



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE (RJC)**

**September 24, 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
Pam Craven	- SD40 Representative
Stacey Ferguson	- Alternate Chair/Community Member
Gurinder Mann	- CERA Representative
Amanda Semenoff	- Community Member
Wes Everaars	- Community Member

#### **GUESTS:**

Constable Dave Jansen	- Acting Chief, New Westminister Police Department
Bailey Keeler	- Unit Coordinator New Westminister Victim Assistance Association

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
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The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

#### **1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

##### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the September 24, 2019 Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

Amanda Semenoff, Community member, requested that an update of the City's committee review be added to the November 26, 2019 agenda.

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of May 28, 2019**

#### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the May 28, 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**

### **5.1 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**

Councillor Puchmayr advised that this item was referred to the Committee in a July 8, 2019 resolution by Council, sharing that Council has directed that all staff be educated on the impact of colonization and move forward with City initiatives looking through the lens of reconciliation.

Acting Chief Constable Jansen informed Committee members that the Police Board will meet with Council next month to respond to the Calls to Justice and that the Board is reviewing all relevant task forces in order to provide a complete and thorough report back to Council.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- There appears to be space for restorative, rather than punitive, justice work especially where the New West Police Department interacts with adult Indigenous peoples;
- The Committee must work on this direction from Council at every meeting in order to provide thoughtful and articulate responses and recommendations; therefore, this should be a standing item on the Committee's agendas; and,

- Committee members will be informed as to how the Police Board will be addressing this issue once it becomes public.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Restorative Justice Committee recommend that creation of recommendations to Council and/or the provincial court system to inform a local approach to the Calls to Justice that refer to the court system in response to Reclaiming Power and Place, the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls be added to the future Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda as a standing item.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**5.2 Committee Update: New Westminster Victim Assistance Association (NWVAA) Board Representation – Councillor Puchmayr**

Councillor Puchmayr advised Committee members of Mr. Terry Hewitt's September 23<sup>rd</sup> letter of resignation from the Committee.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter, members of the public be excluded from the Closed Meeting of the Committee immediately following the Regular Meeting of the Committee on the basis that the subject matter is considered related to matters listed under Sections 90(1) (a) of the Community Charter:*

- (a) *personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality.*

**CARRIED**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Restorative Justice Committee be adjourned and proceed to Closed Session.*

**CARRIED**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Regular Meeting of the Restorative Justice Committee reconvene in the City Hall Council Chamber.*

**CARRIED**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Terms of Reference of the Restorative Justice Committee be amended to include the unit coordinator of the New Westminster Victim Assistance Association as a representative on the Committee.*

**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**

Acting Chief Constable Jansen advised Committee members that a report will be going to Council in October with respect to CERA and the Police Board.

**6.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) – Report**

Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative, provided the following update:

- Overall the restorative justice program is doing well and, while there is a still a scarcity of files from New Westminster, Acting Chief Constable Jansen is supportive of the program and CERA looks forward to working with him;
- CERA has a positive relationship with the Police Board and continues to build restorative justice bridges with the School Board; and,
- The Restorative Justice Forum will be held on November 15<sup>th</sup> and will feature speakers such as the Minister of Pubic Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth.

**7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1 Union of BC Municipalities – Response to March 12, 2019 Resolution from the RJC re The State of Legal Aid and Lack of Funding**

Councillor Puchmayr advised that recently Legal Aid lawyers met with the Attorney General David Eby and were able to secure a 25% pay increase, noting that this is the first increase they have received in approximately 16 years.

Discussion ensued and a Committee member stated that self-representing litigants (those who cannot afford a lawyer) are causing a back log in the court system since they do not necessarily understand the process and must attend court three to five times longer often than those who have legal representation. She noted that

the cost of providing litigants with a lawyer may be the same or less than the cost incurred when litigants receive assistance and direction from a judge.

**7.2 David Eby, Attorney General – Response to March 12, 2019 Resolution from the RJC re The State of the Indigenous Court Facility in New Westminster**

Councillor Puchmayr announced that the City will be meeting with Attorney General David Eby to discuss the Indigenous Courts. He shared that City's Indigenous Court sees people coming from across the country to attend hearings and that the restorative justice program saves the crown a lot of money which could be invested in these services.

**7.3 New Westminster Municipal Police Board – Response to March 12, 2019 Resolution from the RJC re Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) and the Police Board**

This item will be addressed at a future meeting.

**8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Certified Correct,

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

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