



# Policing the 2010 Winter Olympic Games



**A presentation to the Major City Chiefs**

**October 23, 2010**

**Chief Jim Chu, Vancouver Police Department**



# Presentation Overview

1. RCMP/ISU athlete and venue security
2. Policing protests
3. Celebratory crowds





# 1. RCMP/ISU Athlete and Venue Security

- RCMP-Led Integrated Security Unit
  - Athletes and families
  - Venues, aviation and marine
- Vancouver Police Department
  - Torch run
  - Crowds, traffic, protests
  - All criminal matters





# VPD and ISU Support

- Pre planning
- Exercises
- Venue Commanders





# ISU Security – No incidents of note







## 2. Policing Protests





# The Prelude to 2010

- 1994 Vancouver Stanley Cup Riot
- 1997 Vancouver Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC)
- 1999 Seattle WTO Riots
- 2001 Quebec City Summit of Americas





# Activist Groups





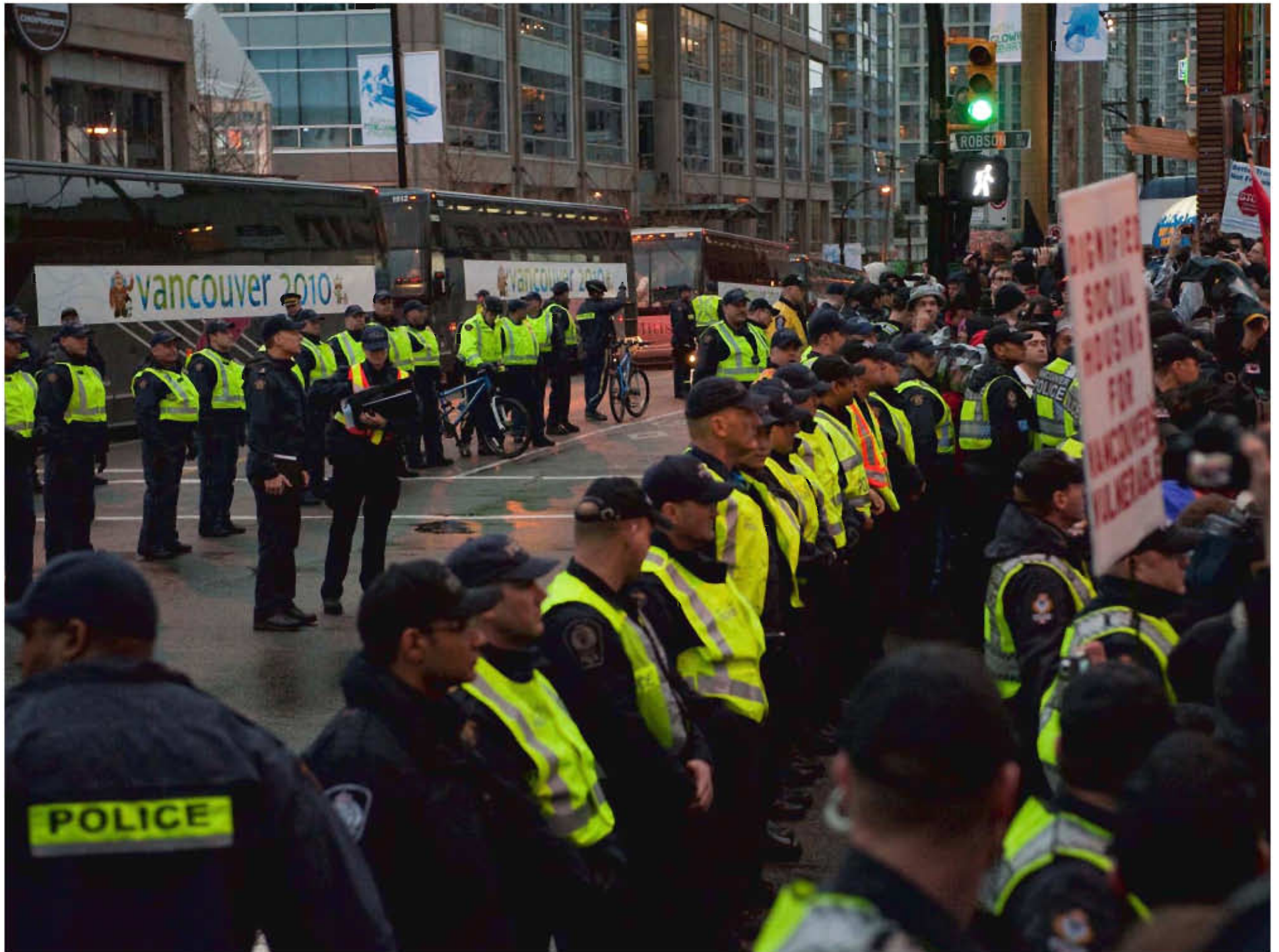


VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

# Opening Ceremony February 12th























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# The Heart Attack March







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The Province 14 Feb 2010

# Hate explains downtown clash with police

**OLYMPIC PROTEST:**  
Morons, hoping to  
get arrested, create  
a dangerous scene

I couldn't see the face of the guy in the ski mask, but I sure could see the hate burning in his eyes.

And that's all you needed to see to understand what Saturday's downtown mayhem was all about.

These people weren't legitimate protesters. They weren't exercising their democratic rights.



**Michael Smyth**

AT THE OLYMPICS

These goofballs didn't even do a decent impression of genuine anarchists, despite the tired symbols they

spray-painted on the sides of newspaper boxes.

They were just hateful morons who wanted a confrontation with the cops. Period.

And after failing to bait police into a battle the night before, they realized the only way to do it was to smash windows, vandalize cars and threaten people with bike chains.

After exercising admirable restraint on Friday, police had no choice but to move in and make arrests before people — including the dozens of children I saw strolling with their families — got hurt.

