



Anti-Racism External Committee Meeting

What We Heard Report

September 8, 2021

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Project Overview

To fulfill the Calgary Police Service (CPS) Anti-Racism Action Committee (ARAC) mandate to re-imagine policing in Calgary through the co-development and delivery of a Calgary Police Service Anti-Racism Strategy with our communities and members, ARAC is doing extensive engagement with the community and CPS members to identify strategic goals and outcomes.

The ARAC project team has invited CPS Internal and External Anti-Racism Action Committee members to participate in conversations that will add value and influence decisions made during the development of this strategy.

A key deliverable at the end of each engagement meeting with the CPS ARAC Internal and External Committees will be a What We Heard Report.

Meeting Summary

This was the Committee's fifth meeting with CPS members and the ARAC leads. Members attended virtually. The meeting was a blend of ARAC updates and presentations on Info Posts ("Street Checks") by Superintendent Cliff O'Brien and the CPS's pilot of an equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) lens by Manager Kim Assailly.

Business Strategist Jason Archibald provided an update on the evaluation of the CPS School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The update included:

- A high-level presentation on findings and recommendations of the independent Argyle Report which have not been released publicly yet.
- The position of the Service and the consultation plan.
- Next steps, including the development of an action plan, a presentation to the Calgary Police Commission (CPC), and public release of the report at the end of November.

ARAC leads also updated the members on items from the previous meetings, specifically the approval by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Senior Executive Team (SLT) of the following recommendation:

The External ARAC Committee has suggested when asked by a member of the public, and when appropriate, members will provide their Calgary Police Service issued business cards that clearly state their name, rank, and regimental number or in other written form.

What We Asked and What We Heard

Some of the meeting was spent learning about Info Posts, sometimes referred to as street-checks.





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The following tables are a summary of the topics and key discussion points raised during that topic by the Committee.

Topic	Discussion
Info Posts (“Street Checks”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion about Info Posts. Info Posts are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An electronic form that the CPS uses to work with the community to collect information to contribute to community safety. ○ A mechanism to enter information into our Record Management System. • The group talked how the information is lawfully collected/obtained and not random or arbitrary. • The Committee learned about the role of the Intelligence Evaluation Unit and how they provide enhanced accountability, rigour, and quality assurance by receiving and reviewing all Info Posts. • Members talked about the different types of Info Post submissions. For example, parolee information, individuals who are pending trial and have conditions, and officer contacts. • Key points raised during the discussion about officer contacts included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Officer contacts are commonly referred to as “street checks”. ○ Officers that come into contact with a member of the community may document that interaction. ○ There is no standard definition or criteria across jurisdictions to define what types of interaction count as a “street check”. ○ Approximately 50% of officer contacts are public-generated Calls for Service (e.g. a member of the public calls regarding suspicious activity in his/her neighbourhood), others are officer initiated (proactive policing, an officer sees something and stops). • There was a discussion about the analysis of officer contacts and race based data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The visible minority category encompasses the following races: Asian, Black, East Indian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and other Non-White. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One member talked about the benefits of breaking this group into more detail. ○ Collection of race information during an Officer Contact is not mandatory. • One member talked about his/her lived experience with “street checks” in a restaurant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group discussed the Gaming and Liquor Act (GLA) and the role of the Gang Suppression Team (GST).





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One officer talked about his lived experience with enforcing the GLA, and how sometimes those sitting at the same table don't always know the criminal history of those who they are engaging with. ● Another member talked about his lived experience with a "street check" in the community. Key points raised during this discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is always a reason why police officers interact with the public (e.g. match a description). ○ Every situation is unique. ○ Officers do not always have the time to explain the situation. ○ If you or anyone wants to know the reasoning for an interaction with the police, call the police officer's supervisor or the Professional Standards Section. ● Sworn members talked about how communication with the community is crucial, because we cannot police Calgary alone. ● The Committee heard that the CPS has led the country in the area of "street checks", reporting, and transparency prior to any legislation; the Service created a video to educate the public about their rights during an interaction with police. https://youtu.be/JT_ao_hx_b8 <p>Committee members also heard about the CPS's pilot of an EDI inclusion lens. The lens is designed to help the CPS better assess the potential impact of its work on diverse populations and consider different perspectives in decision making, planning, communications, and analysis. This work is being done with an external consultant and Info Posts is one of the piloted areas.</p>
Question	Answer/ Action
<p>A few Committee members asked for clarification between the CPS Info Posts and police carding.</p>	<p>Although there is not a consistent definition of "street check" in Canada, we often hear the term carding used interchangeably.</p> <p>Justice Tulloch (2018) in his report (Independent Street Checks Review) was clear "carding is not the same as what police services commonly refer to as conducting street checks, although the two terms have erroneously become synonymous" (p.25). Tulloch (2018) defines carding as follows:</p> <p>Situations in which a police officer randomly asks an individual to provide identifying information when there is no objectively suspicious activity, the individual is not suspected of any offence and there is no reason to believe that the individual has any information on any offence. That information is then recorded and stored in a police intelligence database. (p. xi)</p>





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	<p>Calgary has never authorized carding as it relates to random and arbitrary interactions with members of the community.</p> <p>The Government of Alberta through new legislation has defined what a “street check” is not, leaving other interactions falling under the legislation as “street checks”. CPS currently defines an Officer Contact / “Street Check” as a voluntary interaction with a member of the public that provided information of potential intelligence. They may stem from a public generated call for service or from other elements of an Officer’s duties such as proactive patrols.</p> <p>The CPS <i>Collection of Information</i> policy was shared with Committee members.</p>
Request for a copy of information presented.	<p>A copy of the Info Post power point presentation was shared with Committee members.</p> <p>The CPS is unable to share the SRO program presentation by Jason Archibald because SRO partners (including the school boards) must be consulted prior to the public release of this information and the report.</p>
Can the Committee members receive presentation materials prior to the scheduled meeting?	Yes, presentation materials will be provided, when available, prior to presentations.
Committee member questions.	Please forward questions to ARAC leads prior to Committee meetings to ensure that the leads have sufficient time to collect the information/ data required for an informative answer.
A Committee member expressed concerns about the outcome of an incident that took place outside the courthouse on August 12 th , 2021, as well as the missing information in the CPS media release.	<p>A Committee member raised the point that he/she has received numerous inquiries and concerns regarding the August 12th, 2021 incident and shared some of them verbatim with the Committee members.</p> <p>The Communication Specialist with the CPS Public Affairs/Media Relations Unit shared the link to the incident with the Committee. https://newsroom.calgary.ca/protestors-charged-in-relation-to-assaults-on-bystanders/</p> <p>The Communication Specialist also talked about the internal process of sharing information in a media release. They said that the information is provided and approved prior to release by the primary investigator. She also talked about the importance of not releasing evidentiary information and that the information communicated is accurate at the moment it is shared.</p>





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Next Steps

- What We Heard Report to be approved by the External Anti-Racism Action Committee Co-Chairs.
- Approved report will be distributed to External ARAC Committee members.
- Approved report will be posted online by the Strategic Communications Section.





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Reference

The Honourable Justice Michael H. Tulloch. (2018). *The Independent Street Checks Review*. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Policing/StreetChecks/ReportIndependentStreetChecksReview2018.html#chapt_2

