyen, Public Complaint Director/Legal Counsel
Chris Skaggs, Secretary to the Commission

GUESTS (Via Zoom)

Edmonton Police Service

Chief Dale McFee
Deputy Chief Kevin Brezinski
Deputy Chief Al Murphy
Deputy Chief Darren Derko
Chief Innovation & Technology Officer Ron Anderson, Innovation & Technology Bureau

A/Chief Administrative Officer Enyinnah Okere, Office of the Chief
 Chief of Staff Brian Sinclair, Office of the Chief
 Superintendent Nicole Chapdelaine, Integrated Community Safety Division
 Staff Sergeant Michelle Greening, Office of the Chief
 Executive Director Rob Davidson, Finance Division
 Executive Director Justin Krikler, Legal & Regulatory Services Division
 Executive Director Darren Eastcott, Human Resources Division
 A/Executive Director Lori Lorenz, Value & Impact Division
 Director Louise Fitzpatrick, Risk Management
 Director Michael James, Corporate Communications
 A/Director Mariam Masud, Strategy & Performance Branch
 A/Program Manager Rebecca Marsh, Strategic Design
 Manager Michelle Fillion, Youth Services Section
 Administrative Assistant Heather Jacobsen, Office of the Chief

External

Sue Hughson, Executive Director, ASIRT
 Program Manager Michael Peters, Child & Youth Services, YMCA
 President Mike Elliott, Edmonton Police Association

(Via Zoom)

Members of the Public (1)
 Members of the Media (2)

	Agenda Item	Action By
1.	<p><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></p> <p>Chair Ruth called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.</p>	
2.	<p><u>PROTOCOL ITEMS</u></p>	
	<p>2.1 <u>Acknowledgement of Treaty Six Territory</u></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</i></p>	

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	<i>all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.”</i>	
3.	<p><u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u></p> <p>Members unanimously approved the agenda as presented.</p>	
4.	<p><u>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION</u></p> <p>In response to Chair Ruth there were no conflict of interest declarations.</p>	
5.	<p><u>CONSENT AGENDA</u></p> <p>Members unanimously adopted Consent Agenda items</p> <p>5.1 Edmonton Police Commission Public Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2021</p> <p>5.2 Edmonton Police Commission Policy #5.6.4 – Commission Association Memberships</p> <p>5.3 Edmonton Police Commission Social Media Policy (New)</p> <p>5.4 Edmonton Police Commission Budget Variance for the Period Ending December 31, 2020</p> <p>5.5 Edmonton Police Service Budget Variance for the Period Ending December 31, 2020</p> <p>5.6 2020 Q4 Report to the Community</p> <p>5.7 Professional Standards Branch Extension Requests – January 2021</p>	
6.	<p><u>PRESENTATION</u></p>	
	<p>6.1 <u>Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) – Sue Hughson</u></p> <p>Chair Ruth welcomed Ms. Hughson, Executive Director, ASIRT and advised that the purpose of the presentation is to see how ASIRT works.</p> <p>Executive Director Hughson advised that her presentation will cover the ASIRT basics – how files come to ASIRT, how they are processed and the current challenges ASIRT faces.</p> <p>She spoke to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who ASIRT is • The ASIRT Team 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Security Division – ASIRT’s organizational chart • ASIRT’s broad mandate • S. 46.1 <i>Police Act</i> • Notifications • Criteria/Categories • Completed Investigations • Reasonable Grounds • Police Act Review • Challenges being face by ASIRT with COVID pandemic/inadequate resources <p>Executive Director Hughson responded to questions which included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight bodies in other Provinces equivalent to ASIRT • Resources required for ASIRT to adequately handle the significant workload • Changes to the <i>Police Act</i> relative to ASIRT • Mental health support available <p>Executive Director Hughson thanked the Commission for the opportunity to address them and welcomed members to contact her if they have any further questions.</p> <p>On behalf of the Commission, Chair Ruth thanked Executive Director Hughson for her presentation.</p>	
	<p>6.2 <u>Young People Strategy - Edmonton Police Service</u></p> <p>A/Executive Director Lorenz introduced A/Chief Administrative Officer Okere, Superintendent Chapdelaine, A/Program Manager Marsh, A/Director Masud, Manager Fillion, and Program Manager Peters.</p> <p>She spoke to the strategy and services approach.</p> <p>Program Manager Peters spoke to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the YMCA’s reuniting of programs with the Edmonton Police Service • a case where a high-risk youth was referred to the Youth Diversion System and the positive outcome • what the Youth Diversion System does and how it provides support <p>A/Program Manager Marsh spoke to</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the young people strategy was developed • Engagement of young people in the strategy (Young People’s Voice) <p>Manager Fillion spoke to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key shifts • Intended impact • Areas of focus and who will be focused on • Next steps <p>Members provided their comments and A/Chief Administrative Officer Okere, A/Program Manager Marsh and Manager Fillion responded to questions.</p> <p>Chief McFee highlighted the amount of work that went into this strategy adding that the plan was designed by the Service and its partners with collective outcomes. He thanked everyone involved.</p> <p>On behalf of the Commission, Chair Ruth thanked the presenters.</p>	
7.	<p><u>INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC</u></p> <p>The following member of the public addressed the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brian Short, Open Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spoke on the Service’s past and future use of facial recognition, suggesting new policies be implemented 	
8.	<p><u>CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT</u></p>	
	<p>8.1 <u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Chief McFee spoke to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work of HELP Team with an individual who had 16 interactions with the Edmonton Police Service • Work of HELP Team with a client witness to a homicide • HELP Team assistance with adequate housing for a prolific offender • Work of the Investigative Support Team which resulted in multiple charges related to drugs and firearms 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covert surveillance that resulted in individuals being charged for stolen vehicles • Work of ALERT that resulted in 3 individuals from Quebec being charged with trafficking an individual and other serious offences <p>Councillor Hamilton asked about the status of the matter of media access to Edmonton Police Service radio communications. Director James advised that this is still being worked on. The Service is continuing to work with the media and is also addressing their concerns regularly. Media highlights are being sent out and the media has access to Watch Commanders.</p>	
9.	<p><u>CHAIR REPORT</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
10.	<p><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
11.	<p><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></p>	
	<p>11.1 <u>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
	<p>11.2 <u>FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
	<p>11.3 <u>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></p>	
	<p>11.3.1 <u>Summary of Compliments</u></p> <p>Commissioner J-S Hamilton shared two compliments received by the Edmonton Police Service.</p>	
12.	<p><u>MEDIA INQUIRIES</u></p> <p>Members of the media were in attendance as participants.</p>	

