

# Police Committee Minutes

**Chair:**

Councillor Rasode

**Absent:**

Councillor Gill

**Staff Present:**

City Manager

City Clerk

Superintendent, OIC Surrey RCMP

City Solicitor

Manager of Bylaws and Licensing

**Present:**

Councillor Villeneuve

Councillor Hunt

Councillor Hepner

Councillor Martin

Councillor Steele

Councillor Hayne

Mayor Watts

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES****B. DELEGATION****C. OTHER BUSINESS****1. MOTION TO HOLD A MEETING IN A CLOSED SESSION**

It is in order for Police Committee members to pass a resolution to closed the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) and (i) of the *Community Charter*, which states:

"A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;

(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose."

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Council close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(f) and (i) of the *Community Charter*, which states:

"A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose."

Carried

## D. COUNCIL REFERRED ITEMS

### 2. Licencing of Party Buses

*Mr G. Schlieper, Metro Vancouver Limousine Association entered the meeting at 1:55 pm.*

At the February 18, 2013 Regular Council Public Hearing, Council referred the matter of the rules and regulations governing the operation of party buses to the Police Committee for consideration.

A memorandum entitled "Regulations Related to the Operation of Party Buses" prepared by the City Solicitor was included with the Committee agenda package. The Solicitor informed the Committee that the operators and drivers of party buses are regulated under the Provincial *Passenger Transportation Act* as well as the City's Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610.

The provincial legislation is focused on vehicle safety requirements and licensing the individual drivers but there are no statutory regulations which govern the safety of the passengers on such vehicles.

The City Bylaw addresses the standards and conditions to operate a bus but does not address the activities on the buses. The City Solicitor suggested that the City's Vehicle for Hire By-law be amended to require that a qualified adult supervisor employed by the carrier be present on each bus tour operating within Surrey's boundaries and that each underage person have written authority from a parent or guardian to be on the bus. It was also suggested that the Business License fee be increased from \$74.00 per year to \$1,500.00 per year to reflect police and first responder costs associated with the operation of these party buses.

A discussion of the issue followed with the following comments made:

- The occupants of party buses often drink or do drugs before getting on the bus to avoid the "open alcohol" issue on the bus; washroom and food pit stops are a problem when the bus occupants go in and decimate the restaurants where the bus stops.
- Council would like feedback from those in the industry before moving forward with any Bylaw changes; the comments so far were in reaction to the death of an occupant of a party bus, it is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Schlieper of the Limousine Association was in attendance and requested to speak to the issue. He stated that the Province held a "Stakeholder's" meeting for discussion of these issues; however he was very disappointed in that various associations that should be

considered as "stakeholders" were not invited. He further advised that since this "consultation" meeting took place there has been no action.

Mr. Schlieper stated that this issue began with the Province splitting the operating authority for vehicles for hire into 2 categories: Special and General. The Special Authorities have a more involved application process and must meet several requirements including financial viability and all fees that these companies are allowed to charge is set by the Authority's Board. The fundamental difference between the categories is set by the number of allotted seats. 10 seats and less require the Special Authority License which is an involved process and can take 6 months to attain. Any limousine or bus with more than 10 seats only need a General Authority and almost anyone can qualify for this licensing which only takes about 4 weeks to attain and has very few requirements or regulations attached to it. They only require a National Safety number to operate but are not required to have their vehicles inspected. The Party buses and stretch limo's flooded the market and the limousines licensed under the Special Authorities were unable to compete, and are not in operation any longer. It is understood that some of the party buses make extra money selling alcohol and drugs to the passengers. Social media such as Twitter and Facebook invite people on a pay - per head basis to join the bus on an extemporaneous basis.

The Traffic Safety Division of the Ministry can issue tickets; however, the Branch only has 4 staff on enforcement, and Traffic Safety cannot keep up with trucks and buses, which again only leave the Police to enforce any offences that may be seen or are reported.

Discussion ensued and comments were as follows:

- Buses need guidelines and agreements or arrangements made in advance with restaurants to stop to use the washrooms.
- A By-law will not address buses coming from other municipalities to party here or buses that start out in Surrey once they are out of the City.
- The problem is that there is nowhere for the kids to go for recreation.
- Written parental permission is too easy for the kids to forge, so is not a deterrent.
- There are buses that take kids to do constructive things as well, must strike a balance, and find a middle ground for the legitimate uses and purposes to continue.
- The buses are not allowed to pick up drunks and anyone that throws up is let off the bus right there, which is very concerning - one youth from Surrey was missing and found in lock-up the next day in Vancouver.
- It was suggested that a "stakeholders" meeting be held to discuss solutions.
- It may also be appropriate to lobby through UBCM for a Provincial Strategy.
- Staff was requested to compile a listing of Party buses operating out of Surrey to forward to the next meeting of the Police Committee.

*Mr. G. Schlieper, Metro Vancouver Limousine Association left the meeting at 2:35 pm.*

**3. Comparison of the Use of the Provincial Court Process and the By-law Notice Adjudication Process for By-law Enforcement Matters**

A memorandum from the City Solicitor that was included in the Police Committee agenda package was reviewed, which documented the advantages and disadvantages of the Provincial Court process and a "By-law Court" process in the prosecution of offences related to the violation of provisions in City by-laws.

The Solicitor informed Council that there will be mandatory Bylaw Courts implemented in BC as of 2015 and we will have to address a budget for staffing and all incremental costs in the 2014 budget cycle.

It was

Moved by Councillor Steele  
Seconded by Councillor Martin  
That the Memorandum be received for

information.

Carried

**E. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. The Chair reviewed the Memorandum from the Crime Reduction Strategy Manager entitled "Update on the work of the Surrey Coalition Against Domestic Abuse".
2. Mayor Watts noted that Delta is in the process of a clean-up and beautification along their side of Scott Road and in the media accused the City of Surrey of not cleaning up our side. Staff was requested to inspect the Surrey side of Scott Road and address any problem properties.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

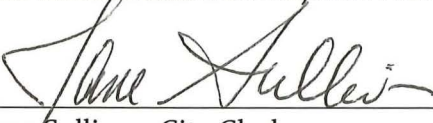
It was


Moved by Councillor Hayne  
Seconded by Councillor Hunt  
That the Police Committee meeting do now

adjourn.

Carried

The Police Committee adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

  
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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

  
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Councillor Rasode, Chairperson