

**COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 14, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair
Councillor Craig Hodge, Vice Chair
Ron Coulson, Citizen Representative
David Krenz, Citizen Representative
Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative
Amandeep Sangha, Citizen Representative
Leo Chen, Coquitlam Youth Council
Andrea Corrigan, Hope for Freedom Society
Kelly Zimmer, School District No. 43
Kevin Volz, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce

REGRETS: Thábata da Costa, Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership

GUEST: David Jones, Coquitlam Resident

STAFF: Jim Ogloff, General Manager Community Safety
Sean O’Melinn, Manager Business and Innovation – Community Safety
Kim Singh, Manager Police Services
Scott Young, Fire Chief
Ian Waters, Strategic Analyst
Bryson Yuzyk, Acting Inspector – Operations Officer Coquitlam RCMP Detachment
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, November 30, 2023

The Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, November 30, 2023 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair advised the Committee of the necessity to triage Agenda items in the following order: Item 3, Item 6, Item 2, Item 4, Item 5, Item 7 and Item 8.

3. Community Safety Advisory Committee Composition and Raising Awareness Regarding Access and Use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for Community Safety

David Jones, Coquitlam Resident, provided introductory comments that covered the following topics:

- Overview of his work experience as Chief of Metro Vancouver Transit Police
- Rationale for appearing as a delegation before the Committee, including concern regarding recent shootings in Coquitlam, current levels of access to CCTV and usage by law enforcement for community safety issues
- The importance of law enforcement access and usage of CCTV footage for investigations
- CCTV usage in other municipalities and request for the Committee to explore potential City-operated CCTV footage program to address public safety needs

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The role of the BC Privacy Commissioner, including reluctance to share CCTV footage with law enforcement and how a City-operated CCTV program could address privacy concerns while facilitating law enforcement access for public safety needs
- The use of RCMP CCTV systems, including Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system and concern regarding the limited level of integration between ALPR and Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) databases
- The understanding that RCMP officers are legally obligated to erase vehicle license plate data at the end of shifts in which CCTV footage is used
- Concerns regarding a recent shooting incident near a local business and the business' unwillingness to provide CCTV footage to law enforcement
- The ongoing tension between law enforcement's authority for public safety and the preservation of individual privacy
- The City of Kelowna's operation of an extensive CCTV system aimed at safeguarding civic infrastructure

The Chair and Vice Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation.

6. Community Wildfire Preparedness Update

The Fire Chief provided a presentation entitled "City of Coquitlam – Wildfire

Preparedness 2024” that covered the following topics:

- Overview of Coquitlam Fire and Rescue’s 2024 wildfire preparedness initiatives and programs, including organizational structure and operational capabilities, breakdown of Structure Protection Team and situation response types, projects funded by 2023/2024 Community Resiliency Investment (CRI), breakdown of fuel prescriptions across Coquitlam, Structure Protection Program (S-115 Training), role of Fire Smart Coordinator, 2024 FireSmart Initiative, parks and urban forestry initiatives, annual preparation activities and community partnerships, comparison of high-risk fire areas in Coquitlam with rest of BC and the impact of climate change on forest fire risk

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Tree planting efforts in Coquitlam, including whether new trees are fire and drought resistant, and whether a City tree planting policy exists
- The City’s water conservation bylaw (Drinking Water Conservation Plan Bylaw No. 4838, 2018), including restrictions and special exemptions for properties in high-risk areas
- The desire to support additional fire safety community education and outreach initiatives
- Committee appreciation for Coquitlam Fire and Rescue’s efforts at March 7, 2024 apartment fire on 523 Gatensbury Street

The Chair and Vice Chair advised the Committee of the City’s tree planting efforts across Coquitlam.

The Fire Chief expressed appreciation for the Chair’s triaging of Agenda items.

2. Committee Welcome

The Committee Clerk provided introductory comments relative to the 2024 Community Safety Advisory Committee (COSAC) Meeting Schedule, Committee member attendance expectations, conflict of interest and evacuation procedures.

There were no comments from the Committee.

4. Introduction of New General Manager Community Safety

The General Manager Community Safety introduced himself and provided introductory comments relative to the following:

- Overview of his previous work experience with Coquitlam Fire and Rescue including his tenure as Fire Chief
- Overview of the City’s new Community Safety Department, including purpose, organizational structure, responsibilities, community partnerships and synergy with provincial emergency response initiatives

There were no comments from the Committee.

5. Review and Adoption of the 2024 Community Safety Advisory Committee Work Plan

The draft 2024 Work Plan was presented on-screen and the Manager Business and Innovation – Community Safety provided introductory comments relative to the following:

- Overview of proposed Work Plan items, including rationale for inclusion of particular items, deferral of Parks and Facilities Bylaw Update and staff desire for Committee feedback

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee support for a strategically-focused Community Safety Work Plan
- Whether Committee members can add items throughout the year

The Committee approved the 2024 Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 2024 Community Safety Advisory Committee Work Plan.

7. Coquitlam Crime Trends and Discussion

The Strategic Analyst provided a presentation entitled “COSAC Presentation – March 14 Crime Trends + Visualization” that covered the following topics:

- Overview and analysis of Coquitlam's crime trends spanning from 2017 to 2022, including the methodology for calculating crime rates, comparison of Coquitlam's crime rate with neighbouring municipalities, breakdown of police service calls data, findings from the City's 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey regarding public safety, the influence of public safety events on residents' perceptions, reported instances of person and property crimes, driving violation tickets and mental health related service calls data, heat map illustrating crime hotspots in Coquitlam, role of crime analysts in interpreting data and staff desire for Committee feedback
- Overview of Coquitlam RCMP Detachment's crime prevention initiatives, including Mobile Integrated Response Team (MICR) for mental health related calls, community partnerships and crime reduction strategy

- Overview of RCMP Property Crime Dashboard (hereon “the Dashboard”), including purpose, methodology, features, privacy considerations and staff desire for community feedback

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concerns regarding growing perceptions among residents that public safety is declining despite statistics showing decreasing crime rates
- Concerns regarding public safety incidents coinciding with the City’s 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey response period
- Concerns regarding rising costs of living and the heightened visibility of homelessness and addiction issues within Coquitlam
- Whether data exists for responses to service calls, concern that data neglects service call response times and contributing factors that impact calls for service trends
- Concerns regarding judicial decisions that impact law enforcement activities and potentially sway public opinion against law enforcement
- The desire to know if assault offences in Coquitlam are random or targeted
- The Dashboard and whether catalytic converters are included

8. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Issues

The Chair invited Committee members to share details regarding emerging safety issues in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- Concerns regarding speeding in school zones and the desire for installation of speed bumps near schools and playgrounds
- Concerns regarding recent shootings in Coquitlam and the desire for public messaging opportunities and forums to engage with the public following these events
- Coquitlam RCMP Detachment’s Special Post-Incident Community Engagement (SPICE) initiative
- Concerns regarding homelessness and addiction issues creating ongoing public safety concerns at Coquitlam SkyTrain stations and other transit-oriented areas

The Chair advised Committee members of the Chair and Vice Chair selection process, particularly the switching of roles during the second year. The Chair also expressed appreciation for Committee membership continuity due to last year’s term extension and optimism for 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING - Thursday, June 27, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Teri Towner, Chair

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk