

## **Community Safety Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

January 31st, 2018

10:00am-12:00pm

280N York Lanes

**In attendance:** Lorne Foster (Chair), Dominic Ong (Vice-Chair), Melissa Belisle, Robert Castle, Pascal Arseneau, Kat Kahnert-Wolchak, Andrew Little, Samina Sami, Susan Seaby, David Coward, Marc Wilchesky, Janice Walls, Patricia Yeboah, Jelena Stakic, Michael Mahon, Debbie Hansen, Saptarishi Bandopadhyay, Scarlett Farquhar, Steve Sicluna, Peter Mumford, Helen Psathas, Jamie Russell, Pablo Ramos, Rachel Mansel, Brendan Schultz, Sheila Wilmot, Annalise Cooper, Suzanne Killick.

**Guests:** Carol McAulay

**Regrets:** Gordon Albright, Aldo Altomare, John Amanatides, Amal Awini, Francis Chan, Michael Charles, Amenda Chow, Teresa DuCroix, Nicholas Filicetti, James Guthrie, Andrea Kosavic, Awani Kulkarni, Sébastien LaLonde, Ijade Maxwell Rodrigues, John Mayberry, Ross McMillan, Aerilyn Medina, Naomi Norquay, Lillian Nguyen, Sajeth Paskaran, Chantal Persad, Sean Siddick, Bob Smith, Cheryl van Daalen-Smith, Estair Van Wagner, Terry Wright, Trevor York, Habbiba Ahmed, Christina Amico, Dasola Dina, Paul Elliot, Amanda Hickman, Anne Moore, Lesley Powell, Roshni Raveenthiran, Maiesha Zarin.

### **1. Opening Remarks**

Lorne Foster, Chair welcomed Council members and outlined the agenda for the meeting. He noted that the meeting would focus on developing the new mandate and terms of reference for the Council. He thanked Suzanne Killick for attending the meeting to facilitate the discussion.

A request was made that the agenda be amended to allow time for a York community member to bring forward a safety incident for discussion. L. Foster agreed that the agenda would be amended.

It was noted that specific safety incidents should be brought directly to the attention of the Community Safety Department as a first step, and that the role of the Council is to make recommendations regarding broader safety issues rather than to resolve individual incidents. The Council is also committed to inclusion of all members per the agenda.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Debbie Hansen requested that the minutes be corrected to indicate that:

“Community Supports and Services can make emergency funding available for community members in a variety of circumstances, which may include homelessness”.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Council’s minutes from November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 be approved pending the above-noted correction.

## **3. Remarks by the Vice-President, Finance and Administration (VPFA)**

Carol McAulay thanked the Council for the invitation to speak as the new VPFA about the importance of safety to the York community and the critical role that the Council plays. She highlighted that the feeling of being safe is not the same for everyone and it is important to bring a wide range of perspectives to safety issues by broad representation on the Council and engagement of the whole York community.

## **4. Discussion re People who are Homeless on Keele Campus**

A community member raised concerns regarding a person who was homeless and allegedly removed from a building by Security Services. Samina Sami indicated that she could not speak specifically to that incident without further details but welcomed the community member to bring forward the details to her office in follow-up.

S. Sami noted that Security Services’ focus is on the health and safety of all community members, including people seeking refuge. Many people who are homeless need a range of resources that are not easily available and the department is reaching out to the city for services. While York’s campuses are open to all members of the public, Security Services will ask unauthorized people to leave a building after closing hours as directed by senior management.

Brendan Schultz noted that Vice-Provost Students and Community Safety initiated a walkaround with an external community service organization to assess the supports needed by people who are homeless and sleep in the Student Centre.

It was also noted that some staff have been threatened by people sleeping on campus and now feel unsafe working at night.

Council members agreed that a broader approach is required to engage specialized supports and services for homeless people on campus. S. Sami welcomed representatives from the Council to join the department in a sub-committee to continue to work on this issue.

## 5. Council's Terms of Reference

There was a discussion about the Council's terms of reference and the relationship of the Council to the Community Safety Department. It was recommended that the terms of reference be revised taking into consideration the following comments and suggestions:

- The terms of reference are too long, and should be written in plain, clear language.
- Council should function as an advisory/facilitative body that is aligned with the Community Safety Department's strategic plan.
- Need to recognize that the Council makes recommendations to the President.
- Council should facilitate coordination and collaboration on safety initiatives.
- Council should be working proactively to identify emerging issues.
- Rather than standing committees, working groups should be formed when needed based on priority issues.
- If there is an audit committee, it should have a direct interface with the Community Safety Department in tracking implementation of the Council's recommendations.
- Need to consider how we can best serve the community and support the professionals in doing their jobs.
- It is unclear why transgender people are specifically referenced in the current terms of reference and not other groups.
- Many of the names of groups, departments and position titles on the membership list are out-of-date and should be updated.
- The membership list should be revised to include the full name and not just the acronyms for groups/departments.
- Need to determine whether designates are permitted.
- Membership should be reviewed at the beginning of each year.
- Markham and Glendon campuses should be reflected in the membership.

## **6. Emerging Issues - Roundtable Discussion**

A Council member raised concerns that Security Services bulletins related to sexual assaults can be triggering for some survivors.

Also, a participant in the meeting expressed concerns about the response by police and Security Services staff to incidents at the Student Centre involving a racialized community member. Concerns were expressed about the large number of police who have responded to incidents involving individuals with mental health problems and about the risks of racial profiling. It was noted that student leaders need information about these incidents so that they can relay the information to the student body.

S. Sami noted that Security Services staff receive extensive human rights, anti-discrimination and anti-oppression training. Racial profiling is not practiced or tolerated. She indicated that a bulletin was issued in the case of this incident because there were safety concerns.

It was also noted that when police are called to an incident on campus, it is because there are serious concerns about safety risks or because a community member has directly called police for assistance. The police determine how many officers will be assigned based on their assessment of risks. For example, if the person being arrested has a history of violence or weapons offenses, more officers are assigned due to concerns about the safety of community members and first responders.

The Community Safety Department would like to be informed if there are concerns about police actions on campus and is prepared to raise those concerns with the police when appropriate.

## **7. Inclusion Training Update**

Melissa Belisle indicated that in response to requests for follow-up training, she will be sending a doodle poll to Council members to identify another training date.

## **8. Tour of the Security Control Centre**

M. Belisle indicated that she will also be sending a doodle poll with potential dates for tours of the Security Control Centre. It was requested that an early morning session be made available.

## **9. Adjournment**

L. Foster adjourned the meeting. He recommended that the focus of the next meeting be on finalizing the terms of reference and membership of the Council.