Then came the predictable

cries of — you guessed it — police brutality.

"Police were the only ones doing the violence," claimed Alissa Westergaard-Thorpe of the Olympic Resistance Network.

Sorry, but throwing a newspaper box through a plate-glass window is a violent act, which must invite a police response. And these yahoos know it.

Getting on TV being dragged away by cops and deposited into a paddy wagon? That's "mission accomplished" with this mob.

Just check out the provocative news releases and websites they

endlessly churn out. They brag about being arrested. They post anonymous "action reports" glorifying arson and property destruction. They invite every wing nut in the world to join their chaos.

And it's all such a shabby, cynical game. I interviewed protest leader Harsha Walia last week and put it to her directly that many in her group actually desire a confrontation with police.

"I can't deny that," she said. A rare admission — and one that explains better than anything what you saw on TV screens last night.

[msmyth@theprovince.com](mailto:msmyth@theprovince.com)

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# Protester thanks cops for kindness

**NEAR RIOT:** Officer guards her civil right

**T**he last thing Vancouver police Const. Rob Merriott was expecting from a protester after the Olympics-opening confrontation was a letter thanking him and his colleagues for representing "everything that is good" about Canada.

"I have never been surrounded by so many gentle men in my life, this officer included," Shena Meadowcroft wrote to the Vancouver Police Department.

"Your men were continuously insulted and spat upon, screamed at. At no time did I see any of them respond with anything but civility and politeness. Thank you is simply not enough to show you my gratitude, respect and, above all, admiration."

Merriott, a 4½-year member of the force, had been in the front row of a three-day



**Ethan Baron**

INSIDE EDGE

hurting projectiles, she accosted one and told him the police were not the issue.

When the man spat on her, Merriott told him that represented assault, she says.

When the man responded, "if he doesn't





## 3. Celebratory Crowds









vancouver police street of shame video

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## Reclaiming the Streets of Shame - Granville St. Entertainment District

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Uploaded by vpdonline on Jan 25, 2010

Overview of VPD efforts to police Vancouver's Granville St. Entertainment

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All Comments

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### Suggestions



Vancouver Police Department Hypothermia Policy

by vpdonline  
1,487 views



VPD caught in the act, money hard at work!!!.....

by sugoleverett  
1,243 views



Vancouver Police Homeless Policy

by vpdonline  
1,182 views



SpandyAndy - Threatend by Vancouver Police

by SpandyAndyDotCom  
7,988 views



Website Welcome - Vancouver Police Department

by vpdonline  
757 views



VPD Training: Recruits Marching

by vpdonline  
6,058 views



Vancouver Police Department: The Promise

by vpdonline  
14,241 views





# Ramping up the numbers







# Police restrict sales at downtown liquor stores for second straight day

BY LARRY PYNN

VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver police obtained permission from the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch to restrict sales Sunday — for a second straight day — at private liquor stores in the downtown area.

The general manager of the branch authorized another 7 p.m. closing at such outlets to curb public drunkenness as Olympic partygoers flooded into downtown. Private liquor stores normally stay open until 11 p.m.

Section 23 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act empowers the branch to temporarily suspend or impose conditions on a licence for up to 24 hours in the public interest.





VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

# Meet and Greet Strategy









A8 | NEWS | THEPROVINCE.COM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010

# Peaceful street celebration a joy

**CREDIT POLICE:** Meet-and-greet strategy works

There was one frightening point last Friday night around Robson Square when the crush of humanity started to move and pulsate like some great awakening beast.

Maybe it's because we're unused to such massive city crowds that some people started to freak out a little bit.

For Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, it was like seconds on a knife's edge — the realization that it would take just a few bozos to start pushing or punching to turn a shining moment for the city into something darker.

"It felt really uncomfortable on parts of Granville and Robson," Robertson said Wednesday. "Our police definitely noticed it."

Fortunately, the restless crowd settled down for the most part.



**Michael Smyth**

IN THE HOUSE

worried once again about swelling crowds on downtown streets.

"I'm definitely concerned," Robertson said. "If it's fuelled by booze, it's not going to be pleasant."

As police brace for the third and final Olympic weekend, memories persist of the 1994 Stanley Cup riot,



City police keep back crowd before arresting man who climbed lamp standard Friday. — PNG FILE PHOTO

Vancouver cops will deploy early to major intersections, pedestrian zones and transit stations, said Const. Jana McGuinness. The strategy will be high visibility, and a "meet-and-greet approach that sets a positive tone for the evening."

consistent with the remarkable job the police have done throughout. They've been professional and courteous. Most importantly, they've refused to be baited by troublemakers who desire a confrontation.

But I think a joyous and peaceful

these Games has been a wonderful thing to behold and enjoy. It's been about family and friends and a newfound patriotism.

As Olympics boss John Furlong said Wednesday: "The city has changed. The silent majority has found a way





# Protecting the Protestors

2010-Feb-28 01:45:46.639 PM



58. Cambie/Georgia North - PTZ (10343:  
ADT AI Building













# Canada Hockey Gold







# Police deserve a medal for their performance

With a record 14 gold medals and many other great performances at the 2010 Winter Olympics, Canada proved that its athletic program is among the best in the world.

But the Olympic Games are and always have been about much more than athletics. Vancouver proved without doubt that it is a world-class city by staging such a massive, and massively successful event. And that success was in no small part due to the actions of the Vancouver police department and all members of the Integrated Security Unit.

Given the size and profile of the Olympics, many people feared that the police would be overcome by an angry mob, as happened during the 1994 Stanley Cup riot.

Others feared that police efforts to shut down those protests and protesters would give Vancouver and Canada a reputation to live down, as happened during the 1997 meeting of leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

And for a while, it looked like one or both of those things might happen, since just one day after the Games began, police had to deal with a violent protest in which protesters smashed store windows and vandalized cars.

But with the hoodlums taken away, cooler heads prevailed. And thanks to

the good nature of Olympic spectators, the mostly peaceful protesters and the superb work of the police, the world was treated to one of the most peaceful Games in history.

Much like winning an Olympic medal, it wasn't easy. When you have massive crowds in small spaces, and plenty of alcohol added to the mix, you have a recipe for disaster.

