



PRIDE SERVICE TRUST

## **Guelph Police Services Board**

PO Box 31038, Willow West Postal Outlet, Guelph, Ontario N1H 8K1  
Telephone: (519) 824-1212 #7213 Email: board@guelphpolice.ca

### **Open Meeting**

### **Minutes – September 15, 2022**

An Open meeting of the Guelph Police Services Board was held by teleconference call on September 15, 2022, pursuant to sections 11.4 and 20.7 of Guelph Police Services Board By-Law 136 (2009), commencing at 2:30 p.m.

**Present:** R. Carter, Chair  
P. McSherry, Vice-Chair  
C. Billings, Member  
C. Guthrie, Member  
J. Armstrong, Member  
L. LaCelle, Executive Assistant  
G. Cobey, Chief of Police  
D. Goetz, Deputy Chief of Police  
J. Sidlofsky Stoffman, Legal Counsel  
J. Allsop, Executive Assistant

**Guests:** Mr. Devon Clunis  
Cst. Connor Vaivods  
Insp. D. Doxey  
Sgt. G. MacDonald  
Sgt. B. Saint  
J. Robinson, Research Analyst, Legal Services

#### **1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Carter asked everyone to observe a moment of silence in recognition of the death of Queen Elizabeth, Constable Andrew Hong, and Constable Travis Gillespie.

#### **2.0 Meeting Called to Order and Territorial Acknowledgment**

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. by teleconference call between the attendees and gave Territorial Acknowledgement.

#### **3.0 Declaration of Conflict or Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict or pecuniary interest.

#### **4.0 Closed Session Resolutions**

**Moved by** C. Guthrie

**Seconded by** C. Billings

**THAT** the Guelph Police Services Board support the Torchlight Services Open House event in the amount of \$500.00, with funds to be paid from the Community Account.

**- CARRIED -**

**Moved by** C. Guthrie

**Seconded by** C. Billings

**THAT** the Guelph Police Services Board support the Norma Owen Golf Tournament in the amount of \$500.00, with funds to be paid from the Community Account.

**- CARRIED -**

#### **5.0 Presentations/Delegations**

##### **5.1 Cst. Connor Vaivods, Downtown Resource Officer**

Chief Cobey introduced Cst. Vonnor Vaivods and asked him to provide an update to the Board with respect to the Downtown.

Over the course of the 10 months that Cst. Vaivods has been the Downtown Resource Officer, there have been approximately 500 documented contacts with the Community. Three hundred charges have been laid in a variety of situations.

Cst. Vaivods explained that one of the things that he has seen is that there are barriers preventing drug users from going to the CTS, partially because it is obvious to others what that person is doing, and also because the entrance to the Community Health Centre is located on a busy street. By contrast, many addicted feel a sense of anonymity by using the library to consume.

In addition, there are other potential challenges, including past trauma from medical facilities, and rules the CTS has in place.

Sgt. Greg MacDonald also provided information with respect to the human dignity piece as well as the low availability of washrooms, showers, and other basic human needs. While adjustments were made as a result of the pandemic, those adjustments haven't been returned to their pre-pandemic levels and this presents a challenge to the homeless population.

Chief Cobey mentioned that it is important to have a holistic understanding of the why, and of the why this is happening.

In August 2020, federal drug prosecutors were told to avoid prosecuting simple drug possession charges, except in the most serious of circumstances, including if a child was at risk, a weapon was involved, someone was operating a vehicle, or there were threats or acts of violence.

Chair Carter thanked Cst. Vaivods and Sgt. MacDonald for participating in this afternoon's discussion and highlighted how important it is for these discussions to continue with other partners in the City.

Sgt. G. MacDonald left the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

## **5.2 Ret. Chief Devon Clunis**

Chief Cobey introduced Ret. Chief Devon Clunis who will be working with the Service over the coming months in a number of important areas including community engagement, leadership and executive development for Members, increased cultural understanding regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion, and the development of the Service's next strategic plan.

Ret. Chief Clunis is the former Chief of Police of the Winnipeg Police Service and Ontario's first Inspector General of Policing. Ret. Chief Clunis works with police services across North America as they seek to support their members and deliver the best possible service to their citizens.

The purpose of today is to introduce Ret. Chief Clunis to the Board.

Ret. Chief Clunis expressed that he is very much looking forward to working with the Guelph Police Service to meet the objectives as presented by Chief Cobey.

Chair Carter and Chief Cobey thanked Ret. Chief. Clunis for his time today.

Cst. C. Vaivods, Insp. S. Grover, and Ret. Chief Clunis left the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

## **6.0 Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting, June 16, 2022**

**Moved by** P. McSherry

**Seconded by** C. Guthrie

**THAT** the Guelph Police Services Board approve the Open Meeting minutes of June 16, 2022.

**- Carried -**

## **7.0 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by** J. Armstrong

**Seconded by** P. McSherry

**THAT** the Guelph Police Services Board approve the Open Meeting agenda.

**- Carried -**

## **Part 1 – Consent Agenda**

### **7.1 Headquarters Renovation & Expansion Report**

**THAT** the report titled "Police Headquarters Renovation and Expansion Project," and dated September 8, 2022, be received for information.

### **7.2 Human Resources Report – Member Appointments**

**THAT** Kyle Sanson be appointed as a full-time member of this Service effective July 4, 2022.

**FURTHER THAT** Furoozan Sheerzai, Omar Elshargawy and Declan Kyle be appointed as temporary members of this Service effective July 4, 2022.

**FURTHER THAT** James Welsh be appointed as a full-time member of this Service effective July 19, 2022.

**FURTHER THAT** Jamie Fleury be appointed as a part-time member of this Service effective July 11, 2022.

**FURTHER THAT** Cole Ridsdale be appointed as a full-time member of this Service effective August 8, 2022.

**FURTHER THAT** Alexander Chaves, Sarah Huddleston and Briar Smith be appointed as full-time members of this Service effective August 31, 2022.

**FURTHER THAT** Natasha Grant be appointed as a full-time member of this Service effective September 6, 2022.

**AND THAT** Christine Lovell be appointed as a full-time member of this Service effective September 6, 2022.

### **7.3 Board Correspondence Report**

That the report titled "Board Correspondence Report – Open Meeting," and dated September 15, 2022, be received for information.

#### **7.4 Professional Standards Second Quarter Report**

**THAT** the report titled "Professional Standards Second Quarter Report 2022," and dated September 15, 2022, be received for information.

#### **7.5 New Board Policy BD-02-009 – Electronic Monitoring of Employees**

**THAT** the Guelph Police Services Board approve Police BD-02-009, Electronic Monitoring of Employees, effective September 15, 2022.

#### **7.6 Guelph Downtown Substance Abuse and Enforcement Issues**

**THAT** the report titled "Guelph Downtown Substance Abuse and Enforcement Issues," and dated September 15, 2022, be received for information.

#### **7.7 Calls for Service Semi-Annual Report (January to June 2021 and 2022)**

**THAT** the report titled "Calls for Service Semi-Annual Report (January to June 2021 and 2022)," and dated September 15, 2022, be received for information.

### **Part 2 – Discussion Agenda**

#### **7.8 Chief's Monthly Report**

Chief Cobey provided an update on the 2021 Crime Severity Index Results:

- Guelph remains a safe community for our citizens.
- Guelph's overall CSI has trended down (improved) for the third year in a row. This has favourably impacted Guelph's Crime Severity Index rankings as compared to the 25 Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) in Canada.
- In 2021, this improvement occurred across all Crime Severity Index (CSI) areas including Overall CSI, Violent CSI, and Non Violent CSI rankings (based on the 25 CMA's):
  - Overall CSI Decreased by 8% in 2021. In 2021, Guelph had the 12<sup>th</sup> lowest overall CSI in Canada. This is a ranking improvement of three positions from 2020, and seven

positions since 2018 when Guelph had its lowest ranking of 19 out of the 35 CMA's.

- Violent CSI decreased by 22% in 2021. Guelph had the second lowest Violent CSI in Canada in 2021. This is a ranking improvement of five positions compared to 2020.
- Non Violent CSI decreased by 2% in 2021, a ranking improvement of two positions compared to 2020.

Discussion ensued.

C. Guthrie asked how Guelph was doing in relation to Hate Crimes, how those are reported and the context behind them. It was noted that there was a significant decrease in Hate Crimes reported in 2021. While numbers and statistics were not readily available for this meeting, staff will pull that information together and provide a report for October's meeting.

Chief Cobey also talked about sustaining the growth of the Service in comparison to the sustained growth of the municipality. He mentioned that service levels are a function of the resources and that is important that we look at continuing to grow to support the community in a way that is sustainable and recognizes that this is a tax supported budget.

## **7.9 New Business**

- None

## **8.0 Information Items**

- Next Open Meeting: Thursday, October 27, 2022, 2:30 p.m. via Teams meeting, livestreamed on YouTube.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

**Moved by** C. Billings

**Seconded by** C. Guthrie

**THAT** the Open meeting of the Guelph Police Services Board adjourn at 4:32 p.m.

**- Carried -**

"Robert Carter"

---

R. Carter, Chair

"Leslie LaCelle"

---

L. LaCelle, Executive Assistant