



Guardian of Public Trust

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

MINUTES

**Thursday, January 20, 2022
Edmonton Police Commission Office
Scotia Place, Tower 2
Suite #1803, 10060 – Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
12:06 P.M. to 3:03 P.M.**

PRESENT

(Via Zoom)

Chair John McDougall
Vice-Chair Erick Ambtman
Commissioner Aneela Hussainaly
Commissioner Ashvin Singh
Commissioner Kemi Kufuor-Boakye
Commissioner Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse
Commissioner Shazia Amiri
Commissioner Irfan Chaudhry
Councillor Sarah Hamilton, Commissioner
Councillor Anne Stevenson, Commissioner

(In Office Via Zoom)

Matt Barker, Executive Director

(Via Zoom)

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

GUESTS (Via Zoom)

Edmonton Police Service

Chief Dale McFee
Deputy Chief Al Murphy, Corporate Services Bureau
Deputy Chief Kevin Brezinski, Investigations Bureau
Deputy Chief Darren Derko, Community Policing Bureau
Chief Operations Officer Enyinnah Okere, Community Safety & Well-being Bureau
Chief of Staff Justin Krikler, Legal & Regulatory Services Division
Inspector Sean Armstrong, Serious Crimes Branch

Executive Director Rob Davidson, Business Development Division
 Executive Director Lori Lorenz, Value & Impact Division
 Executive Director Darren Eastcott, Human Resources Division
 Executive Director Sean Tout, Information & Data Division
 Director Michael James, Corporate Communications Branch
 Director Louise Fitzpatrick, Audit & Risk Branch
 Director Julie Hallonquist, Organization & Employee Development Branch

External Organization

Dr. Nathaniel Day, Alberta Health Services

Members of the Public
 Members of the Media

	Agenda Item	Action By
1.	<p><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></p> <p>Chair McDougall called the meeting to order at 12:06 P.M.</p>	
2.	<p><u>PROTOCOL ITEMS</u></p>	
	<p>2.1 <u>Acknowledgement of Treaty Six Territory</u></p> <p>Chair McDougall 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>2.2 <u>Announcement of New Edmonton Police Commission Chair and Vice-Chair</u></p> <p>Chair McDougall advised that the Commission held its Annual General Meeting prior to the Public Meeting at which elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair took place. He was acclaimed</p>	

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	Chair and Commissioner Ambtman was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Commission for the calendar year 2022.	
	<p>2.3 <u>Introduction of New Commission Members</u></p> <p>Chair McDougall introduced and welcomed the Commission’s two new members, Irfan Chaudhry and Shazia Amiri, who were appointed by City Council. He provided a brief background on both members. Both members bring diverse perspectives and unique skills to the Commission.</p>	
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 McDougall 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 – November 18, 2021</p> <p>5.2 Edmonton Police Commissioner Enhanced Security Check Reconsideration Policy #3.1.8</p> <p>5.3 Edmonton Police Commission Gifts Policy #4.2.3 (Revised)</p> <p>5.4 Edmonton Police Commission Budget Variance for Period Ending October 31, 2021</p> <p>5.5 Edmonton Police Commission Budget Variance for Period Ending November 30, 2021</p> <p>5.6 Edmonton Police Service Budget Variance for Period Ending October 31, 2021</p> <p>5.7 Edmonton Police Service Budget Variance for Period Ending November 30, 2021</p> <p>5.8 Professional Standards Branch Extension Requests – November 2021</p> <p>5.9 Professional Standards Branch 2021 Q4 Report</p> <p>5.10 Calendar of Upcoming Events</p>	
6.	<p><u>PRESENTATIONS</u></p>	
6.1	<p><u>OPIOIDS – Dr. Nathaniel Day, Alberta Health Services</u></p>	

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	<p>Dr. Day advised that he works with Alberta’s Virtual Opioid Dependency Program (VODP) which supports the Edmonton Police Service. The program receives grant funding through Alberta Health. The program received the Health Standards Organization 2021 Leading National Practice recognition and the Health Quality Council of Alberta 2020 Patient Experience Award.</p> <p>Dr. Day spoke to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VODP Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What it is ➤ Key elements ➤ Methodology: Service Model of Care • Access to the program – Major Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Same Day Start Team ➤ Transitions Team ➤ Low Barrier Team (which works with the Edmonton Police Service and paramedics) ➤ Ongoing Care Team • VODP Results (currently working on 2021 data) • Support for people in police detention and how it works <p>He provided examples of issues that motivated the need for this program. The program meets people wherever they are in their situation to assist them. Although it was born as a result of the opioid use problem, it also works with other addictions. There is no limit to individuals coming back to the program. It uses many avenues to reach out to vulnerable people.</p> <p>He spoke to the “Safe Supply” program.</p> <p>He thanked the Service for their work with the program.</p> <p>Chair McDougall welcomed any further questions in writing to be sent to Commission Administration to be forwarded to Dr. Day. He thanked Dr. Day for his presentation.</p>	
6.2	<p><u>Human Resources Strategy 2021-2024 – Edmonton Police Service</u></p> <p>Deputy Chief Derko introduced the presentation and advised that the strategy started with the People Plan. The report speaks to the work that has taken place over the last year. He introduced Director Hallonquist who recently moved into her position.</p>	