The decision to close liquor stores early likely helped avert trouble, but even then, alcohol was in abundance: Over the 17 days of the Games, police did 21,000 liquor "pour-outs," issued 1,230 tickets for drinking in public and 253 for being drunk in a public place. Another 93 people were arrested for breach of the peace.

The pour-outs and ticketing also probably helped prevent more serious problems, though if handled improperly, the police could have faced increasingly hostile crowds.

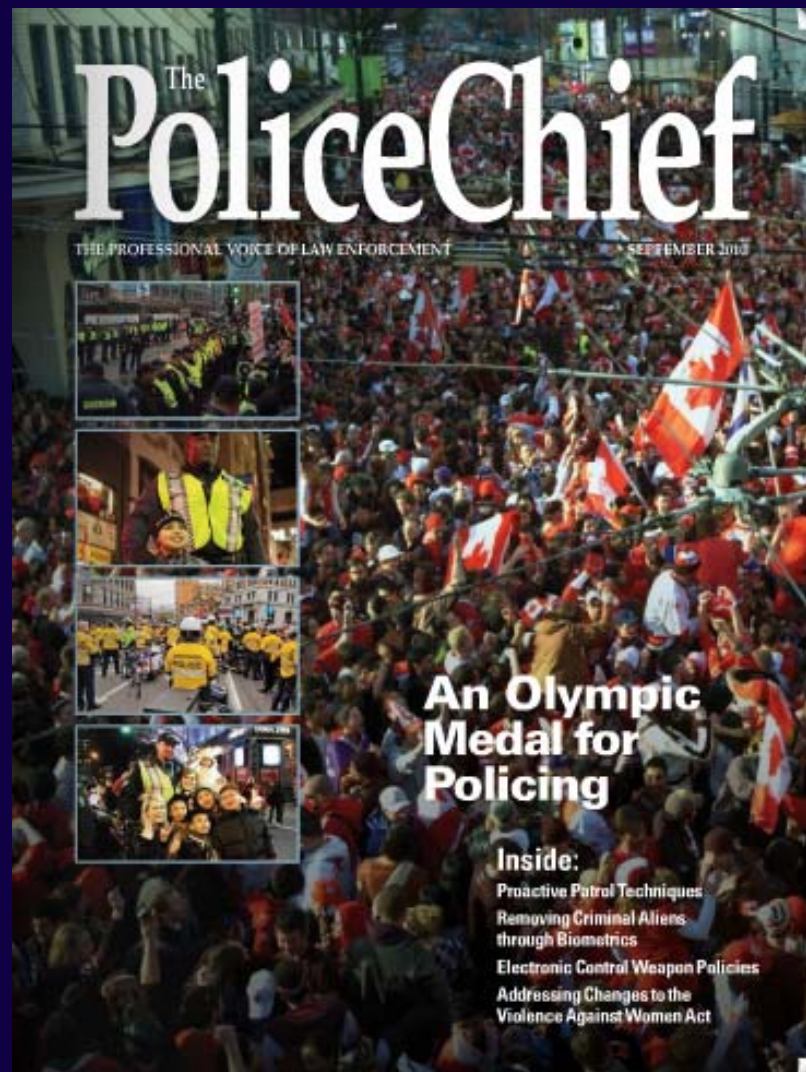
Instead, the crowds were in large part supportive of the police, and the police returned the favour by sharing high-fives and taking photographs with the revellers. And thanks to this wise balancing of control and restraint, virtually everyone in Vancouver had a good time, while the world watched.

This, as much as our record gold medal count, showed that we are a city, and a country, to contend with on the world stage.





# Summary of Lessons Learned





# Lessons Learend

1. Division of Responsibility
2. Don't give people a reason to hate the police







## 3. Create Balanced Crowd Dynamics







## 4. Training is Critical







## 5. Discourage Festival Seating





## 6. Meet and Greet People







# 7. Prepare for the Unexpected





## 8. Set Reasonable Boundaries on Behaviour







## 9. Lead Your People





# 10. Celebrate Your Success





# Policing the 2010 Winter Olympic Games

Presented by:  
Chief Constable Jim Chu  
Vancouver Police Department