

Present:

Councillor Stutt, Chair
Councillor Kooner, Vice Chair
P. McEvoy
P. Richards
S. Dooley

Absent:

R. Rai

Staff Present:

R. Takhar, Acting Operations Manager, Corporate Services
B. Edwards, Assistant Commissioner, Surrey RCMP
J. Cairney, Deputy Fire Chief, Surrey Fire Service
J. Sung, Legislative Services Coordinator

Guest:

A. Wee
A. Wallwork, South Fraser Search and Rescue (SFSAR)
J. Urguhar, SFSAR

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was

(PSC) meeting of September 25, 2024, be adopted.

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by Councillor Kooner

That the agenda of the Public Safety Committee

Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – June 26, 2024

It was

meeting of June 26, 2024, be adopted.

Moved by P. McEvoy

Seconded by Councillor Kooner

That minutes of the Public Safety Committee

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Control Noise from Loud Vehicles in Surrey City Centre***A. Wee*

The following information was highlighted:

- There is an increase in noise pollution in Surrey, audible even through newly built housing. The noise pollution is disruptive, stress inducing, and decreases quality of life.
- Hotspots identified are 104 Avenue and University Drive, 132 Street and 133A Street on 104 Avenue. The noise pollution is highest between 6pm to midnight, and worse on weekend nights.
- Vancouver Police has been proactively enforcing vehicular noise reduction. Surrey population is having the same issues as our population level approaches City of Vancouver.
- The presenter provided several articles to the committee in regard to City of Vancouver actions against excessive noise. The actions included noise inspection notice, ticketing, public input, and level of noise permitted. The presenter created an online petition to ask for measures against noise pollution, with roughly 100 signatures.
- Presenter recommended several actions for noise control in Surrey
 - Review existing noise control laws and increase deterrence
 - Public education on noise pollution penalties
 - Increased enforcement with noise camera assistance
 - Heftier fines for offenders
 - Encourage public reporting of offenses
 - Periodic assessment of action effectiveness

The committee provided the following comments:

- The issue of vehicular noise was raised as an issue during Union of BC Municipalities and solution is being researched by the Province.
- Offending demographic is men from ages between 18 and 29.
- The committee expressed concern that current regulations do not meet the needs to control vehicle noise and vehicle modification businesses. A recommendation was put forward to investigate bylaws to deter excessive vehicle noise.

2. South Fraser Search and Rescue – looking forward to another 50 years of serving Surrey*A. Wallwork and J. Urguhar, South Fraser Search and Rescue*

The following information was highlighted:

- SFSAR is considered a ground and inland water search unit for police services, and deals with incidents where missing persons need to be located or recovered.
- SFSAR utilizes scientifically researched methods of missing person location.
- After locating the missing person, all private information and search updates are removed; no social media posts are made with explicit details of the affected family.
- Missing person cases are generally not preventable as it involves people with dementia, autism, or suicidal tendencies.
- Demand for SFSAR service has been steadily increasing, and the changing demographic in Surrey suggests that demand will continue to rise.
- Resources that SFSAR need currently: fuel, vehicle parking location, training site support, and vehicle maintenance

In response to questions from the Committee, the delegation provided the following information:

- SFSAR is partially funded by the Province, City of Surrey, and members of the public.
- A higher media profile would generate more public donation; however the donations still would not cover a significant portion of operating costs. Ultimately provincial funding is still the main source of budget.
- Provincial funding is based on capability and capacity. The current funding is based on an old model that is looking to be updated with modern inflation rate.
- Annual operating costs for SFSAR is approximately \$400,000.
- There are around 40 members of SFSAR currently, they are recruiting for more members as volunteers usually rotate after three years. Volunteers undergo 72 hours of training before being permitted to take the field.
- SFSAR has 5 vehicles total valued at two million dollars, that are expected to last 20 to 30 years with retrofitting. Ideally the vehicles would be parked in the center of Surrey municipality for ease of access for members and operation proximity.
- 60% of SFSAR calls are in Surrey.

- SFSAR is considered a RCMP asset and follows RCMP privacy protection protocols. RCMP supports them with search location, social media presence, and insurance.

The committee provided the following comments:

- City staff could look into providing a parking location for the SFSAR fleet. The return on investment for the group is extremely high.
- The search data and search process documentation that SFSAR produces are used in crime investigation.
- Silver Alert could be a potential SFSAR partner and operate on a community scale.
- SFSAR should categorize their funding requests for a more comprehensive understanding of their budget.

The committee meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment in BC: How We Got Here and Where We Are Today**

T. McEvoy brought the topic to the table and the following information was highlighted:

- Mental illness is a common factor between opioid issue, housing issue, and homelessness.
- Asylums were developed in the late 1800 for the mentally ill population that couldn't be managed in society or at home. The establishments quickly became popular and in demand.
- Due to lingering effects of world wars, facility resources were stretched thin and resulted in poor public perception of asylums. General facility and intake process improvements were seen in the latter half of 20th century.
- Psychiatric drugs can control mental illnesses but do not completely cure the patients.
- Poor intake process, civil rights movement, and high operating costs resulted in the de-institutionalization of mentally ill patients in the 1960s.
- De-institutionalized patients were removed from a location that had no stigmatization. They were not living close with their family members but had community, safety, and stability.

- Municipalities received funding to create community support systems to allow mentally ill patients to live relatively normal lives. The support systems were built slower than the pace that patients were leaving asylums. Vulnerable people were often put in jail overnight because there were no shelters available for them. Majority of the homeless population is people with mental illnesses.
- Riverview psychiatric hospital closed in 2012, and it is being redeveloped. Current facilities that house vulnerable population is limited to small capacity for non-criminally responsible people.
- Large majority of psychiatric patients do not require lifelong care, but the two types of patients need drastically different care styles and cannot be grouped together under one care system. Patients that require lifelong care are vulnerable in society and are easily preyed upon.
- The current health care system in general does not have the capacity to house short-term care patients; it is akin to a crisis management system.
- Fire department and law enforcement are now the first responders to mental health calls because the short-term care patients do not have a facility they can go to.
- A significant portion of RCMP calls involve the homeless population.
- Community housing for vulnerable population requires trained staff onsite at all times to prevent incidences of predators taking advantage of vulnerable inhabitants.
- Short-term mental health care, ranging from 60 to 90 days or more, must be funded by government as the cost is exorbitant for private sector.
- A centralized care facility can minimize staff and resource requirement while granting security.

B. Edwards left the meeting at 7:35.

2. Round Table Discussion

- Members of the committee gave a brief background of their careers.

3. 2025 Meeting Schedule

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by P. Richards

That 2025 Public Safety Committee meeting

schedule be adopted.

Carried

4. Volunteer Appreciation Event

- The chair invited the committee to a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on October 24, 2024.

5. Public Safety Committee Membership Renewal

- The chair reminded committee members to apply for committee membership for the 2025 term.

6. Committee Recruitment

- The chair asked the committee for recommendations of candidates that may be interested in the committee.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2024.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by P. McEvoy

That the Public Safety Committee meeting

be adjourned.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli
City Clerk and Director Legislative Services

Councillor Stutt, Chairperson