

Public Safety Committee Minutes

Present:

Chair: Mayor Hepner
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Woods

Absent:

Councillor Martin
Councillor LeFranc

Staff Present:

City Clerk
City Manager
City Solicitor
Chief Superintendent, OIC, Surrey RCMP
Director Public Safety Strategies
Fire Chief
Manager, Bylaw Enforcement and Licensing Services

Councillor Starchuk assumed the role of Acting Chair and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. [Public Safety Committee – January 30, 2017](#)

It was Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the minutes of the Closed Public Safety
Committee meeting held on January 30, 2017, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATION

Deputy Commissioner Butterworth-Carr provided the Committee with brief introduction and biography as follows:

- Deputy Commission Butterworth-Carr was officially appointed to her new role on March 2, 2017; she began her career with the RCMP being posted in the Yukon and working in various detachments throughout the 14 communities that make up the territory.
- In 2012, she was transferred to British Columbia and was placed in charge of the Aboriginal Policing Services Division. She was stationed in Prince George as part of the North District Management Team for 3.5 years, was then promoted to the rank of Officer in Charge of the Prince George Detachment during a time when there was an influx of gangs, organized crime and a multitude of homicides.

Mayor Hepner assumed role of Chair at 1:34 p.m.

- After working in Prince George, Deputy Commissioner Butterworth-Carr spent time working as a Criminal Operations Officer in the Province of Saskatchewan; after three years was asked to come to Surrey in the role of Criminal Operations Officer in Charge of Core Policing. At the end of November 2016 she was formally invited to participate in the interview process for the Deputy Commissioner, and was subsequently asked to take on the command.
- Deputy Commissioner Butterworth-Carr noted that she is committed to her new role for the next 5 years and is thrilled to take on the responsibility.

Mayor Hepner thanked Deputy Commissioner Butterworth-Carr for her presentation and noted that her background and wide variety of experience is ideal for the City of Surrey.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

RCMP DETACHMENT & DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES

1. [Item No. P004](#) **City Centre Response Plan – Status Report 2**
File: 7450-30

Terry Waterhouse provided a brief overview of Corporate Report P004 - City Centre Response Plan as follows:

- Staff noted that the intent of the Plan is to address the opioid crisis in a comprehensive manner which successfully assists individuals on the street, pairs them with much needed services and does not displace them to other parts of the City. The Plan is a pilot project with a public health and public safety overlay.
- Bylaw Officers and Police Officers are working on the street and developing trust with clients; the aim of the program is to instill that "compassion matters" approach in our staff and the individuals resident in the area.

Staff provided an overview of the Plan as it relates to emergency housing, frontline services and transitioning forward:

- Housing & Shelters - are currently operating at or near capacity in the City of Surrey. Even with the Guildford Shelter, there is a significant need. The extreme weather program ended on March 31st and has led to a surge in housing and shelter needs.

- To keep track of the various needs in terms of housing stock, a "housing tracking table" has been developed with Lookout Emergency Aid Society (Lookout) doing vulnerability assessments on a daily basis; data will be reviewed by the City on a weekly basis. There are limited options for those individuals deemed "hard to house". Staff noted that approximately one-third of individuals who live on the street are either "resistant" to receiving help or are categorized as "hard to house" as they are not open to the treatment services available; adding another layer of complexity.
- Staff noted that finding temporary, short-term and long-term housing challenges exist throughout the region. The Surrey Outreach Team (SOT) has been successful in some placements; however, the bulk has been done by Lookout Society Workers who have placed 26 individuals in housing.
- There is an element of transience among this population; one of the challenges is that as someone is placed, others are cycling back.

Superintendent Shawn Gill, Surrey RCMP made the following comments:

- There was a spike in the number of tents for a week; more tents than people. Some are using the additional tents for storage. RCMP members assigned to the area are getting an understanding of how long people are transitioned for. Have identified the storage tents, removed them as of last Friday. The count (done 8 am) is 45 tents and 60 people. This is a result of individuals receiving support at one end of the spectrum; however, Langley and Maple Ridge have people who are living in the City of Surrey.
- People view Surrey as a "safe zone" because of the visible RCMP, Bylaw and Lookout staff presence. The trailer is in place; thank you to Council for the support and now that there is a building, the commitment to the area has been confirmed.
- The next key thing is the Privacy Impact Assessment which will support our agreement to share data about the same clients.
- The overdoses are specific to 135A only and reflective of January - the end of March. Still continue to see 6-8 individuals responsible for 40% of the overdoses in one month as they will overdose multiple times in the same day. They are using more drugs because they know they can get services.
- Council requested clarification regarding the overdoses that occurred in other parts of the City. The Acting Fire Chief, Larry Thomas noted that when there is a call through emergency services they are dispatched to the same incident.
- Acting Chief Thomas also noted that this year there have been 27 site inspections on 135A Street due to the risk to individuals in tents with open flames and possible burns. One male succumbed to open flames in a shed in another area of the city recently. Staff have distributed non-open flame

alternatives to open flames (such as blankets and alternative heating devices in cold weather).

