

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE
(RJC)**

November 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Amanda Semenoff	- Alternate Chair, Community Member
Pamela Craven	- School District 40 (SD40) Representative
Stacey Ferguson	- Community Member
Gurinder Mann	- Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) Representative
Savanna Pelech	- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Constable Tim Callaghan	- New Westminster Police Department (NWPD) Representative
Chief Dave Jansen	- New Westminster Police Department
Inspector Diana McDaniel	- New Westminster Police Department
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the November 24, 2020 Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda be adopted with the following additions:

- 5.1 Seek Council Approval to Add a Representative of the New Westminster Indigenous Court as a member of the Restorative Justice Committee; and,*
- 6.4 School District 40 Report.*

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of the September 29, 2020 Restorative Justice Committee Meeting

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the September 29, 2020 Restorative Justice Committee minutes be adopted with the following amendment:

- 1. Remove Wes Everaars from the attendance list, as he is not on the Committee and did not attend the September 29, 2020 meeting.*

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls - Recommendations to Council and/or the Provincial Court System to Inform a Local Approach (Report) – Councillor Puchmayr (Standing Item)

Chief Jansen, New Westminster Police Department, introduced Inspector Diana McDaniel, New Westminster Police Department, who oversees the Victim Assistance Unit of the Department, and author of the report in response to the Calls for Justice.

Chief Jansen and Inspector McDaniel provided the following comments in response to questions posed by the Committee regarding the Calls for Justice in the Reclaiming Power and Place Report:

How is the NWPD measuring its relationship with the various communities in the City and how does the NWPD know if they are being improved upon?

- Review of a survey which has been conducted over the years and the Department's commencement with the strategic planning process showed that traditional ways of responding has resulted in a large overlooked group in the community who are not often heard;
- The Department reached out to community groups through City Hall resources, as well as by going directly into the community to meet with and listen to people face to face in places where they felt comfortable;
- The Department contacted various organizations and stakeholders such as the Spirit of the Children Society (SOTCS), etc., to meet with their leaders and

managers, which reinforced that the NRPD has a positive relationship with these entities;

- Meeting with the various organizations and stakeholders allowed the Department to learn how to further foster these relationships over time, and also led to the creation of a Diversity Unit within the NRPD that allows Police to continue engagement with the community which, in turn, will be measured by the continued relationships; and,
- The Department will continue to reach out to the community to determine what needs to be improved upon.

How is the NRPD planning to address and fulfill the Calls for Police Action in the Report?

- In part, how the NRPD addresses and fulfills the Calls for Police Action, is dependent on the budget; however, Council has prioritized addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion framework for the City;
- Engagement events that Police attend, talking to vulnerable parts of population and community, and internal engagement will facilitate the creation of a formalized plan, by external resources, for the Department to use moving forward;
- Preliminary work on this has commenced at the Provincial level with the British Columbia Association of Police Chiefs which will take a broader approach to this work;
- Inspector McDaniel's report acknowledges the Calls for Action and includes an analysis of the NRPD's current systems such as recruitment, building community relationships, procedures, training, and investigative practices through the lens of the Calls for Justice. The report will be shared with Committee members after the meeting; and,
- Next steps include completing the actions required.

Does the NRPD intend to hire someone to oversee implementation of the guidelines outlined in the Calls for Police Services as noted in the Report? Is this included in the Department's budget?

- The NRPD was already moving forward on this when the City began work on equity and inclusion;
- The motion on Police reform will be further discussed;
- The Department is not currently planning to hire someone as it awaits information and findings from various committees and groups that will determine the path forward; and
- Funding requests must be supported by data.

