



**Attendance:**

**Policing Committee Members**

Perry Brooks, Chairperson  
Stewart Begg, Vice Chairperson  
Councillor Jibs Abitoye  
Steven Hull, Public Complaints Director  
Sean Clements  
Gloria Brathwaite

**Administration Representatives**

Heather Cowie, General Manager of Community & Protective Services  
Coreen Rayner, Director of Protective Services  
Insp. Mike McCauley, Officer in Charge RCMP  
Kalie Anderson, Recording Secretary

**Absent:**

Christine Beveridge

**Absent:**

Sgt. Lee Hardman, MES Supervisor

**Public Guests:**

Kelty Coburn, Fort Saskatchewan Victim Services Unit

**Administration Guests**

None

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

- a. Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm by Perry Brooks.

**2. Consent Agenda Approval (Agenda & Minutes)**

- a. Stewart Begg moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Steven Hull, carried.

**3. Opportunity for Public Guests**

a. **Victim Services Presentation – Kelty Coburn, Program Manager**

The Victim Services Unit (VSU) provides assistance to people impacted by crime or tragedy. Referrals mainly come from the RCMP but they also get some referrals from the community. VSU has a mix of paid staff and volunteer advocates that provide a range of services including emotional support, referrals to community resources, court preparation and accompaniment. The main goal of VSU is to lessen the impact of crime for victims and help them navigate through the criminal justice system. VSU works inside the Protective Services Building and has a good working relationship with RCMP and MES officers and civilian staff. VSU is funded by grants from Alberta Justice & Solicitor General as well as through fundraising.

Feedback for Policing in Fort Saskatchewan:

- Positive feedback for RCMP regarding the creation of the Domestic Violence Coordinator position, this really helps VSU.
- VSU has heard concerns from rural residents who have experienced property crime about repeat victimization and response times.
- Overall positive feedback from the community and other service providers.

Inspector McCauley and Councillor Abitoye noted that Victim Services is critical to Fort Saskatchewan and provides an excellent level of service.



**b. Restorative Justice Presentation – Gloria Brathwaite, Program Manager**

Restorative Justice (RJ) is part of the Volunteer Programs Association which also oversees Victim Services. They have a small office in the Protective Services Building and they provide service to Fort Saskatchewan and surrounding rural areas. Restorative Justice has one paid staff and 9 volunteers. They get referrals from the RCMP, MES, Crown Prosecutors, and the community.

Restorative Justice has a holistic approach to repairing harm and conflict in families, the community, and between neighbours or friends. They offer services in Restorative Conferences, Restorative Circles, Conflict Assistance and Mentorship. In cases with a victim and offender, once consent is obtained, the involved parties will meet with a facilitator in advance and then hold a conference. During the conference they will come to an agreement about how to repair the harm and move forward. The agreement has a timeline that can vary depending on the circumstances. Once the agreement is complete, everyone involved will meet again to follow up and conclude the process. Clients are provided with a mentor to help guide them through the process and to provide referrals to community resources.

RJ also has a new Conflict Assistance Program that works with clients one on one to help people move forward after conflict. This was created during COVID-19 to address gaps in services in the community. RJ is also active with the Bridge Wellness Hub for Youth in Fort Saskatchewan and they facilitate Restorative Circles to give youth a safe space to share and get support for mental health.

Feedback for Policing in Fort Saskatchewan:

- Overall positive feedback, RJ has been welcomed by everyone with Protective Services/RCMP. RJ worked with the School Resource Officer in 2019 and went into local schools to teach youth about Restorative Justice. Would like to do this again once COVID protocols are lifted in the schools.
- Successes: RJ has seen an increase in referrals coming from Municipal Enforcement Services especially for neighbour disputes.
- Challenges: RCMP does not refer many clients to RJ, would like to see more referrals coming from the members. Last year Gloria did a presentation to each RCMP watch to educate members about the program but there was no increase in referrals after that.
- Community feedback: there have been times when police were involved in a file and no referrals was made so the client ended up self-referring to RJ.

