

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Thursday, November 20, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, November 20, 2025 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 Dennis Marsden, Chair
Councillor Trish Mandewo, Vice Chair
Leo Chen, Coquitlam Youth Council
Andrea Corrigan, Hope for Freedom Society
Julianne (Jewels) Cressman, Citizen Representative
Carol Metz, Citizen Representative
Mezie Odigboh, Citizen Representative
Judy Payne, School District No. 43
Ally Wang, Citizen Representative
Mohammad Ziaei, Block Watch Program

ABSENT: Ron Coulson, Citizen Representative (Regrets)
Ravinder Safaya, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce (Regrets)
Amandeep Sangha, Citizen Representative (Regrets)

STAFF: Vince Lalonde, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jim Ogloff, General Manager Community Safety
Inspector Aaron Lloyd, Coquitlam RCMP
Kim Singh, Senior Manager Police Services
Sean O'Melinn, Manager Business and Innovation
Jill Van Os, Acting Manager Police Support Services
Ian Waters, Strategic Analyst
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

The Chair introduced the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Vince Lalonde.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 18, 2025

The Minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 18, 2025 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Community Safety Discussion

The Chair provided introductory remarks and invited Committee members to share perceptions of safety in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concern regarding increased presence of street-involved persons and potential property crime in the Town Centre neighbourhood.
- Desire for renewed Block Watch activity and workshops on securing property.
- Report of feelings of considerable safety in the Burke Mountain neighbourhood.
- Concerns regarding bear awareness and urban bear activity as an issue of safety.
- Concern about pedestrian situational awareness while using cellphones and headphones.
- Concern about reticence among residents to contact the police, and potential issues arising from alternative actions such as posting video of suspicious activity to social media or vigilantism.
- Suggestion that RCMP or Community Safety staff attend neighbourhood block parties to provide information and build relationships.
- Suggestion to focus on causes of safety and perceptions thereof by building stronger communities and trust through leaders modelling respect, better socialization in schools, and hosting inclusive community events.
- Understanding of the impacts of Covid-19, social media, and political polarization on isolation, loss of community integration, and loss of respectful dialogue.
- Suggestion that the definition of neighbourhood and related issues of safety should include online interactions.

In response to documents submitted by a Committee member and presented on table, staff noted the following:

- The City of Penticton *Safe Public Places Bylaw* was a response to provincial legislation on possession of drugs, and while it likely intended to provide a sense of safety by preventing congregation in certain public places it is largely unenforceable.
- Federal Bill C-9 proposes protections for religious and community institutions while balancing the Charter right to free expression.

3. Hate Speech Considerations and Response

Inspector Aaron Lloyd gave a presentation entitled “Hate Crimes and Incidents” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Clarification of characteristics of incidents that would or would not qualify as a hate crime or incident and the likelihood of successful prosecution.
- Suggestion that opportunities for teachable moments be sought in addition to criminal justice proceedings, particularly for youth.
- Suggestion to host public events in connection with officer training to allow communities to inform the definition of hate and to identify emerging issues.
- Suggestion of creative use of social media for education within the community.
- Concern that calls to the BC Racist Incident Hotline are not referred to the RCMP for action.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted that the BC Racist Incident Helpline is a partnership between the Government of BC and United Way, independent of police, and provides free, confidential, trauma-informed support to for anyone who has experienced or witnessed an act of racism in BC.

4. What to Expect When Calling 9-1-1

The Acting Manager Police Support Services gave a presentation entitled “What to Expect When Calling 9-1-1” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the responsiveness of 9-1-1 operators.
- Report that there is uncertainty amongst residents about who to report to about urban bear activity.
- Report that people may be confused as to when it is appropriate to call 9-1-1, particularly as a result of past public education campaigns to “call only in an emergency.”
- Suggestion to make a simple educational flyer more readily available in community centres or multi-unit housing complexes.

- Suggestion to educate the public on the importance of reporting crime for statistical and police response strategy purposes.
- Suggestion to explore ways to manage demands on 9-1-1 during major disasters, such as publicizing incidents that have been reported already.
- Suggestion that allowing anonymous reporting would encourage reporting amongst populations that have a more challenging relationship with police.
- Suggestion to integrate police reporting in the CoquitlamConnect app.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Public education campaigns now focus on encouraging 9-1-1 calls where someone may be unsure whether a situation warrants it: “If in doubt, call 9-1-1.”
- Any complaint about how a 9-1-1 call was handled by an operator can be submitted and the call will be reviewed, as they are all recorded.
- 9-1-1 operators are not authorized or able to guarantee anonymity to callers and are required to ask about a caller’s identity to aid in response and investigation, although a caller is not required to disclose.
- Next Generation 9-1-1 will facilitate text messaging.

Judy Payne left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:30 p.m.).

5. 2025 Year-End Review / 2026 Work Plan Development

The Manager Business and Innovation gave a presentation entitled “Year-End Review and 2026 Work Planning” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the breadth of topics addressed as a good reflection of the complexity of community safety.
- Reports that the most relevant and interesting activities of the past year were those that addressed high-level, long-term planning or ongoing issues including pedestrian safety, extreme weather, and homelessness, as well as particularly impactful issues including Victim Services, the Youth Gang Exit Program, and hate crimes.
- Disappointment with the lack of prior consultation on the homelessness and encampment response, notwithstanding maintaining operational security.
- Desire to understand better the outcomes and impact of Committee input.
- Suggestion to prioritize time in meetings for input-based items, limit time on informational presentations, and limit time presenting information provided with the agenda package for review in advance.
- Desire for information that Committee members receive be presented in format that can be readily disseminated to their respective communities and networks.

- Suggestion to provide Committee members greater opportunity to consult and report more considered input, perhaps by revisiting agenda items at the subsequent meeting.
- Suggestion to enlarge the Committee to represent additional ethnic groups.
- Suggestions for items to carryforward in the 2026 Work Plan including pedestrian safety, extreme weather, homelessness, and the Youth Gang Exit Program.
- Suggestions for additional items in the 2026 Work Plan including community-RCMP relations; safety at transit facilities (Transit Police); online fraud and other risks; artificial intelligence safety and use by police; Emergency Health Service, emergency medical calls, and urgent care; and hosting a pavilion at the City's Canada Day event.

6. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

There was no discussion related to this item.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Dennis Marsden, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk