

**COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Thursday, September 28, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair  
Ron Coulson, Citizen Representative  
David Krenz, Citizen Representative  
Amandeep Sangha, Citizen Representative  
Tom Bowlware, Hope for Freedom Society  
Jeremy Clarke, School District No. 43  
Kevin Volz, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce  
Chloe Chen, Youth Council

REGRETS: Councillor Craig Hodge, Chair  
Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative  
Thábata da Costa, Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership

STAFF: Sarah Bird, Acting Business Licensing Manager  
Chrystal Santos, Manager Business and Innovation  
Kim Singh, Manager Police Services  
Nicole Cairns, Coordinator Plans and Policies  
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice Chair provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgment and acknowledged the tragic events which took the life of Constable Rick O'Brien on Friday, September 22, 2023.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, March 30, 2023**

The Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 were approved.

**2. Informal Meeting Notes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, June 29, 2023**

The Informal Meeting Notes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, June 29, 2023 were approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **3. Coquitlam RCMP Gang Enforcement Team Overview**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

### **4. Bylaw Enforcement in City Parks**

The Acting Business Licensing Manager provided a presentation entitled “Park Patrols” that covered the following topics:

- Background and overview of Coquitlam bylaw enforcement park patrols and enforcement approach
- Breakdown of Coquitlam’s park and trail space
- Park patrols being part of a multi-disciplinary approach to public safety
- Coordinated Approach for Public Protection (CAPP)
- Recent park patrol initiatives, including increased staff funding and funding for electric bikes (e-bikes) to be used for patrols
- Data on the number of park patrols and violations in 2023
- Bylaw enforcement in the context of evolving climate and wildlife considerations
- The desire to educate residents on fire safety in parks

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether parking lots in City parks are locked at night and the possibility of installing locking gates
- Concerns regarding fireworks being set off in Coquitlam parks at night
- Whether City bylaw officers are collaborating with the RCMP and local non-profits to help unhoused residents in City parks find shelter
- Bylaw officer priority classification system, work schedule, hours and response times
- Coquitlam’s bylaw policy regarding open drug use in parks compared to other municipalities
- The City’s collaboration with the Province for legislation regarding drug use in public spaces
- Whether smoking violations in Coquitlam parks are trending downward
- When and where City bylaw officers use the new e-bikes
- Concerns regarding e-bikes and e-scooters being improperly parked on sidewalks and applicable fines

- The City's E-Scooter Pilot Project rules and regulations, uptake and future recommendations from assessment phase

Amandeep Sangha declared a conflict of interest due to past work related to the topic of discussion and left the meeting at this time (7:29 p.m.).

## **5. Building Safer Communities Program**

The Coordinator Plans and Policies provided a presentation entitled "City of Coquitlam – Building Safer Communities Program" that covered the following topics:

- Background and overview of the Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP)
- COVID-19 pandemic impacts on youth issues and concerns
- The Child and Family at Risk Support Table (CFAST), including background, goals, benefits, history, timeline and community partners
- How at risk youths are identified
- Youth outreach workers, including their responsibilities and collaboration with community groups
- Afterschool/mentorship programming community partnerships, including Access Youth, Washington Kids Foundation, YMCA and Yo Bro Yo Girl
- Community outreach and education initiatives, including stakeholder training, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) training and parent/caregiver workshops
- BSCP next steps, including fall kick-off and outreach education/preparation
- Public youth resources

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether Coquitlam has an RCMP school liaison program
- Whether Coquitlam is collaborating with other municipalities regarding youth outreach programming and funding
- Programming capacity as a challenge for youth outreach programming
- Youth issues and challenges extending beyond municipal borders
- Interconnectivity and online activity of contemporary youth
- CFAST meetings, including how quickly meetings can be held for youth in crisis and the reporting process for school officials to pass on information regarding at risk youth

Amandeep Sangha returned to the meeting at this time (7:57 p.m.).

## **6. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues**

The Vice Chair invited the Committee members to share details regarding emerging safety issues in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- The RCMP's duty to warn the public of gang members and whether this applies to repeat violent offenders
- The issue of chronic offenders being released on bail
- The recent shooting death of Constable Rick O'Brien in Coquitlam on Friday, September 22, 2023

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **NEXT MEETING – Thursday, November 30, 2023**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

### **MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

---

Teri Towner, Vice Chair

---

Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk