



## CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

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### **TITLE:** Policing Committee Update

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On October 17, 2016 Councillor Hughes provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 that she intended to bring forward the proposed motions below.

*In order for Council to debate the motions, the motions must be formally moved.*

That the Police Committee Guiding Principles is amended in Section 8, Committee membership, from 11 members to 9.

That section 9 is removed from proposed Police Committee Guiding Principles.

That section 10 of the Police Committee Guiding Principles is amended to state "Committee role will only be related to RCMP matters and Municipal Enforcement/Community Peace Officers and will not include other Municipal policing units, including the 911 centre.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Administration can provide the following additional information in relation the postponed motions:

1. That the Police Committee Guiding Principles is amended in Section 8, Committee membership, from 11 members to 9

Reducing the committee membership from 11 to 9 members does not create any significant issues from Administrations perspective. The only potential negative impact is that there may be less of an opportunity for segments of the community to be represented. When the previous Police Advisory Committee was established there were 14 members representing the following groups:

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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| - City Council                          | - Ministerial Association (Church)             |
| - Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools   | - St Albert Public Schools                     |
| - Greater North Central Francophone Sch | - Social Service Organizations                 |
| - St Albert Chamber of Commerce         | - Perron Street Business Association           |
| - 50+ Club                              | - St. Albert Community Services Advisory Board |
| - (2) Public at Large                   | - Youth Justice Committee                      |
| - RCMP Detachment Commander             |                                                |

2. That section 9 is removed from proposed Police Committee Guiding Principles.

Section 9 of the guiding principles states, *“Committee membership shall be limited to 1 member of the public having a law enforcement background”*.

By removing this as a guiding principle Administration understands that if passed, the intent is such that there would be no limit to the number of members on the committee that would have a law enforcement background. This is a discretionary matter for Council debate and it was originally proposed to Council as Administration felt that it would be important to ensure that there is balanced community representation with various backgrounds providing diverse perspectives. It was also administrations perspective that given that the role of a Policing Committee is around “civilian oversight” strong parameters should be put in place to limit the populating of the committee with too many that would not necessarily be fully considered or representative of unbiased civilians.

The proposed limit of 1 member of the public having a law enforcement background is intended to ensure that there is an ability to have as broad and diverse representation on the committee.

If council is wishing to allow more than 1 member having a law enforcement background being permitted administration would recommend that the restriction be expanded as opposed to eliminated completely.

3. That section 10 of the Police Committee Guiding Principles is amended to state  
"Committee role will only be related to RCMP matters and Municipal Enforcement/Community Peace Officers and will not include other Municipal policing units, including the 911 centre.

Section 10 of the guiding principles states, *“Committee role will only be related to RCMP matters and will not include the other municipal policing units including the 911 centre and the Municipal Enforcement/Community Peace Officers”*.

By amending this guiding principle, Administration understands that the Municipal Enforcement/Community Peace Officer activities is to be included in the scope of the committee’s civilian oversight role. This is a discretionary matter for Council but Administration believes there are some restrictions on how involved the committee can be in municipal enforcement operations. The Policing Committee roles and responsibilities as set forth by the Police Act does not include authority for Community Peace Officer activity oversight. Oversight for Community Peace Officers is regulated through and in accordance with the Peace Officer Act. There are formal processes for public complaints, reporting to the Alberta Solicitor General and program audits by the Solicitor General. Community Peace Officers in the Municipal Enforcement section are also City of St Albert employees; and as such, the Municipal Government Act and the City Manager Bylaw establishes that the Chief Administrative Officer is the administrative head of the municipality and responsible for all administrative matters including employee oversight, performance and direction. If Council wishes there to be a link between Municipal Enforcement/Community Peace Officer activities and a new Policing Committee, Administration would recommend that it would be limited to an

advisory role only. More specifically it would not be recommended to include committee responsibilities that would have a public complaint involvement/oversight, or yearly plan and priority setting. However, having the Manager of Policing Services answer questions, report on general statistical information and consider feedback on Municipal Enforcement matters from the Policing Committee membership would be possible.

Report Date: November 21, 2016  
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