

St. Albert Policing Committee

Annual Report to Council and Community (2021)



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RECOMMENDATION

That the St. Albert Policing Committee's 2020 Annual Report be accepted as information.

MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2021)

Citizen Members

Kristin Kalmbach (PCD*)	Citizen-at-large
Jim Raso	Citizen-at-large
Ian Sanderson	Citizen-at-large
Paul Specht	Citizen-at-large
Todd Walsh (Vice -Chair)	Citizen-at-large
Dr. Kristopher Wells (Chair)	Citizen-at-large

*Public Complaints Director

Council Representation

Councillor MacKay was appointed in January 2021 as the primary representative.
Mayor Heron served as an ex-officio member and Alternate Council Representative.

City Administration Representation

The following individuals provided representation on behalf of City Administration:

David Leflar, Director Legal and Legislative Services
Kerry Hilts, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Renee McDonald, Committee Coordinator

RCMP Representation

Inspector Ryan Comaniuk provided representation on behalf of the local RCMP detachment.

OVERVIEW

The St. Albert Policing Committee was established in January 2018 and operates under Bylaw 13/2019 to act as a liaison between City Council, the RCMP Detachment, the Policing Services Department, and City residents to foster responsible community actions towards the creation of a safe and secure community.

Council approved a budget of \$20,000 to support the activities of the Policing Committee for 2021. A report on 2021 expenditures is included in Appendix A.

The overall purpose of the St. Albert Policing Committee is to maintain a proper balance between the independence and authority of the RCMP and accountability to the community and civilian authority through community input, increased transparency regarding policing operations, removal of political interference perceptions and assistance with dealing with local complaints.

Table 1 provides an overview of the Policing Committee (RCMP) Oversight Model as developed by the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General of Alberta.

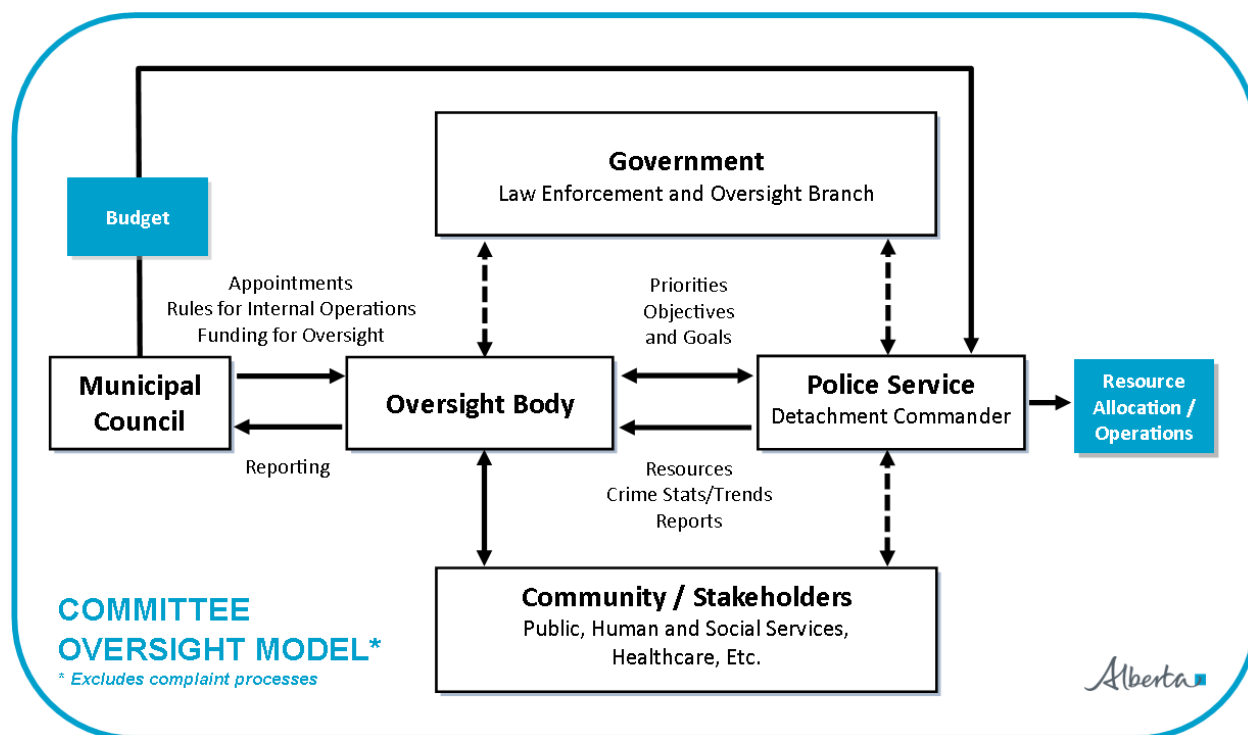


Table 1

The St. Albert Policing Committee has its duties, roles, and responsibilities defined by Section 23 of the Police Act, Article 7 & 8 of the Municipal Policing Services Agreement, and City of St. Albert Bylaw 13/2019. Members also agree to abide by the St. Albert Policing Committee Code of Conduct.

ACTIVITIES PROGRESS REPORT

The St. Albert Policing Committee met 9 times during 2021, typically meeting monthly, except for the summer and Christmas holiday break. One subcommittee continued to operate, which included (a) Public Engagement .

