



2016 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

MEETING AT MILLENNIUM LIBRARY

May 5, 2016

MEETING ATTENDANCE	
Community Members: 6	
Winnipeg Police Board	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Scott Gillingham, Board Chair • Angeline Ramkissoon, Board Member • Leslie Spillett, Board Member • Barry Tuckett, Board Vice Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Norquay • Mallory Richard • Gwen Kist
Winnipeg Police Service	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Chief Danny Smyth • Superintendent Bruce Ormiston • Chief Devon Clunis • Deputy Chief Art Stannard • Superintendent Gord Perrier • Superintendent Liz Pilcher • Superintendent Greg Burnett 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector Scot Halley • Inspector Barry Kostchuk • Inspector Jamie Blunden • John Burchill, Manager Strategic Issues • Pat de Jong, Manager Organizational Development & Support
Facilitators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Vineberg • Josh Brandon • Fabian Suárez-Amaya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay Allen • Kate Kehler

OPEN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

In lieu of a formal presentation and a question and answer period, all participants agreed to have an informal roundtable discussion. Questions posed by community members became a natural part of this discussion.

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

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?**
 - Section 2.3: Enhance communication, transparency and accountability
 - The plan didn't have many tangible commitments, except missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and a pilot project for body-worn cameras
 - There wasn't enough attention devoted to police violence and police conduct; we don't hear the outcome of cases that go to LERA
 - We need civilian elected boards with powers to investigate and discipline police officers in order to build trust with marginalized communities who are more likely to be subject to profiling and discrimination from police

- Body-worn cameras are not an accessible tool for addressing the issue of police violence, they are not enough and could be viewed as another tool for surveillance
- When there is too much power on one side of an interaction, it creates a risk for abuse of that power; people need access to lawyers and information
- Restorative justice
- I like a lot of the direction, moving towards more proactive working with communities. Listening to concerns about budgets, cutting back on policing, with the city growing, concerned that budget cutbacks could put a strain on police service times and level of engagement. Is the response time addressed in the plan?
- A personal story about police not responding to a call for service where the individual felt unsafe
- There is too much emphasis on responding to emergency situations and not enough proactive work, especially focused on gangs
- There should be more school resource officers

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

- There is a lot of bullying on buses of passengers and drivers, public intoxication on buses is a problem (others concurred)
- Public intoxication and aggressive panhandling, though these could be handled by other agencies/civilian members of the police service
- Intoxicated persons are subjected to police harassment, but the most violent ones get away and are victimizing cab drivers
- Better response times and prioritization [of calls for service]
- In some areas people don't report crime because they have bad experiences and nothing gets done
- Cybercrime

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

- I wish there were surveillance cameras around my property to catch and deter illegal activity, including assaults (personal experience), fires, envelope bombs, violence against Indigenous women; surveillance on key spots in high crime areas is needed and in low income areas, people don't have the resources to buy their own cameras
- Having police officers on the street that you know and who know the community
- Visibility of officers doing bike patrols, foot patrol, patrolling in cruiser cars
- Cadets could walk around with calming dogs, pet therapy

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

- What is the overall police budget?
- Does the Winnipeg Police Board provide a recommendation to Council on the budget?
- How is the money raised?
- It is hard to navigate the City's website
- The armoured rescue vehicle/ "tank" is not necessary, other military-style equipment like machine guns are not needed; this could be a way to save money
- Much of the work police do is social, de-escalation work; people could do this work for less than police salaries
- Donate recording equipment to community groups to increase their ability to document crime in their neighbourhoods

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

- Having cadets doing foot patrol is a good thing
- One good cop can give a positive impression, but one negative experience can undo positive community building
- Buy-in by the current Police Chief helps build trust
- Police coming to community events
- Hearing stories of the positive things the police do, success stories; but hard to get media interest
- Talking to police using Twitter, live chat
- More diversity and cultural sensitivity training at the police academy; help police be more respectful so everyone has those skills not just police in specialized departments
- Move police around to see different neighbourhoods
- More public data and statistical information so that the public can hold police to account
- Police make assumptions based on class and race in terms of profiling
- Increase diversity
- Training to help create a culture of bias-free policing
- There needs to be teeth to bias-free policing and consequences when it is not followed

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

- Access to information process needs improvement – it's too expensive, not fast enough, there is too much redacted information
- It's not just communication, the public should also have a say in major purchases, such as the "tank"
- Communication is important
- People need opportunities to have real input

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

- People who live in the inner city live with the consequences of violence all the time and live with the consequences of police policy decisions
- Police are doing a good job of responding to missing persons lately, recognize the changes in this area; thanks for listening