



*Guardian of Public Trust*

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 20, 2021  
Edmonton Police Commission Office  
Scotia Place, Tower 2  
Suite #1803, 10060 – Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
12:01 P.M. to 1:41 P.M.**

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**PRESENT**

**(In Office Via Zoom)**

Chair Micki Ruth

**(Via Zoom)**

Vice-Chair John McDougall  
Commissioner Laurie Hawn  
Commissioner Janet-Sue Hamilton  
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  
 Inspector Darrin Balanik, Youth Branch  
 Staff Sergeant Dave DeMarco, Training Section  
 Sergeant Dave Thomson, Driver Training Unit  
 Sergeant Kendall Booth, Diversionfirst Unit  
 Executive Director Rob Davidson, Business Development Division  
 Executive Director Justin Krikler, Legal & Regulatory Services Division  
 Director Michael James, Corporate Communications  
 Youth Program Coordinator Leeanne Harvey, Diversionfirst Unit  
 Administrative Assistant Heather Jacobsen, Office of the Chief

**External**

Michael Peters, Community & Housing, YMCA  
 Kerry Woodland, Boys & Girls Club Big Brothers Bigs Sisters (BGC Bigs)

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action By</b>
1.	<b><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b>  Chair Ruth called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.	
2.	<b><u>PROTOCOL ITEMS</u></b>	
2.1	<b><u>Acknowledgement of Treaty Six Territory</u></b>  Chair Ruth opened the meeting with the following acknowledgement:  <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>	
2.2	<b><u>Edmonton Police Commission Facebook Account</u></b>  Chair Ruth advised that today the Commission will be launching its own Facebook page in order to interact with	

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	<p>the citizens of Edmonton and allow greater access to and attendance at the Commission’s public meetings through live streaming. It is located under the Commission’s username: @YegPoliceCommission. It joins the Commission’s other social media platform ‘Twitter’.</p>	
<b>2.3</b>	<p><b><u>National Police Week</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth advised that May 9-15, 2021 was National Police Week. The theme this year was “Working Together to Keep Our Communities Safe”. On behalf of the Commission she thanked all those who serve with the Edmonton Police Service for their dedication and in keeping our communities safe especially through these challenging times.</p>	
<b>2.4</b>	<p><b><u>Recognition of International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia &amp; Biphobia</u></b></p> <p>Vice-Chair McDougall advised that May 17, 2021 was the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. This year’s theme “For some, showing their colours isn’t a choice” highlights that many LGBTQ2S+ people continue to suffer high rates of harassment, bullying and violent crimes. The date was chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization’s decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.</p> <p>He advised that the Commission stands with the LGBTQ2S+ community in condemning hate and discrimination and reaffirms the right of every individual to be treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. She added that the Edmonton Police Service will raise the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusive Pride flag on June 16, 2021.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u></b></p> <p>Members unanimously approved the agenda as presented.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION</u></b></p> <p>In response to Chair Ruth there were no conflict of interest declarations.</p>	

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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 – April 22, 2021</p> <p>5.2 Edmonton Police Commission Budget Variance for Period Ending March 31, 2021</p> <p>5.3 Edmonton Police Service Budget Variance for Period Ending March 31, 2021</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>PRESENTATION</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>6.1 <u>Diversion<sup>first</sup> - Edmonton Police Service</u></b></p> <p>Inspector Balanik advised that <i>Diversion<sup>first</sup></i> started as a pilot project in 2014 in West Division with Youth Program Coordinator LEEANNE HARVEY. Sergeant Booth stood it up in 2020.</p> <p>Sergeant Booth presented a video titled “This is Who We Are” showing what is done and how it is done.</p> <p>He spoke to the Young People Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Criteria</li> <li>• Program Intake</li> <li>• Recidivism 2020</li> <li>• Restorative Justice Approach</li> <li>• Evolution and Growth</li> <li>• <i>Diversion<sup>first</sup></i> Community Partners</li> </ul> <p>He also showed a video on “Young Criminals Given a Second Chance Through <i>Diversion<sup>first</sup></i> Program”.</p> <p>Sergeant Booth, Executive Director Okere, Program Coordinator Harvey and Inspector Balanik responded to questions.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC</u></b></p> <p>There was no input from the public.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>8.1 <u>Key Issues</u></b></p>	

