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April 19, 2024

Via Email

Mayor Sohi and all other Councillors:

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Edmonton Police Commission sends you this letter in response to your motion to receive an audit and program service review plan for 2024 from our board. The Commission provides the following information for your awareness.

We have a robust, structured audit charter in place supported by a professional team of skilled professionals. The Commission holds primary oversight of the audit process for the police service and information from this process ensures we are able to deliver on our governance responsibilities under the *Police Act* in a professional, apolitical way.

The audit plan has traditionally been an inward facing document and we feel a public facing audit program will diminish overall effectiveness. We have full confidence in our current audit function under direction of the Commission. We have an independent internal auditor, who adheres to an independence clause in the audit charter. This means that the auditor meets with the Commission independent of the police service. We develop and approve a multi-year, risk-based audit plan in consultation with the auditor and police service, and progress of this plan is reported to the Commission on a regular basis. We also direct audits related to governance matters as they are needed. Edmontonians can be assured that the Commission maintains a comprehensive set of policies that help guide operations and priorities of the police service, and regular risk-based audits are part of our oversight function.

The Commission sets the high-level strategic areas of focus for the EPS and hires a Chief to lead the police service at an operational level. Goals set out for current and future Chiefs, are based on evidence, leading practices, a commitment to equity and inclusion, reducing silos, service delivery, providing the best outcomes for Edmontonians, and a strong focus on doing things differently to achieve better results. Under the Commission's direction, the EPS has fully committed to innovation, collaboration, partnerships, community, and to building systems that could leverage alternatives to the justice system, where safe and appropriate.

In 2019, the police service undertook a comprehensive organizational review called Vision 2020. This organizational realignment and restructuring touched nearly all parts of the EPS, requiring many work areas to adapt and make changes. Organizational change was supported by the Commission and built on the desire to have a police service that partners with the community to reduce the demand for service and stop the arrest/remand/release cycle. Previous efficiency exercises focused on the reallocation of funding from one area of the EPS to another with a continued focus to improve cross-departmental collaboration. However, Vision 2020 embarked on a groundbreaking, comprehensive redesign and restructuring of the organization towards outcomes-based results to change how policing services were being delivered to Edmontonians.

We are pleased to share with you that high-level outcomes of Vision 2020 included improved collaboration

across policing bureaus, reduced barriers and redundancies, reduced public demand, developed a referral pathway, and diverted offenders from the criminal justice system when appropriate. In particular and only in part, EPS has made the following programs or changes to service delivery, including, implementing Community Advisory Councils, Human-centred Engagement and Liaison Partnership, Integrated Call Evaluation and Dispatch, 10-Squad model, Healthy Streets Operations Centre, Animal Cruelty Investigation Unit, changing Recruit and Training Programs, and introducing a mobile application which helps law enforcement officers across Alberta deliver a more empathic and evidence-based response to persons in mental health crisis. Details on all work undertaken can be found at:

<https://edmontonpolicecommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20231123-Guiding-the-EPS-WEB-1.pdf>

For these reasons, the Commission respectfully declines to provide City Council with information relating to the internal audit plan of the EPS. Similarly, the Commission wishes to advise that a program services review will not be undertaken due to the recent significant program changes undertaken at the police service.

The Commission recognizes that working with other partners and all levels of government will benefit all Edmontonians and lead to a truly safe and vibrant city. We champion a partnership approach to drive community safety and support the EPS as it continues undertaking transformational change that results in better policing for all of Edmonton.

Sincerely,

The Edmonton Police Commission

cc. Eddie Robar, Interim City Manager

Aileen Giesbrecht, City Clerk