

NO: R061

COUNCIL DATE: May 1, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 27, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Community Services**

FILE: **4710-01**

SUBJECT: **Building Safer Communities Fund Contribution Agreement**

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Services Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a contribution agreement with the Government of Canada to receive \$3,806,271.63 in funding through the Building Safer Communities Fund, as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the contribution agreement to develop and implement the Surrey Youth Resiliency Program (“SYRP”) and allow the City to receive and expend federal funding in the amount of \$3,806,271.63.

BACKGROUND

In January 2019, the City, and nine community partners, launched the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (“SAFE”) program to deliver 11 programs to prevent youth from being drawn into criminal gang involvement. SAFE is funded through a \$7.5 million grant ending December 31, 2023. SAFE is expected to offer services to 4,700 total child and youth clients when its contribution agreement with Public Safety Canada concludes December 2023. Staff are exploring options to extend program funding beyond 2023.

DISCUSSION

Based, in part, on the success of SAFE and the direct to municipality funding model, in March 2022, Public Safety Canada announced the \$250 million Building Safer Communities Fund (“BSCF”) to support municipalities in developing gang prevention projects from 2022 to 2026.

On April 21, 2023, Canada’s Minister of Public Safety formally announced that Surrey has been awarded funding to develop and implement new SYRP programming which will support SAFE. The new SYRP programming will include after school prevention programming for middle years children, one-on-one mentorship, access to trauma counselling and culturally appropriate

services for target populations. The new SYRP programming will be finalized and announced in the coming weeks.

Staff recommend that Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Contribution Agreement which will allow the City to receive the BSCF funding in the amount of \$3,806,271.63 and to implement new programming.

Legal Services Review

Legal Services has reviewed this report.

CONCLUSION

The SAFE Program provides a solid foundation for the City of Surrey gang prevention programs. New grant funding through SYRP will allow the City to expand existing gang prevention programming.

Terry Waterhouse
General Manager, Community Services