



## Calgary Transit Public Safety Citizen Oversight Committee Report

### 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 Review Team; and
- Policy information and educational development related to use-of-force. ([link](#))

### COMPOSITION

6 Members

- 5 Public Members
- 1 Administration Member (non-voting)

### ANNUAL UPDATE & KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The committee reviewed all public use of force complaints submitted to it for review. The committee reviewed 1 incident in the 2022 – 2023 year.

The committee has met twice so far in in the 2022 – 2023 year and is regularly engaged in discussions regarding the proposed changes to the committee which will go forward as a proposed bylaw to Council in June 2023.

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 (OSRT) met on 10 occasions in 2022 - 2023 to review 88 use of force incidents. The Officer Safety Review Team reviews all incidents involving:

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

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

**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.

During the organizational realignment, all City of Calgary peace officers were brought together within the Emergency Management and Community Safety business unit. In consideration of the amalgamation of peace officer groups into one business unit, administration asked the committee to review the current Terms of Reference and to consider if revisions are required.



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At a meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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).
- Change the name of the committee to reflect the scope adjustment.
- Change the committee's reporting line to City Council annually with recommendations 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

Changes to the Municipal Government Act (Alberta) required that all committees of Council be created through the enactment of a bylaw. On May 31, 2023, with the support of the Committee, Administration will submit a Community Services Report to the Community Development Committee which will request that the proposed bylaw to create the Committee along with the proposed changes in mandate be approved and forwarded to Council for consideration on June 14, 2023.

Additionally, Administration is creating overarching policies as required by the Peace Officer Act Ministerial Regulations which will apply to all Community Peace Officers employed by the Emergency Management and Community Safety. Administration will present each policy to the Committee for their review. The deadline for the completion and submission of these policies to the Peace Officer program is December 31, 2023.

### CHALLENGES

Due to the current narrow scope of work by this committee, only one case was reviewed by the committee this year and the committee was somewhat underutilized as a result. With the expanded mandate and oversight along with the policy compliance project, the committee's work will be more impactful.

### WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

- The Committee will continue to meet quarterly or as required and review all mandated investigations upon their conclusion as per the Terms of Reference.
- The Committee members will continue to participate in the Officer Safety Review Team process.
- The Committee will be involved in the development of policy and training in alignment with the Public Security Peace Officer Manual, which was recently revised in 2022.



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### OPERATIONS

- Number of meetings held since May 2021: two hybrid committee meetings
- Most meetings were remote. As restrictions were relaxed, some in person meetings/hybrid did occur.
- Due to the confidential nature of the content of the meetings, public participation does not occur.

### ATTACHMENTS

N/A