



# 2016 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

## MEETING AT MAGNUS ELIASON RECREATION CENTRE

June 8, 2016

<b>MEETING ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>Community Members: 26</b>	
<b>Winnipeg Police Board</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Scott Gillingham, Board Chair</li> <li>• Leslie Spillett, Board Member</li> <li>• Barry Tuckett, Board Vice Chair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mallory Richard</li> <li>• Gwen Kist</li> </ul>
<b>Winnipeg Police Service</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Devon Clunis</li> <li>• Deputy Chief Art Stannard</li> <li>• Deputy Chief Danny Smyth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superintendent Greg Burnett</li> <li>• Inspector Gord Friesen</li> <li>• Abdul Aziz</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh Brandon</li> <li>• Karn Gill</li> <li>• Jasmine Schulz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura McDonald</li> <li>• Andrew Wychnenka</li> <li>• Kate Kehler</li> </ul>
<b>NEEDS Inc. Interpreters</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Fast, Manager</li> <li>• Dalili Lokwa</li> <li>• Tek Yohans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farhio Mohame-Kasin</li> <li>• Mustafa Mahdi</li> <li>• Muhur Asmerom</li> </ul>

### OPEN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

- Is one of your strategic priorities improving the diversity of the Winnipeg Police Service's membership?
- High crime and drug houses on my street are causing the value of my home to decrease
- We are losing the battle to improve safety downtown – the street I live on is unsafe, there are only four homeowners left on the street and suspicious activity takes place during the day, it's downright scary to walk down the street at night – please help us
- Chief Clunis, I am going to miss you; I found the Police Service to be focused and competent under your leadership
- Is the Block-by-Block project still in the plan? It sounds a little redundant, coordinating services that many people and organizations are already delivering, especially at a cost of \$600,000 per year
- I am a newcomer and have been in Winnipeg for two years, in that time, I only see the police become involved with youth when the youth are in trouble – there should be more relationship-building
- I see that the Police Board is bringing some focus and has created some policies, but what does it exist to solve? Why was it brought in in 2013?
- Has the Police Service made any progress implementing a RID 911 program like other jurisdictions have, where the public is encouraged to call 911 to report impaired drivers? There should be traffic enforcement on evenings and weekends

- What programs are there to help people who are on the streets 24/7? I see this as a major risk factor for youth getting into gangs and crime

## TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The comments below are a compilation of the feedback provided in discussions involving citizens spread across four different tables. The Winnipeg Police Board used table discussions as a way of giving every citizen an opportunity to be heard. Where there is a number in parentheses, it refers to the number of people who expressed a particular idea.

### 1. Are there any parts of the Winnipeg Police Board's strategic plan that stood out for you?

- Racial profiling – can the police address this issue? Can this issue be explored in an in-depth way that involves community consultations and research?
- Use of restorative justice – I would like to see more information on the status of this; also, how is the restorative justice approach taking newcomers into account
- The Board should make policy recommendations to the City, Provincial courts
- I liked the focus on restorative justice (2)
- Would like to know more details about all parts of the strategic plan
- Is there a citizen advisory board for City Council? It should be directed by a board, too
- “Partnership and collaboration” are very vague, who are police partnering with? What does this mean in practice?
- There should be more focus on outreach
- What is the relationship between the Police Board and the Mayor and City Council? What kind of collaboration happens between these two? If the Mayor does not agree with Board decisions, what happens? How much power does the Board have? Is it a conflict of interest for two Councillors to sit on the Board? What is the diversity of the Board's members?
- The strategic plan should make more mention of the root causes of social issues, and discuss poverty-related issues and marginalization – what is the Board doing to address these issues?
- I liked the part about “continuing to build a police service that knows and protects communities”
- I liked the part about gang suppression
- Police doing outreach in schools makes my children feel safer; police outreach has improved in the past few years and kids in the neighbourhood have noticed
- Community policing is important
- I liked the emphasis on diversity and enhancing community relationships
- More mentorship, oral testing and use of plain language will make it easier for Indigenous people and newcomers to apply to become police officers
- Police should go to Meet Me at the Bell Tower
- Cross-cultural training is needed
- Police who walk around neighbourhoods building relationships are important, prevent crime

### 2. What are the biggest safety challenges in your community?

- Liquor stores are hot spots for trouble, there is public drinking taking place around these areas; maybe increased presence could help but would prefer an alternative
- Property owners could work with police
- Assistance from people from the community to help people with addictions issues

- Racial profiling from police – one participant relayed a story of walking at night in the North End and having the police shine a light on him, felt he was treated that way because he was Black; racial profiling causes people to distrust police, the police should hire more minorities
- Mental health and drug addiction issues, they seem to be increasing
- Walking to my car in the evening when it is parked off of Ellice
- What can we do about the drug problem? (3)
- After a drug house is shut down, do the police check back?
- Some people prefer to report to neighbourhood organizations
- It can be difficult to keep the community safe if you don't know your neighbours, especially if there are language barriers
- Impaired driving enforcement – there should be traffic police on weekends and evenings
- Substances are being used for unintended purposes by people with addictions
- Getting men involved in community activities is hard
- There is a shortage of affordable housing for homeless people
- It is hard to get and stay on welfare, especially for mental health patients; follow-up is lacking and it can lead to crisis
- My neighbours
- There are only four homeowners on my block of over 20 homes, this contributes to safety issues in my area
- Kids can't play on the sidewalk
- Sidewalks and back lanes aren't lit, I feel unsafe and there is greater risk of crime
- Poverty and marginalization are major issues, these contribute to crime
- It should not take such a long time for the police to respond once I have called either 911 or dispatch about safety concerns in my neighbourhood
- Once police arrive, it takes a long time for investigations to be launched or for progress to be visible
- Violence
- Young people being victims of crime
- Poverty (2)
- Substance abuse
- Street gangs
- Kids need to see police officers as people who will protect them, people they can turn to – offer example of Chief Clunis meeting with children and how police in Australia run youth programs
- Winnipeg does not have a crime problem so much as it has a poverty problem