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	<p>Director Hallonquist provided a brief background on the strategy and spoke to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources Division Planning Process • Outcome • Five Focus Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing leaders at all levels ➤ Strategic recruitment and placement ➤ Empowering employees ➤ Providing valued employee experiences ➤ Focusing on wellness and resiliency • Next Steps <p>Chief McFee, Chief Operations Officer Okere, Executive Director Eastcott, Executive Director Lorenz and Director Hallonquist responded to questions.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC</u></p> <p>The following members of the public addressed the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wen and Holly Mah, Chinese Downtown Business Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Holly Mah spoke to what her community experiences which has resulted in a lost sense of safety over the past three years. With the use of a short video, she provided examples of recent events that took place in China Town. There is a high volume of unwanted activity. She thanked the Service's Downtown Division and Beat Teams for their assistance, adding that additional resources are needed. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT</u></p>	
	<p>8.1 <u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Chief McFee congratulated Chair McDougall on receiving the Order of Military Merit as an Officer, and welcomed Commissioners Amiri and Chaudhry as new members of the Commission. He also congratulated Chair McDougall and Vice-Chair Ambtman on being elected to their positions.</p> <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:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edge Team recent investigations resulting in the seizure of drugs and firearms and charges laid • Positive impact resulting from the work with a fourteen-year-old male experiencing many issues • Latest COVID statistics in the Edmonton Police Service • With respect to the recent incident involving a stolen vehicle left running, it was not an Edmonton Police Service bait car • He read the recent statement released by the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) indicating that it does not support the decriminalization of illicit drugs • The Service is working with the City on how to address the Transit security concerns, adding that the Service has attended each time there was an incident • Downtown crime and disorder issue is being addressed – there is a need to do something different <p>In response to Vice-Chair Ambtman, Chief McFee and Deputy Chief Derko spoke to the Service’s use of social media posts, adding that the Service is doing a review of its social media, looking at accounts, ensuring they are abiding by policy and those using it have the proper training.</p> <p>In response to Councillor Stevenson’s questions on social media for the Service, Deputy Chief Derko advised that he will provide the Service’s Social Media Policy to Executive Director Barker to share with Commission members.</p>	EPS
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>Vice-Chair Ambtman advised that the matters discussed at the December 2021 Governance Committee meeting were covered in Item #5 (Consent Agenda).</p>	

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	<p>11.2 <u>FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Commissioner Singh advised that the matters discussed at the January 2022 Finance & Audit Committee meeting were covered in Item #5 (Consent Agenda).</p>	
	<p>11.3 <u>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></p>	
	<p>11.3.1 <u>Summary of Compliments</u></p> <p>Commissioner Calahoo-Stonehouse shared seven compliments received by the Edmonton Police Service in November and December.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>MEDIA INQUIRIES</u></p> <p>The following members of the media brought forward inquiries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stephen Cook - CBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With respect to the AACP statement what will it take to bring the Service to the table and what would it like to see going forward. Chief McFee responded. ➤ Michelle Bellefontaine - CBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Referred to Justice Minister Madu's phone call to the Chief regarding a distracted driving ticket and asked the Chief if either he or the Chair of the Commission contacted the Premier regarding the matter. Chief McFee responded. ➤ Chenin– Bell Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asked if Justice Minister Madu should hold the Justice Minister position going forward and what participation would the Chief have in an independent review by the Premier. Chief McFee responded. ➤ Hamdi Issawi - Postmedia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asked if there were any critical reviews of policy that led to the stand on decriminalization of drugs. Chief McFee responded. ➤ Duncan Kinney – Progress Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Referred to the President of the Edmonton Police Association's comment regarding Justice Minister Madu continuing in his position and asked if the rank and file want him out as Justice Minister. He also referred to the fund raiser in Lacombe, attended by the 	

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	<p>Chief, and asked if that is why Justice Minister Madu felt comfortable calling the Chief. He further asked if Justice Minister Madu did anything wrong. Chief McFee responded.</p>	
13.	<p><u>EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA</u></p> <p>There were no exemptions from the Consent Agenda.</p>	
14.	<p><u>OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
	<p>14.1 <u>Appointment of Commission Members to 2022 Standing – Executive Director Barker</u></p> <p>Executive Director Barker spoke to this matter and presented the slate of membership for the Committees submitted for 2022. He added that the Commission is currently looking at Terms of Reference for the proposed Information Technology Committee (ITC) going forward.</p> <p>MOVED Councillor Stevenson – Commissioner Singh That the Edmonton Police Commission approve the 2022 Committee Membership list as submitted for the purpose of formalizing the Committees.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED</p>	
	<p>14.2 <u>Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Update – Vice-Chair Ambtman</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Ambtman suggested this item be taken off the agenda, to be included when there is something to report. He suggested the same for the AAPG update.</p>	
	<p>14.3 <u>Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) Update – Chair McDougall</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
15.	<p><u>EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES</u></p>	
	<p>15.1 In response to Councillor Stevenson, the Service advised that all police vehicles are equipped with safety blankets.</p>	

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	<p>15.2 Councillor Stevenson referred to the NARCAN Study and asked the Service to comment on mandatory caring and myth busting. She also asked if there is an internal communication strategy built in.</p> <p>Chief Operations Officer Okere advised that officers receive mandatory training, adding that consultants and nurses are part of the training. He further advised that there is not enough of the drug for all members to carry but there is access to it if required. The Service is looking at supply. Deputy Chief Derko added that Downtown Division officers have access to the drug at all times but the Service is not sure if it is prudent for all other areas.</p> <p>Chief Operations Officer Okere advised that there is an internal communication strategy built in for members and recruits.</p>	
16.	<p><u>COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/CONCERNS/COMMENDATIONS</u></p> <p>Commissioner Chaudhry commented that, in reviewing social media, an holistic view might be considered to navigate the negative posts.</p>	
17.	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 3:03 P.M.</p>	

CERTIFIED as being a record of the matters dealt with at the Commission’s January 20, 2022 Public Meeting.

John McDougall
 Chair, Edmonton Police Commission

Chris Skaggs
 Secretary to the Commission