- Last visit to 135A Street there were 63 tents, 6 open flames and several 20 pound propane bottles. With the recent spike there are more people in tents clustered close together. The concern level is going up and fire staff will continue to do inspections and encourage proper separation of the tents.

Representatives from Fraser Health were in attendance and made the following comments:

- On social assistance cheque day there seems to be a spike in overdoses. Fraser Health has implemented a plan which includes adding additional staff and working in conjunction with the Province and BC Housing guidelines to intervene in supportive housing and shelters on 135A.

Fraser Health has added 167 treatment beds to the continuum. Crawford House has opened for Men, and the Phoenix Centre has been awarded 20 beds funded by the Provincial Health Society. Elizabeth Fry has opened 11 beds for women and infants.

- The issue of unused and discarded needles was raised at the BIA meeting.
- Council asked for clarification if the team on 135A has lessened the strain on the emergency ward, the delegation noted that the population is dynamic on 135A. The number of overdoses, is back to last year's level, which is higher than normal. People who have multiple overdoses, are being tracked to determine how to best provide support.
- Council requested detail regarding how many individuals are transported by the emergency department. The RCMP responded noting that a number of individuals OD, refuse treatment.
- It was discussed that all the staff on the front line are working together day-by-day to share information and share health resources. Given that there is a very predictable volume, the response needs to be increased commensurate to see if it has an impact to hospital visits or deaths.
- In terms of RCMP involvement, there are more officers on 135A Street, and there is early intervention to respond to drug dealing.
- Council asked for clarification if the bed use is "tracked". Those are regional beds and will be tracking utilization and tracking how many coming from Surrey and other parts of the region. Tend to think about the beds is a treatment continuum.
- Council noted that there are deep concerns that there is not a regional strategy. Would like to see examples of best practices from other communities to move people out of tents. It would be good for the City of Surrey to see what other Cities do in order to address the situation.

- The Chair noted that the National House Strategy will be focused on the vulnerable and youth aging out of care, Youth Transitional Housing and making recommendations and was appreciative of Surrey's initiative and that she hoped across the country a similar style would be adopted to address the issue.
- Staff noted that it is the next stage, the project is only 3 months old and it is very new. Have only been at it for 3 months, the issues are entrenched and are making incremental changes as related to the victimization of vulnerable populations. Need to limit OD's, find housing and assist in providing services.

It was Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
 Seconded by Councillor Woods
 That **Committee Report No. P004 - City
 Centre Response Plan - Status Report 2** be received as information.
Carried

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES

2. [Item No.P005](#) **Strategic Initiative Update: MYzone Afterschool Drop-in Program**
File: 7450-30 (Verbal Update)

The following comments were made:

- Staff noted that there is a program being developed over the last 5 years in collaboration with Public Safety and programs targeted to children, ages 6 - 12.
- An example of one of many prevention programs the City is involved with. Staff noted that the intent is to make sure the investments today are making a difference.
- Since 2012 have opened up 12 sites and each site offers services a minimum of 3 days per week. Children need consistent adults and community to provide them with service. MYzone aims to be affordable and accessible and starts in October.
- The cost is \$40 per year and is consistent with the recreation pass. The program offers a range of activities, active play, crafts, and homework help. At some sites included parent/family nights, for parents to connect with their child, have a meal and connect with their children and receive support and information services.
- The other key component is that it is an opportunity for children to have voice and develop programming that makes sense to them. Recently children baked cupcakes and then worked with local seniors and donated

the cupcakes. The program supports many of the City strategies and connects as part of that important work.

- Working with "Youth Table" to create mentor opportunities for junior volunteers to help keep their leadership potential.
- Staff noted that finding consistent space and offering services three days per week. Continue to work on accessing space and providing consistent access (instead of being bumped). Have been incrementally adding sites and will look at expanding the program in the budget year.

Council noted that there should be some media profile advertising this program and that it is making a difference. The individual who are graduating and want to stay involved is a very good and positive story and should be showcased.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Woods
That **Committee Report No. P005 -**

Strategic Initiative Update: MYzone Afterschool Drop-in Program be received as information.

Carried

D. OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO HOLD A MEETING IN A CLOSED SESSION

It is in order for Public Safety Committee members to pass a resolution to close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(k) of the *Community Charter*, which states:

"A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public."

It was

Moved by Councillor Gill
Seconded by Councillor Woods
That the Public Safety Committee members

close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1)(k) of the *Community Charter*, which states:

"A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the

council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public."

Carried

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for **Monday, June 19, 2017**.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Hayne
That the Public Safety Committee meeting

do now adjourn.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Mayor Hepner, Chair