### **3. What are your ideas for making your community safer?**

- More cadets patrolling locally, in neighbourhoods (3)
- West End Biz and Feet on the Street are doing well (2)
- Murals add a sense of pride for the community (3)
- Legalize drugs
- Close liquor stores and limit licenses
- Treatment for people with addictions
- Ongoing education in schools and workplaces
- Citizens on Patrol Program and Bear Clan (3)
- School resource officers

- There needs to be financial investment in social development, basic needs must be met – housing and skills/training
- Eliminate liquor stores
- Civilians need a positive attitude toward police
- Police don't treat youth as criminals, don't feed a stereotype or label people; give people a chance, don't lay charges right away, try and help youth to take a different path, especially newcomers
- Use "the wagon" for intoxication calls instead of the police to reduce calls to police (3)
- People interacting with each other more
- Community-building activities and opportunities
- Less emphasis on diversity
- More emphasis on diversity
- Community awareness
- The media play a big role, we need to change how the media portray certain areas or neighbourhoods
- We should move from talking about issues and solutions to taking action
- Agencies should come together to make communities safer; there needs to be more buy-in from community programs and agencies but also from the business community and private sector to invest in local communities
- Government funding should be examined
- Create more youth opportunities: jobs, training, education, recreation centres so they can be a part of the community and not turning to crime
- Education for all
- Looking at root causes of poverty and marginalization will make communities safer

**4. Police budgets have increased across the country, including Winnipeg. What are your thoughts in regard to policing costs?**

- Modern policing has expanded substantially, the police budget also needs to expand (2)
- Central Park has greatly improved because of police involvement, couldn't have been done without more investment
- More money for policing means safer communities
- Money needs to be invested in people, otherwise more and more money will need to be spent on policing (2)
- Police should be careful on equipment purchases
- Safety is paramount, if the budget needs to be a certain amount, then that's what it needs to be (2)
- There needs to be a balance
- The budget should reflect needs
- Police don't get enough funding (3)
- But was the tank/armoured rescue vehicle necessary? (3)
- I appreciate being told why I have to wait for a police response when it happens
- Money spent on armour and protective gear is worthwhile
- Times change and more money is needed now (2)
- Money could be saved on the police headquarters, that was poor planning (4)
- More money should be spent on foot and bike patrols
- Be practical, and don't compare Winnipeg to other cities

- Look at changes in the community, but don't use decreases in crime as an excuse to immediately reduce the number of officers
- Be creative with funding, do not rely on old models
- There should be more money spent on prevention
- It is not a good long-term investment to take money out of policing because emergency responders are stretched thin already
- Are there ways to have less experienced officers handling non-violent situations, doing the more social work kinds of things?
- A lot of people who are dealing with poverty end up getting picked up and put in the drunk tank
- People who need mental health support end up in contact with police
- Could special auxiliary policing be used so two officers aren't needed in each vehicle?
- It's hard to judge where budget cuts could be made
- How hard is it for police to share resources between divisions?

**5. What should the Police Service do to earn greater trust and confidence?**

- Police should mingle more, especially with refugees and children (3)
- I appreciate the current direction and the engagement that is happening already
- Reduce the length of time/number of people waiting for police response
- More involved in community
- Police should change their assumptions about people, especially newcomers
- Police should visit schools and community programs
- There should be more community policing – and really do it, don't just talk about it; the entire police service should be structured for community policing
- More diversity in the police service, more females
- More exposure in the communities, both in and out of uniform
- The cadet program is effective, police should increase this program
- Senior officers should be part of community forums
- Provide volunteer opportunities to high school students
- More and better interaction with youth
- Address stereotypes about police
- Strengthen socialization through family education
- Come into the community and build relationships
- Diversity in the police service: more women, more ethnic backgrounds
- Get youth involved
- More community activities run by police
- Police should attend more activities put on by the community
- More forums and chances for everyone to talk and meet
- More cross-cultural training
- Thorough screening processes to avoid hiring officers with discriminatory views
- More training, even a few hours of refresher training on cultural issues could help
- More one-on-one communication
- More community officer positions
- Targeting drunk driving after events at the stadium

**6. When we report back on our progress a year from now, what do you want to hear?**

- Report on police activities in the community

- Proactive initiatives have increased
- Violent crime around liquor stores has decreased
- A report on progress with restorative justice programming (6)
- The Board and the police have taken a serious look at racial profiling
- I want to hear things have improved in my area
- That the police have a RID 911 (Report Intoxicated Drivers) program
- Fewer drug houses
- I want to feel safe after dark
- Positive news
- Progress
- A commitment to what you are doing, show you have stuck with the plan
- A reduction in crime
- Statistics to back up your findings or show where things could still get better
- More engagement in the community and proof that police are making an effort

**7. Do you have any other comments you would like to share?**

- Make submitting electronic evidence easier
- Who is in charge of e-watch? Can we add impaired driving to the e-watch emails?
- It is difficult to build relationships with police when the officer you are getting to know is transferred out of your community, to another post (2)
- We appreciate police coming to neighbourhood meetings (2)
- Police do an amazing job (4)
- Thank you for all the work you do