Chief Jansen and Inspector McDaniel provided the following comments in response to questions from the Committee:

- Further engagement with the City's Indigenous population could be facilitated through the City's reconciliation initiatives, the Justice Institute, as well as through the Department's contacts with the SOTCS, Douglas College, etc., which may also hold opportunities for partnerships;
- Additional factors that would help the Department fulfill the Calls to Action include the creation of an Indigenous Advisory Committee to support ongoing relationships and engagement, addressing gaps in recruitment and have more Indigenous youth involved in the Police program to improve diversity on the force;
- City staff expertise and work in reconciliation will support the Police in addressing the Calls to Action, as will bringing community leaders together to connect, help, and build trust, and hearing from those with learned and living experience, all of which will help formulate what needs to be done and facilitating moving forward on the Calls;
- The Complaint Commissioner would best address the rebuilding of the restorative justice process; however, a legislative committee would make changes to the Police Act;
- Initial reconciliation work will be undertaken with consultants and will become more involved with the Police Board's resolution;
- Meetings have occurred with Qayqayt and Musqueam communities and the Mayor has met with Squamish and Kwikwetlem communities; however, it would be nice to receive a wider range of input;
- The pandemic has paused things but there is continued involvement with Qayqayt, T̓silhqot'in, and Musqueam representatives; and,
- The NRPD could reach out to Indigenous communities directly so as to not solely rely on Council for information.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following comments:

- It is great to see that this is still a work in progress although major improvements have been made over the years, including a change in the culture;
- Reconciliation is a part of the curriculum at the Justice Institute, as is engagement at Douglas College;
- It may be challenging to prioritize addressing the gaps between where the Department is now and where it would like to be; and,
- Truth and reconciliation goes beyond what the municipal government is doing and the NRPD should be involved in their own capacity.

4.2 State of First Nations Court

Councillor Puchmayr noted the following comments about the First Nations Court:

- An extension had been granted from the Attorney General to use the Anvil Centre until the March 2021, which is the end of the fiscal year; however, as per the Provincial Health Order, all in-person proceedings have been cancelled and the Court is currently meeting online; and,
- The costs to use the Anvil Centre are prohibitive for the Court, and other facilities are being investigated, including the Massey Gym, which is attached to the Massey Theatre, and will be turned over to the City in 2021.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Seek Council Approval to Add a Representative of the New Westminster Indigenous Court as a Member of the Restorative Justice Committee

Councillor Puchmayr noted that the Restorative Justice Committee has become an advocate for the Indigenous Court, and having a representative from the Court on the Committee would be of benefit.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Restorative Justice Committee recommend that City Council amend the Terms of Reference for the Restorative Justice Committee to include a representative from the New Westminster Indigenous Court.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Standing Items:

6.1 Constable Callaghan – Report

Constable Tim Callaghan, NWPD, shared that an increase in anxiety has been observed since the start of the pandemic, and an associated increase in restorative justice referrals to CERA has been observed, many in the youth sphere. He also noted that restorative justice is gaining ground among police officers and there has been an increase in inquiries and learning about it.

6.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) – Report

Gurinder Mann, CERA representative, provided the following report:

- There have been four cases referred to CERA from New Westminster in the past few weeks, which is encouraging;
- CERA is working to broaden relationships and they are thankful to NWPD for their help;
- A new Memorandum of Understanding is being developed between CERA and Crown Council;
- CERA's relationship with ICBC is also developing; and,
- CERA is taking time during the pandemic to update their website and develop videos to be used by schools to educate youth on restorative justice values.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Mann noted that CERA has continued to carry out their work through the pandemic by ensuring restorative justice conversations can continue, while abiding by Government guidelines. This has included modifying mediations and conferences, through using phones and online technology, although this has not been easy because of confidentiality aspects.

6.3 New Westminster Victim Assistance Association (NWVAA) – Report

Not in attendance.

6.4 School District 40 - Report

The Committee requested that a report from the School District become a standing item on Restorative Justice Committee agendas going forward.

Pamela Craven, School District 40 Representative, noted that there are currently no Police Department liaison officers in schools; however they are working on agreements to get them back in and have them onsite. She also noted that it is encouraging that the CERA website will be available for use in schools, and suggested that she could discuss some approaches for how restorative justice is being used at elementary school levels at the next meeting.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

The January 2021 meeting date is still to be determined.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Puchmayr
Chair

Original Signed

Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk