

St. Albert Policing Committee

Annual Report to Council and Community (2020)



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RECOMMENDATION

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

MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2020)

Citizen Members

Kristin Kalmbach	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term
Jim Raso	Citizen-at-large	First of one-year term
Al Bohachyk (Public Complaints Director*)	Citizen-at-large	Third of three-year term
LuAnne Sirdiak (Vice-Chair)	Citizen-at-large	Third of three-year term
Todd Walsh**	Citizen-at-large	First of two-year term
Dr. Kristopher Wells (Chair)	Citizen-at-large	Third of three-year term

*Public Complaints Director role was formally operationalized on June 16, 2020.

** Appointed June 1, 2020

Council Representation

Councillor Watkins was re-appointed in January 2020 as the primary representative and Councillor Hughes was the designated alternate. Mayor Heron served as an ex-officio member.

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 Pamela Robinson 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 2020, which was reduced to \$10,000 as part of COVID cost-reduction initiatives. A part-time administrative assistant was also provided to support the operations of the Policing Committee. A report on 2020 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.

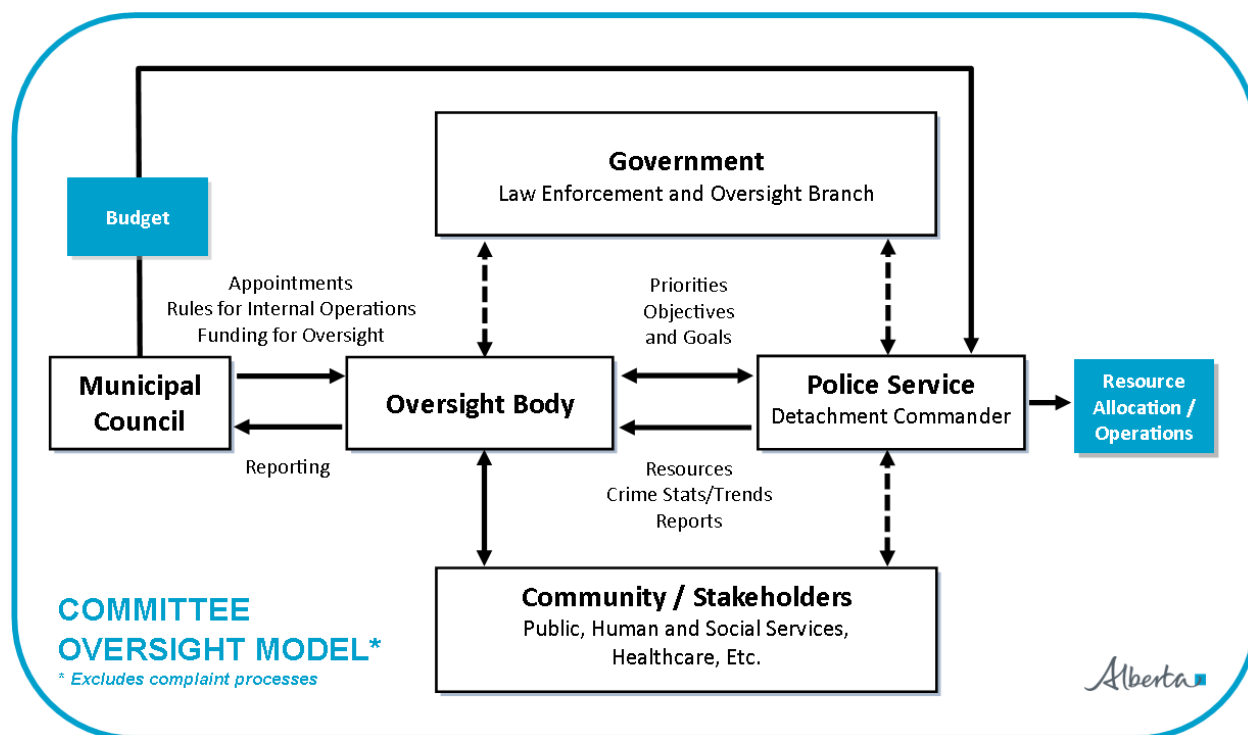


Table 1

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 7 times during 2020, typically meeting monthly, except for the summer and Christmas holiday break. Two subcommittees continued to operate, which included (a) Public Engagement, and (b) Policy Manual.

The St. Albert Policing Committee established 5 key priorities for 2020:

1. Finalize administrative requirements for the St. Albert Policing Committee
2. Activate the Public Complaint Director (PCD) position
3. Work with the RCMP Officer in Charge on setting and approving the 2020/2021 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 2020/2021 policing priorities
6. Collaborate with City Council, community, and non-profit organizations

The 2020 Workplan in Appendix B details activities undertaken and progress towards these priorities. Of note, the Public Complaint Director was formally activated and a Committee member was elected to serve in this role. The Committee's Policy and Procedures Manual is still under review and development with the support of an external consultant.

Other Activities

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

1. Enhance Public Confidence and Engagement
2. Crime Reduction
3. Accountability to Stakeholders

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 2020, 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 moved to virtual meetings and continued normal 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 shifted to online forms of engagement, which included the development of a new project page as part of the City of St. Albert's Cultivate the Conversation platform.

Representatives of the St. Albert Policing Committee continued to participate in the Solicitor General's Police Act Review consultation sessions, which was ongoing into 2020.

The Chair, on behalf of the Policing Committee, also participated in the interview and selection process of the RCMP's new Officer in Charge, who was appointed in January 2021.

On behalf of the Policing Committee, The City of St. Albert hired Western Management Consultants to conduct a review of our policy manual and communication and decision-making processes with a focus on legislative responsibilities and delegated roles. This review process will continue into 2021.

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 wishes to express our deepest gratitude to City Council and the City of St. Albert for continuing to support Committee operations. We also wish to extend our most sincere appreciation to outgoing RCMP Inspector Pamela Robinson, and we are excited to welcome Inspector Ryan Comaniuk as the new Detachment Commander.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the citizens of St. Albert for continuing to engage with us and for supporting the ongoing work of the Policing Committee. We serve to represent you and the needs of our community!

APPENDIX A

St. Albert Policing Committee

Preliminary 2020 Annual Operating Budget Report

<u>2020 Approved Operating Budget Total</u>	\$10,000.00
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Actual Expenses

Training/Conferences	\$ 1626.00
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Committee Memberships	\$ 1366.00
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Advertising, Promotional Products/Activities	\$ 116.71
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Professional Services	\$ 4868.75
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Hospitality for Meetings/Training	\$ 200.10
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Total Expenses	<u>\$ 8177.56</u>
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**The above represents the preliminary year end and most up to date information available at the time of this report.*

APPENDIX B

St. Albert Policing Committee 2020 Work Plan Progress

Priority 1: Finalize administrative requirements for the St. Albert Policing Committee

Objective	Task	Progress
Develop and approve the 2020/21 Policing Committee Annual Work Plan and communicate it to Council and the Community	Work Plan approved by Committee	Completed
	Committee to present Work Plan to City Council and post publicly	Completed
Create and approve the St. Albert Policing Committee Annual Report	Final Annual Report (for 2019) delivered to City Council	Completed
Finalize the St. Albert Policing Committee Policy and Procedure Manual	Policy Manual Subcommittee to facilitate review process	In Progress

Priority 2: Activate Public Complaint Director

Objective	Task	Progress
Liaise with RCMP to activate the PCD	Agreement between RCMP K-Division and Local Detachment to Activate PCD	Completed
Obtain confidential and secure PCD email account and cell phone	Facilitate with City of St. Albert IT Department	Completed

Communicate PCD role and function to public	Committee webpage updated. Feature article announcing the PCD role appeared in the local newspaper	Completed
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Priority 3: Work with the RCMP Officer in Charge on setting and approving the 2020/2021 Annual Policing Priorities

Objective	Task	Progress
Provide the St. Albert RCMP Officer In Charge with community identified policing priorities	Committee to develop and share with Officer in Charge	Completed
Approve the RCMP 2020/2021 Annual Performance Plan	Chair to sign acknowledgment of consultation	Completed
Communicate the RCMP 2020/2021 Annual Performance Plan to the community	Committee to present 2020/2021 APP to 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	Chair to coordinate with City Administration and Committee Members	In Progress
Engage in Committee Self-Evaluation	Committee Members to complete at year end	Complete

Support ongoing professional development for committee members	Attend the Alberta Association of Police Governance Conference	Postponed
	Support committee participation in other policing conferences, workshops, and events, as appropriate	Completed

Priority 5: Engage public on policing matters generally and to supplement planning for 2020/2021 policing priorities

Objective	Task	Progress
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	Public Engagement Subcommittee to coordinate and facilitate	Completed
	Community Engagement Survey used to inform annual policing priorities	Completed
Update Policing Committee Webpage with Policing Committee Postcard and Comment Card	Discuss with City Administration and Communications Department	Completed
Participate in local public engagement opportunities (e.g., Farmer's Market, Volunteer Fair, Trade Show, Council in Park, community events, festivals, etc.)	Discuss with City Administration and Communications Department	Postponed
Explore feasibility of broadcasting Policing Committee meetings online	Discuss with City Administration and Communications Department	Completed

Priority 6: Collaborate with City Council, community, and non-profit organizations

Objective	Task	Progress
Participate in strategic visioning and planning session with City Council	Discuss with City Administration	Completed
Update Policing Committee Community and Public Engagement Plan	Committee Community & Public Engagement SubCommittee	Completed
Support the hosting of the 2021 Alberta Association of Police Governance Conference in St. Albert	Liaise with City of St. Albert and AAPG	Postponed due to COVID
a. Renew membership with the Alberta Association of Police Governance b. Renew membership with REACH Edmonton c. Renew membership with Alberta Hate Crimes Committee d. Renew membership with Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association e. Renew membership with Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention f. Attend stakeholder working groups and events g. Collaborate with other community groups as opportunities arise	Chair to facilitate with City Administration and Committee Members	Completed