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	<p>Chief McFee acknowledged and proudly supported the work of sworn and non-sworn members of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS).</p> <p>He spoke to the following and responded to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Service will be recognizing those citizens who responded to a house fire yesterday and rescued children from the home</li> <li>• Positive responses to a mental health incident and a sexual assault incident</li> <li>• Arrests made in two seizure of weapons and drugs incidents</li> <li>• Apprehension of a female walking with a knife</li> <li>• HELP Team                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ assisted an individual who was released from hospital without family notification</li> <li>➤ assisted a homeless individual to find support</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>8.2 <u>News Media Dashboard</u></b></p> <p>Chief Innovation &amp; Technology Officer (CITO) Anderson advised that the Service's News Media Dashboard was launched this week. He thanked the Service's IT for its assistance and further advised that a demo login was sent to Commission members to view. He will work with the media and internal members to monitor how it is working and any changes required.</p> <p>A demo was provided to the media last week. The outcome was positive. Three media outlets are now using this tool. He added that media outlets were given ten logins. He further added that this is one tool for reporting to the public. The Service's Media Unit will also assist in getting information out.</p>	
	<p><b>8.3 <u>2020 Criminal Flight Events Annual Report</u></b></p> <p>Staff Sergeant Demarco advised that his area captures criminal flight data through completed reports following an event. He spoke to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• criminal flight</li> <li>• criminal flight response</li> <li>• prevention/intervention technique</li> <li>• mitigation tactic</li> <li>• 2020 criminal flight events and responses</li> </ul>	

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action By</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• criminal flight events                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ by duration</li> <li>○ flight ops</li> <li>○ prevention tactics</li> <li>○ intervention tactics</li> <li>○ arrested subjects</li> <li>○ procedural compliance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• positive efforts of criminal flight event training and mitigation program</li> </ul> <p>He advised that the Service’s primary concern is public and officer safety.</p> <p>He responded to questions.</p>	
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><b>11.1.1 <u>Revisions to Appendix B – Edmonton Police Commission Meeting Procedures</u></b></p> <p>Strategic Policy &amp; Research Analyst Riddell spoke to the revisions to allow for electronic meetings, adding that this is now recognized by Roberts Rules. She highlighted the procedural rules.</p> <p>Members discussed the need and reasons for being visual at Zoom meetings.</p> <p><b>MOVED</b> Commissioner Ambtman – Commissioner Singh                  That the Commission approved the proposed revised amendments to Appendix B – Edmonton Police Commission Meeting Procedures.  <b>CARRIED</b></p>	

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	<p><b>11.2 <u>FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
	<p><b>11.3 <u>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>11.3.1 <u>Summary of Compliments</u></b></p> <p>Commissioner J-S Hamilton shared seven compliments received by the Edmonton Police Service.</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>MEDIA INQUIRIES</u></b></p> <p>The following member of the media brought forward an inquiry for which Staff Sergeant DeMarco and Chief McFee responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Natasha Riebe - CBC                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asked about the                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ increase in criminal flights and its impact</li> <li>▪ decrease in stolen vehicles</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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>In response to Councillor Cartmell's inquiry as to why officers moved a home security camera when responding to a recent incident, Executive Director Krikler advised that he understands it was moved for officer safety reasons. It is with Professional Standards Branch to determine.</p>	
15.	<p><b><u>OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p>	
	<p><b>15.1 <u>Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Update - Commissioner Ruth</u></b></p> <p>Chair Ruth advised that the recently held CAPG semi-annual governance conference was well received. Attendance at the CAPG webinars has been positive. CAPG will be holding more of them to educate Commissions across Canada.</p>	

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15.2	<p><b><u>Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) Update - Commissioner McDougall</u></b></p> <p>Vice-Chair McDougall advised that there are new members on the AAPG Board. The Board executive will be shuffled.</p>	
15.3	<p><b><u>REACH Update – Commissioner Hawn</u></b></p> <p>Commissioner Hawn reported on the Operational Highlights for May 2021 for the REACH organization.</p>	
16.	<p><b><u>COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/CONCERNS/COMMENDATIONS</u></b></p>	
16.1	<p>Councillor Hamilton asked how the Service is working with the West End community that was recently targeted with an act of hate incident. Chief McFee advised that the Service met with the individuals involved and spoke with their parents, which resulted in a meaningful outcome. He added that acts of hate will not be tolerated and that the Service has a good policy and good team when dealing with events. Executive Director Okere advised that it is now standard practice for the Service to determine what is happening and reach out to the communities.</p>	
16.2	<p>Councillor Hamilton asked about the “Know Your Rights” card recently released. Chief McFee advised that it is an education piece to assist the public in understanding what can and cannot be done when dealing with the police. He added that Community Action is another initiative to reiterate this and obtain community feedback.</p> <p>Executive Director Okere advised that the Service is looking at translating the ‘Know Your Rights” card into 15-16 languages. As the card has just been launched the outcome will be tracked.</p>	
16.3	<p>Commissioner Ambtman advised that Andrea Levey, Indigenous Relations, Edmonton Police Service, was recently elected Co-Chair of the Indigenous Circle-EndPoverty Edmonton.</p>	
17.	<p><b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:41 P.M.</p>	



CERTIFIED as being a record of the matters dealt with at the Commission's May 20, 2021 Public Meeting.

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Micki Ruth  
Chair, Edmonton Police Commission

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Chris Skaggs  
Secretary to the Commission