Inspector McCauley and Coreen Rayner gave positive feedback to Gloria about the importance of Restorative Justice and committed to keeping a strong relationship. Inspector McCauley will schedule a meeting with Gloria to discuss ways to increase referrals from RCMP to Restorative Justice.

**4. RCMP Officer in Charge Report – Inspector Mike McCauley**

- a. Staffing: 2 experienced members are coming in April. At that time the detachment will be fully staffed. 1 member will be seconded to assist the Domestic Violence Coordinator and 1 member will be assigned to a rotating secondment to the Traffic/Crime Reduction Unit to help build skills and partnerships between specialized units and patrol officers.



- b. The Member Wellness Committee has been established with approximately 50% of RCMP members participating. The committee's mandate is to change the culture of the RCMP within the Fort Saskatchewan Detachment and beyond, as well as to make members comfortable to speak about their mental health. The committee is planning a workshop with a psychologist. Multiple other detachments in BC and Alberta have reached out for advice on how to start their own committees.
- c. Calls for service: In 2020, there were 8041 calls for service within the City of Fort Saskatchewan, this is down from over 9000 the previous year.
- d. Highlighted investigation: Members with the General Investigative Section charged a male with 93 counts of sexual based offences. Officers investigated after 1 or 2 victims came forward and were able to identify multiple other victims resulting in the large number of charges. Exceptional work was done by these officers to locate other victims and reduce the harm caused by the accused.

**5. Director Report & 6. Municipal Enforcement Services Report – Coreen Rayner**

- a. Sgt Hardman is away this week so Coreen provided both reports.
- b. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement report was sent to Policing Committee, this report was presented to City Council this week. Capacity Review of MES will be going to City Council in June.
- c. MES is fully staffed right now. Officers are still doing enforcement of provincial Public Health Orders.
- d. Vision Zero/Collisions: Coreen shared some information that is being added to the City website. Protective Services is seeing higher compliance to speed limits in areas with speed signs. The City's Traffic Safety Working Group helps to choose locations for speed signs. There is also new infrastructure planned for the next few years to help protect vulnerable road users like cyclists and pedestrians at major intersections.
- e. Positive feedback from Councillor Abitoye & the Policing Committee regarding Vision Zero and speed signs.

**7. New Business – Perry Brooks**

- a. AAPG Conference April 23: Registration has been purchased, up to 6 people can attend. Steven Hull, Coreen Rayner and Councillor Jibs Abitoye will be attending. The Policing Committee needs to designate someone as a voting delegate for the AGM. Perry Brooks nominated Steven Hull to be the voting delegate.

**8. Council Update – Councillor Jibs Abitoye**

- a. Council is looking at Truth & Reconciliation and also considering how to campaign safely for the upcoming election with public health restrictions. Kudos to CPO McLenaghan for receiving first Policing Committee Community Service Award.

**9. Public Complaints Director Report – Steven Hull**

- a. Several emails were exchanged with a resident about police vehicle placements during traffic stops, information was provided about the safety reasons for why officers block traffic lanes.



**10. AAPG Representative Update – Perry Brooks**

- a. Focusing on the conference in April, no other updates.

**11. Strategic Plan Update**

- a. Discussion about public guests presenting at Policing Committee meetings. Next meeting will invite the Multicultural Society with Chamber of Commerce as a backup.

**12. Round Table**

- a. FCSS is looking to create a Youth Council in the fall, this could be a group that could present at the Policing Committee. Possibility of adding a youth liaison between both committees.
- b. Thank you to Policing Committee members who came to present the Community Service Award.
- c. Protective Services also held a small COVID-safe event with a local animal rescue society who brought puppies to visit with officers and admin staff this week, was a good boost to morale.

**13. In Camera Session**

- a. Policing Committee members went in camera at 6:15 pm.

**14. Adjournment**

- a. Councillor Abitoye moved to adjourn, seconded by Steven Hull. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.