

Edmonton Police Commission

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT REPORTING

Appointment:	Edmonton Police Commission
Classification:	Other ▾
Councillor(s):	Councillor Anne Stevenson and Councillor Sarah Hamilton
Reporting Period:	November 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Mandate

The Edmonton Police Commission is an independent body appointed to provide civilian oversight of the Edmonton Police Service. It is responsible to the public through both Edmonton City Council and the Province of Alberta. The Commission establishes policies, directs the Chief of Police, ensures effective services and adequate policing resources, and plays a quasi-judicial role in public complaints and police conduct procedures.

Background

The Edmonton Police Commission is established through the *Police Act of Alberta*. Under the *Act*, Edmonton City Council has four key decisions that it can make in relation to Commission matters:

- Provisions of the EPC Bylaw 14040
- Appointment of Commissioners
- Allocation of a capital and operating budget envelope
- Settlement of Collective Bargaining Agreements with unions for civil and sworn EPS employees

Edmonton City Council also ratifies the Commission's recommendation for Chief and is informed of any code of conduct violations by Commissioners.

The Commission meets as a whole and in five standing committees: Governance, Finance & Audit, Professional Standards, Human Resources, and Information Technology. The Edmonton Police Service brings forward reports for consideration, typically beginning at the Committee level for discussion and then moving to the Commission as a whole for decision. In addition to regular meetings of the Commission as a whole and standing committees, the Commission also holds special meetings to adjudicate Complaints Against the Chief and confirm any decisions for Leave Without Pay.

Shared priorities and advocacy areas

Shared priorities

Achieving community safety and wellbeing through a holistic and integrated approach is a shared goal of both the Commission and the City of Edmonton. Recent priorities have included downtown safety and transit safety, with joint presentations at both governance tables of Commission and Council.

Both Council and Commission have interest in developing a more strategic approach to the community and safety wellbeing ecosystem. It is anticipated that upcoming work to identify and measure community safety and wellbeing outcomes will involve extensive collaboration between the organizations.

Advocacy

Currently there are limited areas of coordinate joint advocacy. As part of the accountability framework noted below, a joint advocacy effort around appointing a full time chair was identified. Moving forward, there could be opportunities for Council to request support from the Commission for specific asks of the Province and federal funding, including indexing of policing grants, and enhanced tools for automated traffic enforcement to reduce service demands on EPS. There is also an opportunity for the Commission to identify areas of advocacy they would like the City of Edmonton and City Council to support.

Report on activities, projects, and outcomes

The Commission recently presented an accountability framework to Council that recommended a number of refinements to existing policies and practices (April 17, 2023, External Agency Report EXT01553). The report highlighted key themes for action, including accountability, enhanced public involvement, governance, and information sharing. These items will be implemented in the coming months as the Commission makes changes to their operating procedures, including recording meetings and updating their agenda formats, working with City Administration to develop an Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism, and amending the EPC Bylaw 14040 facilitate broader participation in committees.

A new standing committee was struck in early 2023. The Information Technology Committee was formed in response to cyber security being highlighted as a key risk to the organization. The Committee's mandate is to provide governance oversight in relation to information technology projects and the adoption of new technologies, including establishing strategic plans, principles and policies relevant to information technology.

The Commission is currently undertaking a governance review, which is required every three years under their bylaw.

Upcoming events and milestones

The Commission's current strategic plan is set to expire at the end of 2023. The Commission will be releasing a request for proposals for consulting services to support the creation of a new strategic plan that is set to be delivered by the end of 2023. The Commission will be presenting the updated strategic plan to Council as part of the new accountability framework.

This year will see a transition in Commission composition as the recent amendments to the *Police Act* come into place. Under the new legislation, Council's number of Commission appointments will eventually go from 12 to nine, with the Province now appointing three members. During this transition time, the Commission may initially exceed 12 members, however legislation requires this number to reduce back to 12 through regular attrition of Council appointed Commissioners, including both members reaching their term limits and those seeking reappointment at the end of their two-year terms.

Amendments to EPC Bylaw 14040 are anticipated in the reporting period to enable remuneration of Provincial appointees and allow public members of standing committees to receive remuneration.

The Commission will also be closely involved in upcoming discussions of the funding formula, expected in June 2023.

Evaluation

It is recommended that the City of Edmonton continue to work with the Edmonton Police Commission to advance community safety and wellbeing objectives, and build our coordinated advocacy efforts in areas of shared interest.