Board Chair Report
March 6, 2026

RECOMMENDATION:
That this report be received as information.

I would like to acknowledge my appointment as the Chair of the Winnipeg Police Board by Mayor Gillingham and Council at the Council meeting on December 18, 2025. I appreciate their confidence in me to lead the Board as we move forward with the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan for the Winnipeg Police Service. A five-year guide that aligns policing with the needs and expectations of the people of Winnipeg.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to officially re-welcome Councillor Brian Mayes. He was appointed by Council at its meeting on December 18, 2026. Councillor Mayes previously served on the Board in 2022. We look forward to working with him on the business of the Board.

Also, at that meeting, Board Member Councillor Evan Duncan was appointed to the role of Vice-Chair.

This report summarizes the events attended since the last public meeting on December 5, 2025.

2025

December 5	Along with Board Members attended the Chief's Open House held at the Winnipeg Police Service Head Quarters at 245 Smith Street.
December 8	Quarterly private meeting with Police Chief.
December 8	Media interview with CJOB on the launching of the Winnipeg Police Board 2026-2030 Strategic Plan for the Winnipeg Police Service.
December 18	Media interview with Winnipeg Free Press on appointment as Board Chair.

2026

January 16	Andrew Minor, Executive Director of the Manitoba Police Commission provided a refresher/orientation session on the role of a police board, board member, Police Services Act, and MPC Policy Manual to the Board Members.
February 4	Board Members attended the WPS Workshop - Emotional Wear and Tear - Strategies to Navigate Challenging Work exploring strategies that can assist members cope more effectively with repeated exposures to disturbing Events.

February 18	Board Members attended the WPS Workshop - Emotional Wear and Tear - Strategies to Navigate Challenging Work exploring strategies that can assist members cope more effectively with repeated exposures to disturbing Events.
February 20	Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
February 28	Board Members attended the 2026 Guns and Hoses Charity Hockey Challenge between the Winnipeg Police Service (Winnipeg Heat) and the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (Winnipeg Smoke)/ Proceeds from the event supported Special Olympics Manitoba, the Never Alone Cancer Foundation and Project 11 (K-12 mental wellness program by the True North Youth Foundation)

According to the WPB Rules of Practice and Procedure – 61(1) 61(1) Private meetings with police chief to facilitate communication.

The board, as the committee of the whole, must, at a minimum, meet quarterly in private with the police chief, to ensure a common understanding of emerging or evolving strategic issues, concerns and directions and of the roles and responsibilities of the board and the police chief in addressing such matters.

The Committee of the Whole Board met privately on December 8, 2025 with Chief Bowers for the quarterly meeting.

Per the City of Winnipeg By-Law 148/2012, Section 24 - The Board shall provide a quarterly update on the Board Budget and the Winnipeg Police Service Budget to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development for information.

On December 10, 2025 the Secretary to the Board attended the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and Economic Development to present to the Winnipeg Police Board and Winnipeg Police Service third quarter reports.

Per the City of Winnipeg By-Law 148/2012, Section 21 - The Board shall prepare an annual strategic plan which shall be submitted to Council for information through the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services.

On January 9, 2026, the Secretary to the Board attended the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services to provide the Winnipeg Police Board 2026-2030 Strategic Plan for the Winnipeg Police Service as information to Council through the Committee.

As required by the Manitoba Police Commission Manual of Practice and Procedure 3.7 – *Each municipal police board must ensure that all police board members have attended the orientation and training arranged by the Manitoba Police Commission.* That orientation and refresher training session was held on January 16, 2026 for all Board Members.

The Board met as a Committee of the Whole Board on February 20, 2026 to review quarterly reports on the Winnipeg Police Service budget, business and audit plans and the Winnipeg Police Board budget reports. At that meeting, the Committee reviewed the Board's Business Plan for 2026 which contains the goals and objectives of the Board for this year. By publishing the business plan on its website and providing regular reporting on the progress implementing it, the Board hopes to be transparent and accountable to the citizens of Winnipeg.

The Board is happy to report as provided in the WPS 2025 Fourth Quarter Financial Report that the Winnipeg Police Service for the fiscal year 2025 is under the budgeted mill rate support by 1.7 million dollars. A more fulsome summary will be provided when the report is presented at the public meeting.

According to the WPB Rules of Practice and Procedure – 75(9) Board to allocate approved budget. The board must review and determine the allocation of the budget for the following year approved by council that will enable the police service to provide adequate and effective policing, and to meet its strategic goals and objectives, without delay after approval of the budget by council. The Board will be bringing forward a motion to recommend approval of the allocation of the WPS 2026 budget at this meeting.

As the Board continues to increase its public engagement, invitations to meet with community groups is welcomed. Requests can be sent via the contact link found on the Board's website: winnipegpoliceboard.ca or email wpb@winnipeg.ca

The next public meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 5, 2026.