



**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
(RJC)**

**May 28, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.  
Boardroom A, City Hall  
MINUTES**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Constable Tim Callaghan	- NWPD Representative
Wes Everaars	- Community Member
Terry Hewitt	- Victim Assistance Association Board Representative
Laura Roberts	- SD #40 Representative
Amanda Semenoff	- Community Member

**REGRETS:**

Stacey Ferguson	- Alternate Chair/Community Member
Gurinder Mann	- CERA Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

**1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

**1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the May 28, 2019 Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.*

**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 March 12, 2019**

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the March 12, 2019 Restorative Justice Committee minutes be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

### **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items.

### **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

#### **6.1 Update: Report to Council re The State of the Indigenous Court Facility in New Westminster – Councillor Puchmayr**

Councillor Puchmayr advised that Council adopted the resolution by consent, reminding Committee members that the resolution spoke of the need to expand the Indigenous Court System and to create a better environment in the New Westminster Indigenous Court with respect to the overcrowding experienced to the extent that some family members are unable to attend the court proceedings of loved ones. The resolution will go to Union of BC Municipalities December.

Councillor Puchmayr noted that during recent Indigenous Court proceedings, it became apparent that housing is a big challenge and that the attendance of a representative from the Lookout Society may facilitate an immediate response to housing issues encountered during the sessions.

With respect to the removal of the Judge Begbie statue, Councillor Puchmayr stated that those attending Indigenous Court sessions that day would be invited to attend the removal of the statue if they so desired. He shared that Council agreed to relocate the statue as having it on the same site as an Indigenous Court is inappropriate and insensitive, and documents in the City archives indicate a real intrusion into a society and nation with both the provincial and federal governments agreeing and exonerating the six chiefs. Where the statue will be placed in the future is still under discussion.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Moving the Judge Begbie statue is not about erasing mistakes but addressing the pain it causes to the Tsilhqot'in Nation and others when they attend court;

- In response to a Committee member's comment that removing the statue would not resolve the issues of today, another Committee member maintained that the removal is about welcoming Indigenous peoples to the space, not having them walk past the judge who was instrumental in the demise of their grandparents, great-grandparents, and chiefs, providing them a space in the system and showing them that the system can be fair. She also stated that when people sit in a space of unresolved trauma, the pain is not in the past;
- Removing the statue will not cost a lot but will have a great impact; and,
- Indigenous women, even today, would not have the same experience that Caucasian women would entering various spaces at the courthouse.

**6.2 Update: Report to Council re The State of Legal Aid and Lack of Funding – Councillor Puchmayr**

Councillor Puchmayr advised that Council adoption the resolution on consent.

**6.3 Update: Report to Council re Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) and the Police Board**

Councillor Puchmayr advised that Council adoption the resolution on consent.

**Standing Items:**

**6.4 Constable Callaghan – Report**

Constable Callaghan announced that three or four youth files have been referred to the New Westminster Police Department for restorative justice, noting that violent youth crime, on the whole, is down, and extreme cases may not fit in the restorative justice space. He advised that, with respect to adults and restorative justice, challenges include the fact that that statements are not taken from inebriated individuals and by the time the person is sober, they want to drop the whole issue.

**6.5 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) – Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative**

Constable Callaghan provided the following update on behalf of Mr. Mann:

- Mr. Mann, along with Lorne Zapotichny, Director of CERA, will meet with Acting New Westminster Police Chief, Dave Jansen, on June 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss referrals and CERA's partnership with the City;
- The relationship with SD#40 is going well, in particular with New Westminster Secondary School where CERA is presenting restorative justice at the school;
- Some referrals have been received from the New Westminster Police Department and it is hoped that trend will continue; and,

- CERA is close to finalizing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Crown's office that will, hopefully, increase the number of youth and adult files that CERA receives from the Crown.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Challenges faced with today's youth are much different than in previous years;
- While youth are more likely to talk about mental health, internalizing behaviour such as anxiety sees them hiding out at home, unable to be reached and given help;
- Some police agencies have civilian members reviewing files to determine which are appropriate for restorative justice, while other municipalities may utilize systems other than restorative justice;
- Since middle schools have been using more in-house programs, much less youths are being sent to alternative programs;
- When restorative justice is embedded in schools, such as what has been done in Abbotsford and Coquitlam, it has been successful;
- The New Westminster Secondary School mediation program has been utilized less over the years since staff are able to mediate the students themselves;
- A derivative of the Restorative Justice Program may be useful in dealing with neighbour disputes; however, the police and bylaw officers would need to be able to explain what restorative justice is and that it may be an option.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed  
**Councillor Chuck Puchmayr**  
**Chair**

Original Signed  
**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**