



DRAFT

Guardian of Public Trust

**EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING**

MINUTES

**Thursday, September 21, 2023
River Valley Room, Main Floor, City Hall
Edmonton, Alberta
12:01 P.M. to 2:21 P.M.**

PRESENT

Chair Erick Ambtman
Vice-Chair Aneela Hussainaly (Acting Chair)
Commissioner Shazia Amiri
Commissioner Irfan Chaudhry
Commissioner Michael Lee
Commissioner John McDougall
Commissioner David Sowemimo
Commissioner Jayan Nagendran
Commissioner Anne-Marie Lambert
Commissioner Walter Sinclair
Commissioner Kemi Kufuor-Boakye
Councillor Sarah Hamilton, Commissioner
Councillor Anne Stevenson, Commissioner

EPC STAFF

Matt Barker, Executive Director
Bonnie Riddell, Strategic Policy & Research Analyst
Deanna Matchett, Public Complaint Director/Legal Counsel
John Statton, Communications Advisor
Jessica Trepanier, Administrative Assistant
Mouna Moussa, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS

Edmonton Police Service

Chief Dale McFee
Deputy Chief Warren Driechel, Community Safety and Well-Being Bureau
Deputy Chief Darren Derko, Community Policing Bureau
Chief Innovation & Technology Officer Ron Anderson, Innovation & Technology Bureau
Chief Operations Officer & Chief of Staff Enyinnah Okere, Office of the Chief
Chief Administrative Officer Justin Krikler, Corporate Services Bureau
Inspector Brian Sinclair, Training Branch
S/Sgt. Joe Tassone, Training Section

A/Staff Sergeant Gregg Scott, Office of the Chief
 Project Executive Director Dave Elanik, Innovation & Information Bureau
 Executive Director Rob Davidson, Business Development Division
 Executive Director Lori Lorenz, Value & Impact Division
 Executive Director Patricia Misutka, Corporate Communications Division
 Director Brian Harker, Strategy Branch
 Director Louise Beggs, Audit & Risk Branch
 Director Jennifer Nye, Marketing & Digital/Prod
 Manager Suzanne Robinson, Audit & Risk Branch
 Program Manager, Stephanie Gazzola, Value & Impact Division
 Coordinator Priscilla Yip, Audit & Risk, Internal Audit Section

External

Members of the Public
 Members of the Media

	Agenda Item	Action By
1.	<p><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></p> <p>Vice-Chair Hussainaly called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M.</p>	
2.	<p><u>PROTOCOL ITEMS</u></p>	
	<p>2.1 <u>Acknowledgement of Treaty Six Territory</u></p> <p>Commissioner McDougall opened the meeting with the following acknowledgement:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><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>1. Introduction to New Commissioner: On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner McDougall welcomed Dr. Jayan Nagendra, highlighting his role as a cardiac surgeon and the Director of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Alberta as well as the Surgical Director of Lung Transplantation for Alberta Health Services. Commissioner</p>	

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	<p>McDougall expressed the Commission’s privilege in having Dr. Nagendran serving as a member of the Edmonton Police Commission.</p> <p>2. Gender Equality Week 2023: On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner McDougall emphasized this year’s theme United for Gender Equality: Stronger Together. He highlighted the Commission’s commitment to inclusivity and equality.</p> <p>3. Dempsey Service Award: On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner McDougall recognized Cst. Kevin Zylstra dedication, compassion, and consistent pattern of going above and beyond. Commissioner McDougall expressed gratitude for Cst. Zylstra hard work and dedication to enhancing community safety.</p> <p>4. Passing of Former Commissioner: On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner McDougall extended condolences to the friends and family of former Commissioner Gary McCuaig, who served on the Commission from 2012 until 2017. McCuaig brought with him valuable insights through his previous work with the Alberta Prosecution Services including the decade that he served as Chief Crown Prosecutor.</p> <p>5. Police Officers Annual Memorial Service: On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner McDougall announced the ceremony honoring fallen police and peace officers. Cst. Brett Ryan and Cst. Travis Jordan will be among those being honoured. He thanked Commissioner Lambert for representing the Commission at the ceremony taking place in Ottawa.</p> <p>6. The Safety of Our Cities Conference: On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner McDougall thanked the Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Foundation for hosting the inaugural conference. He acknowledged Commissioner Chaudhry’s role as a panel moderator about the collection of race-based data and former Commissioner Mickey Ruth’s participation as a panelist on the Police Governance & Accountability session.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u></p> <p>Members unanimously approved the agenda as presented.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION</u></p> <p>In response to Vice-Chair Hussainaly there were no conflict of interest declarations.</p>	

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5.	<p><u>CONSENT AGENDA</u></p> <p>Members unanimously adopted Consent Agenda items:</p> <p>5.1 Edmonton Police Commission Public Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2023</p> <p>5.2 2023 Committee Membership – Addition</p> <p>5.3 Traffic Services Branch Overview</p> <p>5.4 Edmonton Police Commission Budget Variance for the Period Ending July 31, 2023</p> <p>5.5 Professional Standards Branch Extension Requests – July 2023</p> <p>5.6 Vehicle Fleet Management Strategy</p> <p>5.7 Edmonton Police Commission Policy Revision - #3.2.1 Records Management</p> <p>5.8 Edmonton Police Commission Policy Revision - #5.3.3 Communications & Media Relations</p>	
6.	<p><u>PRESENTATION(S) – Edmonton Police Service</u></p>	
<p>Commissioner Kufuor-Boakye joined the meeting (12:21 p.m.)</p>		
	<p>6.1 <u>Control Tactics Statistics</u></p> <p>S/Sgt. Tassone provided an overview of the presentation and clarified definitions within the report.</p> <p>S/Sgt. Tassone highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report indicates an increase in interactions with the public, yet the use of force options is decreasing, currently at less than one percent. • Category One events (lower-level force options) are rising, while Category Two events (higher-level force options) are decreasing. • CWs deployments are up, emphasizing verbal commands and de-escalation. Firearms deployment has decreased, indicating better control strategies. • Both subject and member injuries are decreasing, showcasing effective control techniques, and training strategies. • Interactions with individuals under the influence are increasing. However, injuries in these situations are trending downwards, indicating progress in handling such cases. <p>Various strategies were discussed including training enhancement, exploring decentralized training approaches, conducting regular</p>	

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	<p>debriefs for continuous improvement, and establishing consistent communication with the Professional Standards Branch.</p> <p>Chief McFee, S/Sgt.Tassone, and CITO Anderson answered questions from the Commissioners related to the report.</p> <p>MOVED Commissioner Stevenson – Chair Ambtman That the Edmonton Police Service amend the Control Tactic Report future reports to include data to supplement the ten most common occurrence types in which there was a control tactic used to include the total occurrence counts for those events citywide for the reporting period.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REFERRED</p> <p>MOVED Commissioner McDougall – Commissioner Amiri That the Edmonton Police Commission refers this motion to the Governance Committee for further discussions and recommendations to be brought back to the Commission of the whole.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED</p>	<p>EPS</p> <p>EPC</p>
	<p>6.2 <u>Citizen Perception Survey</u></p> <p>Director Harker and Program Manager Gazzola presented the report.</p> <p>Program Manager Gazzola delved into the survey results, emphasizing positive trends in Edmonton residents’ perceptions of the EPS. Residents’ approval of EPS’s overall performance increased compared to 2022. Notably, disapproval ratings decreased, aligning closer to 2020 levels. She highlighted that the EPS partnered with Advanis for the survey, which implemented a random selection process. Regarding communication strategies, Program Manager Gazzola highlighted the focus on positive messaging to foster public engagement and targeted engagement with specific population segments aimed for deeper insights. As well as the continuation of initiatives such as youth engagement programs, recruitment efforts, and comprehensive employee training programs focusing on unconscious bias, cultural sensitivity and trauma informed approaches.</p> <p>Director Harker explained the shift in survey methodology, from using insights groups to adopting a fully representative approach reflecting the diverse communities within Edmonton.</p>	

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	Chief McFee, COO/Chief of Staff Okere, Executive Director Lorenz, Director Harker, and Program Manager Gazzola responded to questions.	
7.	<p><u>INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC</u></p> <p>Vice-Chair Hussainaly welcomed members of the public who have come to the meeting to address the Commission and advised that the meeting is being live-streamed and comments are being recorded. She also advised that if members of the public have anything to submit, they can provide it to the Executive Director who will distribute it to Commission members.</p> <p>The following member of the public addressed the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caspian Teymouri • Will Fulton • Katie Scoffield 	
8.	<p><u>EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE REPORT(S)</u></p>	
	<p>8.1 <u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Chief McFee highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed gratitude for the attendance of commissioners at the Safety of Our Cities Conference, which attracted 600 participants. • Management of the recent demonstrations in downtown Edmonton, where over 1,200 people were present. The EPS' objective was to maintain public safety, minimize disruptions, and document crowd behaviour for further review. • Ongoing investigations are being conducted regarding potential charges related to the demonstration, with updates to be provided upon the conclusion of the investigations. • Acknowledgement of the efforts of the EPS' audit branch in collaboration with City Council. <p>There were no questions or comments from the commissioners.</p>	

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	<p>8.2 <u>Safer Public Approach:</u></p> <p>Deputy Chief Derko highlighted the initiative’s purpose. He stressed the need to reorient the organization towards proactive community engagement. The approach involves addressing problems and disorders by positively engaging individuals on the street. The challenges faced on the streets, including mental health issues, addictions, and homelessness, were acknowledged. He emphasized the importance of communication with the public, outlining plans for increased outreach. Additionally, he mentioned the initiative to gather feedback from the patrol squad currently on the streets.</p> <p>Chief McFee provided additional insight, underlining the multi-dimensional nature of the initiative. He pointed at the need to address both violence and vulnerability within the community. He stressed the importance of using an appropriate system – be it health, social, or justice-based – tailored to the specific needs of the situation. The program aims for EPS members to engage with community members, aiming for a positive shift in street behaviour.</p> <p>Chief McFee recommended adding this item to the agenda for the Commission of the Whole at the next meeting. However, Chair Ambtman suggested that this item be included in the Governance Committee agenda as a quarterly item emphasizing the need to examine a periodic report on the initiative.</p> <p>Chief McFee, Deputy Chief Derko and COO/Chief of Staff Okere responded to questions.</p>	<p>EPC</p>
	<p>8.3 EPS Budget Variance Period Ending July 31st</p> <p>Chief Administrative Officer Justin Krikler and Executive Director Davidson tendered the report for information.</p> <p>Key points from the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report does not include the impacts of the EPA settlements. • Retroactive payments related to the settlement will be processed in August and September significantly impacting the financial reports. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPS is working with the City budget office on a budget transfer to offset the impacts of the retroactive payments. • A budget transfer could potentially happen in September, but the more likely scenario is a transfer in November or December. <p>Executive Director Davidson and CAO Krikler responded to questions.</p>	
9.	<p><u>CHAIR REPORT</u></p> <p>A written report was presented with no further comments by the Chair or members of the Commission.</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>TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
	<p>11.2 <u>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
	<p>11.3 <u>FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
	<p>11.4 <u>PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
12.	<p><u>EXEMPTIONS FROM CONSENT AGENDA</u></p> <p>There were no exemptions from the Consent Agenda.</p>	
13.	<p><u>OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
	<p>13.1 CAPG Update Chair Ambtman</p>	

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	<p>Chair Ambtman provided an update on the CAPG conference in St. John's. He expressed that this conference was distinct from previous CAPG conferences, as it primarily concentrated on governance and less on policing. He conveyed his approval of this shift, noting that the CAPG's dedication to providing more governance training to the public marked a significant step forward, and a positive direction for the Commission.</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER INQUIRIES</u></p> <p>There were no inquiries.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p><u>EDMONTON POLICE COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/CONCERNS/COMMENDATIONS</u></p> <p>Commissioner Hamilton raised two questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioner Hamilton required revisitation of policies regarding cannabis use among police officers in light of the recent announcement by the RCMP. CAO Krikler confirmed that the EPS had implemented a new fit-for-duty policy on September 12th. This policy modernizes the approach to readiness to work under prescription or non-prescription drugs and alcohol and allows members to use cannabis provided they have a 24-hour gap between consumption and their next work shift. 2. Commissioner Hamilton sought clarification on the process of declaring a riot and the legislative steps involved. Deputy Chief Driechel and Deputy Chief Derko provided detailed explanations. Authorization to read the Riot Act can be given to anyone designated within the scope of the authority, including Peace Officers and Police Officers. <p>Commissioner McDougall shared his experience attending an Indigenous naming ceremony for Constable Catlin Chaisson. He highlighted the seamless intergration of Indigenous perspective, Cst. Chaisson's personal experiences, and his professional life during the ceremony. He mentioned that Cst. Chaisson was given the name "Flying Eagle Spirit Child."</p>	
<p>16.</p>	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 2:21 P.M.</p>	

Minutes of Public Meeting
September 21, 2023
Edmonton Police Commission

CERTIFIED as being a record of the matters dealt with at the Commission's September 21, 2023
Public Meeting.

Aneela Hussainaly
Acting Chair, Edmonton Police Commission

Mouna Moussa
Secretary to the Commission