The St. Albert Policing Committee established 6 key priorities for 2021:

1. Support ongoing operations of the St. Albert Policing Committee in consultation with our community
2. Increase awareness about the Public Complaint Director (PCD) position
3. Work with the RCMP Officer in Charge on setting and approving the 2021/2022 Annual Policing Priorities
4. Support committee member training, orientation and ongoing professional development
5. Engage public on policing matters generally and to supplement planning for 2021/2022 policing priorities
6. Collaborate with City Council, community, and non-profit organizations

Other Activities

The St. Albert Policing Committee approved the following RCMP Annual Policing Priorities for 2020-21:

1. Crime Reduction
2. Mental Health and Vulnerable Communities
3. Domestic Violence and Assaults

These priorities, which were shared with City Council, included objectives, outcomes, initiatives, and where possible key evaluative measures.

The St. Albert Policing Committee continued to receive quarterly reports and updates from the RCMP Officer-in-Charge on progress towards accomplishing these Annual Policing Priorities.

In 2021, the St. Albert Policing Committee approved renewed memberships in REACH Edmonton, Alberta Hate Crimes Committee, Alberta Association of Police Governance, Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association, and the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Policing Committee met virtual and continued normal, but limited operations. All meetings remained open to the public.

Also due to COVID protocols, the Alberta Association of Police Governance Conference was postponed.

COVID-19 significantly changed the nature of the Committee's community engagement, as face-to-face events were no longer possible. As a result, the Committee met virtually with the St. Albert Seniors Committee, Youth Committee, Diversity Committee and Outloud.

The Policing Committee was also appreciative of the opportunity to meet with City Council to discuss annual policing priorities and community safety concerns, which we hope will become an annual event.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The St. Albert Policing Committee would like to thank the City Council and the City of St. Albert team for continuing to support Committee operations. We also would like extend our most sincere appreciation to RCMP Inspector Ryan Comaniuk, for his work and commitment to this committee.

APPENDIX A

St. Albert Policing Committee

Preliminary 2021 Annual Operating Budget Report

<u>2021 Approved Operating Budget Total</u>	\$20,000.00
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Actual Expenses

Training/Conferences	\$ 987.50
Committee Memberships	\$ 1625.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 2612.56</u>

Appendix A

St. Albert Policing Committee 2021 Work Plan Progress

Priority 1: Support ongoing operations of the St. Albert Policing Committee in consultation with our community

Objective	Task	Progress
Develop and approve the 2021/22 Policing Committee Annual Work Plan and communicate it to Council and the Community	Work Plan approved by Policing Committee	Ongoing
	Committee to share with City Council and post publicly when complete	Ongoing
Create and approve the St. Albert Policing Committee Annual Report to Council	Final Annual Report (for 2020) delivered to City Council	Completed
Finalize the St. Albert Policing Committee Policy and Procedure Manual	Committee Policy and Procedure Manual to be revised on an ongoing basis	Ongoing

Priority 2: Increase awareness about the Public Complaint Director (PCD) position

Objective	Task	Progress
Provide support for the public complaints and facilitation process	PCD position filled	Ongoing
Continue to liaise with RCMP Officer in Charge to support operations of the PCD	Facilitate complaint process and awareness	Ongoing
Ongoing communication about the PCD role and function to public	Establishment of position reported in St. Albert Gazette	Ongoing

Priority 3: Work with the RCMP Officer in Charge on setting and approving the 2021/2022 Annual Policing Priorities (APP)

Objective	Task	Progress
Provide the St. Albert RCMP Officer In Charge with community identified annual policing priorities	Committee to develop and share with Officer In Charge	Completed
Approve the RCMP 2021/2022 APP	Chair to sign acknowledgment of consultation on behalf of Committee	Completed
Communicate the RCMP 2021/2022 APP to the community	Committee to share 2021/2022 APP with City Council and post publicly	Completed

Priority 4: Support committee member training, orientation, and ongoing professional development

Objective	Task	Progress
Coordinate and ensure all new and continuing committee members have completed mandatory and suggested education/training sessions and security clearances	Fall orientation provided by City for new Boards and Committees	Completed *Usual orientation activities have been delayed due to COVID restrictions
Support ongoing professional development for committee members	Attend (virtually) the Alberta Association of Police Governance Conference (AAPG) & Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) Policing Summit	Completed
	Support committee participation in other policing/community safety conferences, workshops, and events, as appropriate	Completed
Engage in Committee Self-Evaluation	Survey distributed to Committee members	Completed

Priority 5: Engage public on policing matters generally and to supplement planning for 2021/2022 policing priorities

Objective	Task	Progress
Host a community town hall in partnership with RCMP Officer in Charge	To be completed in Fall 2021	Delayed due to COVID restrictions
Continue public engagement to raise the profile and visibility of the Policing Committee with local citizens, agencies, boards, businesses, and diverse communities in accordance with Provincial standards	Joint meetings held with St. Albert Youth and Seniors Committees	Completed
Ongoing information sharing as part of Policing Committee Webpage and Cultivate the Conversation project page	Content is regularly updated and maintained	Ongoing
Participate in local public engagement opportunities (e.g., Farmer's Market, Volunteer Fair, Trade Show, Council in Park, community events,	TO be completed throughout the year	Delayed due to COVID restrictions

festivals, etc.), as safe and appropriate		
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Priority 6: Collaborate with City Council, community and non-profit organizations

Objective	Task	Progress
Participate in presentations to City Council with RCMP Officer In Charge	Occurs on quarterly basis	Ongoing
Connect and collaborate with other city citizen committees and community and non-profit groups in relation to public safety and security	Participate and host joint meetings when feasible	Delayed due to COVID restrictions
Support the planning and hosting of the 2022 Alberta Association of Police Governance Conference in St. Albert	Create subcommittee to support planning	Completed
Review and renew annual committee organizational memberships	Ongoing as renewals occur or new opportunities arise	Completed
Host and attend community stakeholder working groups and events	Participate and host joint meetings when feasible	Delayed due to COVID restrictions
Collaborate with other community groups/organizations as opportunities arise	Participate and host joint meetings when feasible	Delayed due to COVID restrictions