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	<p>The following members of the media brought forward inquiries for which Chief McFee responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jenny Russell, CBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asked about the conversations being held with the Federal Government with respect to more funding for ASIRT ➤ Lauren Boothby, Post Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asked if further action, other than what the A/Chief spoke about to the media, has taken place regarding the recent extreme weather LRT incident ○ If there are there any protocols for cleaning up homeless camp sites ○ If property and violent crime have decreased 	
13.	<p><u>EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA</u></p> <p>There were no exemptions from the Consent Agenda.</p>	
14.	<p><u>EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES</u></p>	
	<p>Commissioner Singh referred to the “extreme weather LRT incident” and asked what training is given to officers to exercise discretion (which should include empathy) and what are its contents.</p> <p>Chief McFee shared what a member of the Service wrote to him. The Service is well on their way to addressing the matter. He commented that it has to be looked at through a system perspective, adding that it is not training, it is common sense. The Service’s role is to ensure there are options that can be provided.</p>	
	<p>Commissioner J-S Hamilton asked about the dialogue around a provincial police force that has been in the media recently.</p> <p>Chief McFee advised that this has been around for some time. The Government is discussing this initiative, which is a cost-effective exercise, is about the system (not the people) and is what the community wants. He commented that there should be regional services in place before this happens. There will be more discussion following the consultant’s recommendations.</p>	
	<p>Chair Ruth referred to the “extreme weather LRT incident” and commented that she would like to see the officers’ attitude addressed at the same level as the lack of rides at the LRT station.</p>	

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	Chief McFee advised that the Service is committed to action to resolve this matter as soon as possible, bridge the gap with the community, look at how the system can be better, and ensure this type of thing does not happen again. He was unable to talk about what will and will not be done due to the public complaints that have come forward.	
15.	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
15.1	<u>Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Update - Commissioner Ruth</u> Chair Ruth advised that the CAPG is currently working to determine if its annual conference will be virtual or in person.	
15.2	<u>Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) Update - Commissioner McDougall</u> Vice-Chair McDougall advised that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is sitting on an interim police advisory board which is discussing the potential for a provincial police service. There are many meetings and a significant amount of information and data • The annual AAPG conference will be held virtually. Scheduling is being completed, following which it will be sent out 	
15.3	<u>REACH Update – Commissioner Hawn</u> Commissioner Hawn reported on the Operational Highlights for February 2021 for the REACH organization.	
16.	<u>COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/CONCERNS/COMMENDATIONS</u> There were no comments/concerns/commendations.	
17.	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> The meeting adjourned at 2:22 P.M.	

Micki Ruth
Chair, Edmonton Police Commission

Chris Skaggs
Secretary to the Commission