



Calgary Transit Public Safety Citizen Oversight Committee

MANDATE

The committee's mandate:

- Review all public use of force complaints, after the conclusion of the investigation;
- Oversight of employer-initiated use of force investigations;
- Participation in use-of-force reviews undertaken by Calgary Transit's Officer Safety Incident Review Team; and
- Policy information and educational development related to use-of-force. ([link](#))

COMPOSITION

6 Members

- 5 Public Members
- 1 Use of Force Instructor

ANNUAL UPDATE & KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Provide a summary of the committee's work that has been completed in the last year.

The committee reviewed all public use of force complaints submitted to it for review. The committee reviewed 3 of incidents in 2020 to 2021, and then have reviewed 1 in the 2021 – 2022 year.

The committee identified several significant areas for improvement in use of force investigations, including:

- Recommending the creation of a disciplinary matrix which will include tracking past disciplinary action imposed to ensure consistency in its recommendations;
- Recommending the tracking race-based data in all cases; and
- Recommending the preparation of a detailed list of evidence required to be submitted in all cases to ensure committee members have considered all evidence on a file before making recommendations.

The Committee has met twice so far in 2022 (February 22 and May 10) and is in the process of reviewing an employer-initiated use of force investigation.

Members of the committee participated in use-of-force incident reviews undertaken by Calgary Transit's Officer Safety Incident Review Team. The Officer Safety Review Team (OSIRT) met on 8 occasions in 2021 to review 111 use of force incidents. The Officer Safety Review Team reviews all incidents involving:

- Hard-empty hand techniques (strikes/stuns)
- Intermediate weapons (oleoresin capsicum or baton)
- Leg restraints
- Incidents where peace officers are injured



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Transit Peace Officers receive a debriefing of each incident reviewed as part of their ongoing training and development.

Table A: Total number of Incidents that involved force and incidents reviewed by OSIRT.

Year	Total Use of Force Incidents	Incidents Reviewed
2020	448	115
2021	819 *	111

* A significant increase in the total use of force incidents occurred in 2021; however, the number of incidents which met the threshold requiring a review by OSIRT did not increase. We have anecdotal information that the pandemic and the opioid crisis significantly changed how transit peace officers utilized force to keep public and themselves safe. While the number of incidents where force was used, has increased, the level of force that was utilized was typically very low, characteristically described as a “soft empty hand” technique in which a subject was escorted off the property.

What are the initiatives and projects the committee is currently working on? Are there any accomplishments achieved or opportunities presented that Council should be aware of?

In 2021, the City of Calgary worked with the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General’s Public Security Peace Officer Program to consolidate all City of Calgary Peace Officers into a singular Authorization to Employ or Engage Peace Officers.

In the upcoming reorganization, all City of Calgary peace officers will be brought together within the Emergency Management and Community Safety business unit. In consideration of the amalgamation of all City of Calgary Peace Officers into one business unit, administration asked the committee to review the current Terms of Reference and to consider if revisions are required. In a meeting on May 10th, 2022, the committee expressed its support for the revision of the Terms of References as follows:

- Extend the oversight of the committee to all peace officers employed by the City of Calgary, not just Transit Peace Officers.
- Expand the mandate of the committee to include the review of all Peace Officer Act Code of Conduct public complaint investigations and all employer-initiated Peace Officer Act Code of Conduct investigations (not just use of force public complaints or employer-initiated use of force investigations).



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- Change the name of the committee to Calgary Emergency Management and Community Safety Public Oversight Committee.
- Change the committee's reporting line to the Director, Calgary Emergency Management and Community Safety (Currently the committee reports to the Director, Calgary Transit).
- Change the Resources for the committee to include:
 - Deputy Chief, Transit Public Safety
 - Deputy Chief, Vehicle-for-Hire Public Safety
 - Deputy Chief, Community Safety
 - Deputy Chief, Business Safety

On April 30th, 2022, the committee submitted its intent to have the Term of Reference revised to the City Clerk's Office

CHALLENGES

- Provide details to any challenges or limitations the committee faced within the past year.

When Committee members participated in the Officer Safety Incident Review Team meetings, in most cases, attendance was remote. This type of attendance made it difficult for Committee members to effectively participate as remote access to video reviews was hampered by technology challenges. Alternative methods of providing remote video access are being explored.

WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

- Provide an outline of the committee workplan for the year 2022-2023.
 1. The Committee will continue to meet quarterly and review all investigations upon their conclusion as per the Terms of Reference.
 2. The Committee members will continue to participate in the Officer Safety Incident Review Team process.
 3. The Committee will be involved the development of policy and training in alignment with the Public Security Peace Officer Manual which was recently revised in 2022.

OPERATIONS

- Describe how the Board, Commission or Committee has been operating, including, but not limited to:
 - Number of meetings held since May 2021 (include task force or sub-committee meetings) **2**



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- How did Members participate in meetings (remote, hybrid?) **Most meetings were remote. As restrictions were relaxed, some in person meetings/hybrid did occur.**
- How was public participation in meetings incorporated (access to meetings, agendas or minutes) **Due to the confidential nature of the content of the meetings, public participation does not occur.**
- Any barriers to accessibility and participation? **Privacy issues including issues involving labour relations create barriers to accessibility and participation.**
- Any issues or opportunities you would like to note for future operations as we move from pandemic to endemic protocols
- Other

NO ATTACHMENTS