



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE (RJC)

**November 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Boardroom A, City Hall**

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr	- Chair, City Council Member
Stacey Ferguson	- Alternate Chair/Community Member
Constable Tim Callaghan	- NWPD Representative
Wes Everaars	- Community Member
Gurinder Mann	- CERA Representative
Amanda Semenoff	- Community Member

VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Pam Craven	- SD40 Representative
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GUEST:

Bailey Keeler	- Unit Coordinator New Westminister Victim Assistance Association
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STAFF PRESENT:

Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the November 26, 2019 Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda be adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.1: Kwikwèxwelhp Healing Village by Councillor Puchmayr.

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 September 24, 2019

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the September 24, 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

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 – Councillor Puchmayr (Standing Item)

Councillor Puchmayr proposed the following motion:

The Restorative Justice Committee supports the initiative with respect to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and Girls and endorses the direction of Council in the introduction of this issue to the City and that the Restorative Justice Committee will remain focused on this when dealing with issues of Indigenous justice.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The motion should not be specific to Indigenous people. Those in the court system should not be discriminated against regardless of whether or not they identify as an Indigenous person;
- CERA makes no distinctions based on ethnicity; however, recently the Solicitor General's Office has requested specific data on individual cases in order to inform a demographic breakdown of cases;
- The NWPD does not identify an individual's ethnicity in a file; however, the Department utilizes trauma-informed practice which looks at cultural and gender sensitivity, among other things, and if someone specifically self identifies, it may be included in the file;
- Organizations should respectfully assist both identifying and non-identifying individuals, supporting all vulnerable people appropriately;

- A Committee member shared that, for reasons of safety and better treatment, she has not always identified as Indigenous; and,
- Although a sensitive issue, identifying ethnicity can be very helpful to the Police when they are trying to locate a missing person.

Councillor Puchmayr withdrew the previous motion and the Committee passed the following motion:

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Restorative Justice Committee acknowledges the importance of the Reclaiming Power and Place report and will use this lens in the work of the Committee and in its support of Restorative Justice in the City of New Westminster.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 First Nations Courts: Update on Meetings with the Attorney General and the Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Councillor Puchmayr provided a brief follow up on his and staff's meeting with David Eby, Attorney General and Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General concerning the Committee's resolution regarding the state of the First Nations Courts, sharing that the meeting went well and they are looking into possibly moving the Court to a more accommodating venue. It was also announced that the First Nations Court in Williams Lake is expected to open in January and judges are requesting a First Nations Court in the Fraser Valley as well.

The Committee's resolution was picked up by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA), making it one of their key lobby issues; unfortunately, the motion did not make it to the floor at the UBCM and was not prioritized. Councillor Puchmayr stated that he would continue to work with the LMLGA on this issue, further noting that as the resolution will be going to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) without the UBCM backing it, it will most likely not be supported.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Restorative Justice Committee requests that the Mayor send a letter to David Eby, Attorney General and Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to thank them for their time during the meeting of September 26, 2019 regarding the Committee's request for improvements to the New Westminster First Nations Court and request an update of the same.

CARRIED.

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

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Kwìkwèxwelhp Healing Village – Councillor Puchmayr

Councillor Puchmayr shared that Robert Nahanee, a Squamish Elder, has invited Committee members to spend an afternoon at the Kwìkwèxwelhp Healing Village, located in Harrison Mills, to learn more about the program. Councillor Puchmayr will forward more information to Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, who will poll Committee members for the most viable date to visit the Village.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Standing Items:

6.1 Constable Callaghan – Report

Constable Callaghan shared the following:

- Resolutions adopted by the Police Board include:
 - Watch Commanders and Staff Sergeants are being trained to recognize files appropriate for restorative justice referral;
 - In-house restorative justice training to be given to anyone joining the Department, including use of a template to ascertain when restorative justice is appropriate;
 - A larger emphasis will be placed on community policing which will become a core component of promotion (i.e. how much involvement has the candidate had in community policing, how many restorative justice referrals have they had, etc.). This will incentivize members to make a better impact on the community in general. This approach is very forward thinking on the part of the NWPD as not a lot of agencies employ this standard for promotions; and,
- There are now two inspectors working with the homeless population in marginalized communities.

6.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) – Report

Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative, provided a brief recap of the symposium that CERA recently hosted noting that there was a good, enthusiastic turnout at the event, including people from ICBC, various school districts, the crown, etc., and which featured a number of speakers including Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General and covered topics such as the practical application of restorative justice in schools. He shared that CERA is looking forward to building upon its relationships with attendees and that participants left

knowing more about the restorative justice process. Another event will be planned for 2020.

Bailey Keeler, Unit Coordinator, New Westminster Victim Assistance Association, shared that the organization has 38 active volunteers who complete regular shift work. She noted that approximately 10 volunteers are on leave right now and that the whole team consists of about 50 to 60 people from diverse backgrounds including criminology students, retired nurses, teachers, and community members who want to give back.

6.3 Committee Review Update – Councillor Puchmayr

Councillor Puchmayr announced that the civic committees have been restructured to align with the City’s Strategic Priorities. He noted that the Restorative Justice Committee has been productive in identifying problems in the community and working to ease them.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in Boardroom A at 5:00 p.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____
Stacey Ferguson
Alternate Chair

Original Signed _____
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk