

## Schulte, Taylor CITZ:EX

---

**From:** PSSG WEBFEEDBACK PSSG:EX  
**Sent:** February 27, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** 'Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca'  
**Subject:** SG File No. 563757  
**Attachments:** Scan\_20200226.pdf

**Importance:** High

Good morning,

On behalf of the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General for the Province of British Columbia, please see his letter attached.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Province of British Columbia



VIA EMAIL

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Bill Blair, PC, MP, COM, PA  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
Public Safety Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Blair:

I am writing to advise that on February 27, 2020, I provided approval under Section 23 of the British Columbia *Police Act* for the municipality of Surrey to provide policing and law enforcement by means of a municipal police department governed by a municipal police board.

This approval marks a significant milestone in the process for the City of Surrey's transition from contracted policing by the RCMP to a municipal police department. As you are aware, a policing transition of this scope and scale is anticipated to be highly complex, resulting in the eventual termination of the City of Surrey's *Municipal Police Unit Agreement* (MPUA). As we proceed to the next phase of the City of Surrey's policing transition, the continuous collaborative efforts between our respective ministries will need to include the Surrey Police Board, the Surrey Police Department and the RCMP.

As a transition of this nature is largely unprecedented, the current policing agreements do not contemplate or prescribe the process to facilitate an orderly transition from an RCMP municipal police unit to a municipal police department. As a priority, it will be necessary for the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to consider an addendum to the existing *Municipal Police Service Agreement* (MPSA), as the termination clause included therein does not contemplate the termination of subordinate unit agreements. Further, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be required to formalize agreements between the Surrey Police Department and the RCMP, represented by Public Safety Canada, to facilitate an orderly, integrated transition that maintains public safety and ensures adequate and effective policing and law enforcement throughout the transition process.

.../2

The Honorable Bill Blair, PC, MP, COM, PA  
Page 2

I anticipate it will take approximately six months to establish the Surrey Police Board, and I have been advised by my Director of Police Services that initial discussions have already commenced with her counterpart in Public Safety Canada to enable work on necessary addenda to the MPSA that will be undertaken concurrently with the board appointment process. I understand these discussions have been collaborative and cooperative. I look forward to our ministries' continued collaboration and cooperation as this matter proceeds.

I would be pleased to meet with you or facilitate a teleconference to discuss this priority initiative and outline the next steps that are envisioned in the policing transition process for the City of Surrey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General



December 17, 2020

The Honourable Bill Blair, PC, COM, MP  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
Public Safety Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Blair:

On February 27, 2020, I wrote to inform you of my approval to the City of Surrey to provide its policing and law enforcement by means of a municipal police department governed by a municipal police board. Since that time, a significant number of milestones have been reached. The Surrey Police Board (the Board) has been established, the Surrey Police Service's Chief Constable has been appointed by the Board, and the Surrey Policing Transition Trilateral Committee (SPTTC) has also been established. The SPTTC, with representation from Public Safety Canada, the Province, the City of Surrey, the RCMP, and the Surrey Police Service, is working collaboratively to develop, support, negotiate and implement a phased transition and approve the related formal legal agreements that may be required.

I am grateful for the ongoing contributions from Public Safety Canada and all parties to the work completed to date through the SPTTC tables. I cannot understate the importance of the continued leadership from all parties working together through this forum. We must remain aligned in our collective goal to ensure the most effective transition possible.

The City of Surrey's transition from an RCMP Municipal Police Unit to its own municipal police department is well underway. I am writing to you to reaffirm my commitment in moving this transition forward. To be clear, this work has progressed to the point that we will not consider walking back from it and the Province is committed to continuing to provide leadership throughout this process.

Now more than ever, it is important to have Public Safety Canada's continued support, commitment and collaboration in order to accomplish the significant work ahead in a policing model transition of this size and scope. Given the unprecedented nature of this transition, leadership is required from all parties at the table. I appreciated the conversation we had on this topic during our recent call this past Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate your ongoing commitment that Public Safety Canada will bring a leadership role moving forward. We must also expect that this work will require all partner agencies to lean-in and work in different ways to achieve a transition that is as efficient, effective and as timely as possible, and at the same time, ensuring public safety in the City of Surrey.

.../2

The Honourable Bill Blair, PC, COM, MP  
Page 2

Again, I would like to thank Public Safety Canada for participating in this process to date and look forward to our ministries' continued collaboration on this significant and historical process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General





December 17, 2020

Commissioner Brenda Lucki  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
RCMP National Headquarters  
Headquarters Building  
73 Leikin Drive  
Ottawa ON K1A 0R2

Dear Commissioner Lucki:

On February 27, 2020, I announced my approval to the City of Surrey to provide its policing and law enforcement by means of a municipal police department governed by a municipal police board. Since that time, a significant number of milestones have been reached. The Surrey Police Board (the Board) has been established, the Surrey Police Service's Chief Constable has been appointed by the Board, and the Surrey Policing Transition Trilateral Committee (SPTTC) has also been established. The SPTTC, with representation from Public Safety Canada, the Province, the City of Surrey, the RCMP, and the Surrey Police Service, is working collaboratively to develop, support, negotiate and implement a phased transition and approve the related formal legal agreements that may be required.

While I appreciate the ongoing contributions from the RCMP and all parties to the work completed to date through the SPTTC tables, I cannot understate the importance of the continued leadership from all parties working together through this forum. We must remain aligned in our collective goal to ensure the most effective transition possible.

The City of Surrey's transition from an RCMP Municipal Police Unit to its own municipal police department is well underway. I am writing to you to affirm my commitment in moving this transition forward. To be clear, this work has progressed to a point that we will not consider walking back from it and the Province is committed to continuing to provide leadership throughout this process.

Now more than ever, it is important to have the RCMP's continued support, commitment and collaboration in order to accomplish the significant work ahead in a policing model transition of this size and scope. Given the unprecedented nature of this transition, leadership is required from all parties at the table and I am seeking your commitment that the RCMP will bring a leadership role moving forward. We must also expect that this work will require all partner agencies to lean-in and work in different ways to achieve a transition that is efficient, effective and as timely as possible, and at the same time, ensuring public safety in the City of Surrey.

.../2

Commissioner Brenda Lucki  
Page 2

Again, I would like to thank the RCMP, both nationally and at E-Division, for participating in this process to date and look forward to our continued collaboration on this significant and historical process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "M" and a trailing flourish.

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General

pc: Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Strachan, Commanding Officer, E-Division RCMP