

Present:

Councillor Stutt, Chair
Councillor Kooner, Vice Chair
P. McEvoy
P. Richards
R. Rai
S. Dooley

Absent:**Staff Present:**

B. Aasebo, Community Safety Manager, Community Services
A. Ordeman, Director, Police Support Services, Community Services
B. Edwards, Assistant Commissioner, Surrey RCMP
L. Thomas, Fire Chief, Surrey Fire Service
R. Element, Proactive Enforcement Officer
J. Cairney, Deputy Fire Chief
S. Morris, Deputy Fire Chief
J. Sung, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

G. Dhaliwal, Goldrock Enterprise

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was

Moved by S. Dooley

Seconded by P. McEvoy

That the agenda of the Public Safety Committee

(PSC) meeting of February 28, 2024, be adopted.

Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – January 24, 2024

It was

Moved by P. Richards

Seconded by S. Dooley

That minutes of the Public Safety Committee

meeting of January 24, 2024, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. G. Dhaliwal, Goldrock Enterprise

The delegation provided a presentation regarding the rise of criminal activity within schools and the youth population, and possible solutions to the issue. The following information was highlighted:

- Factors that increase crime in a community include socioeconomic challenges, vulnerable youth, and cultural stigma against mental health. Arts and culture, mental health awareness, fitness, nutrition, and youth entrepreneurship may reduce community crime rate. Delegation proposed healthy diet, sports involvement, arts, and entrepreneurship to lower crime rate.
- Healthy food increases serotonin production, which increases general community happiness. Fast food could cause mental health issues, bodily problems, and insecurity. Sport tournament and leagues can increase youth involvement and foster community engagement. Delegation suggested that Brownsville Park and Chuck Bailey are locations that are suitable to develop for outdoor sports activities. The City can promote sports activities via partnerships and social media video content.
- Art murals can beautify the city while promoting fitness, unity, healthy living, and love. High traffic unused spaces such as City Hall Plaza may be used to host young entrepreneurship events and farmers market. High traffic space is ideal to allow young entrepreneurs to sell products or services.
- The delegation suggested that using a community app to connect individuals, entrepreneurs, and organizations may promote mental health, fitness, and entrepreneurship. The app could be in collaboration with the City, used to track interaction and reward participants.

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. R. Element, Proactive Enforcement Officer

The staff provided a screening of the Shattering the Image Anti-Gang Presentation. The following information was highlighted:

- The mandate of the Surrey Gang Enforcement Team (SGET) is to investigate gang crime and to break up gang activity, as well as provide education and outreach to prevent gang involvement. SGET programming, including the Shattering the Image presentation, is permanently in progress, changing based on current situation, recruitment method, realities of gang life, and evolving prevention strategies. The program is currently deployed in high schools and key elementary schools, aiming to bridge the knowledge gap between police and civilians. It is also available to community groups upon request.

- The video presented stories of an incarcerated gang member and a grieving mother. The gang member sought inclusion and belonging that resulted in loss of life. The grieving mother lost her son as a bystander caught in violent exchange. The video emphasized that the glamorous lifestyle is only a front; gang loyalty switches frequently, and ultimately everyone is out for themselves.

In response to questions from the Committee, the staff provided the following information:

- The impact of the video requires short-term and long-term studies to assess. Long-term study for youths after 18 would be the most impactful as social support and school system are removed after 18.
- There has been positive feedback from organizations but no feedback from youths yet as the video has only been shown for one month. The video can be requested for showing through the Surrey RCMP office.
- True Calling Media produced the video. The video will be dubbed in Punjabi but will not be posted online. The RCMP is looking to create similar videos with localized stories for presentation across Canada.
- There is a plan to review and revamp Project Lavender, originally a female oriented program that is expanding to males. A new project will look to educate and raise awareness on sextortion.
- Originally the Shattering the Image program was targeting high school students. It has expanded to include lower age brackets as they are becoming more exposed to different information at a younger age.
- Glamourization of gang lifestyle is difficult to counter especially when it is present in music and fashion, but they do not present the stressful side of that lifestyle.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- The story selection process was stringent to present a more forthright story of the criminal lifestyle.
- School crime rate statistic shows that crime was highest in 2019 and it has been trending downwards since then. The demographic characteristics of gang members has changed over time. Immigrant youths may be at higher risk for gang recruitment.
- Fire Service found that educational messages given last two to three years in effectiveness. Message reinforcement is required for upkeeping fire safety, which gang prevention message may need.

- The gang prevention message may be more effective on a younger audience because they are more receptive. Grade seven is thought to be a good age group to start.
- Councillor Stutt invited Community Safety Manager of Community Services to speak. Educational message should be targeting younger audience as kids are exposed to more information at a younger age now. Without strong family support there is a higher risk of youths going astray. Transition periods of elementary to high school and high school to adulthood are generally difficult periods for people, those times are where support and education are most needed.

2. **J. Cairney, Deputy Fire Chief**

The staff provided an overview of the Dry Season Action Plan. The following information was highlighted:

- In Surrey the dry season is May 1 to October 31. Brush fire and burning complaint numbers increased in recent years during dry season. The Dry Season Action Plan was created in 2017 to reduce fire risk due to the extreme warm and dry conditions.
- Each dry season an updated Dry Season Action Plan is implemented based on forecast made by Natural Resources Canada. The goals are to: protect citizens, protect natural parkland, educate the public, and coordinate effort between Surrey parks, Fire Service, RCMP, and bylaw services. The plan is designed to ensure specific fire concerns are addressed by the appropriate department as they have the knowledge and follow-up responsibility.
- BC Wildfire Service provides provincial fire danger rating with data from weather stations. The provincial fire rating is then used to guide the Dry Season Action Plan. Surrey Parks provide a fire risk ranking of city parks and urban forests for action prioritization. A weekly report of brush fire incidents is recorded on COSMOS to identify hotspots.
- Fire Service provides emergency response and fire suppression, while Surrey Parks provide final clean up and situation assessment afterwards. Fire Service and parks staff send out fire education, media messages, and fire warning signages to the public. Bylaw patrol locations based on complaint, camping activity, and parks fire risk. Camps on city parks are removed when found.

In response to questions from the Committee, the staff provided the following information:

- Local fire services will reach out to BC Wildfire Service if the fire becomes uncontrollable. Operation centre is established for large incidents to rotate staff.

- Outdoor burning ban signage outside of Crescent Beach has been effective in reducing outdoor burning during dry season. Businesses can continue to sell firewood during dry season.
- There is a fire boat in Vancouver that can provide fire suppression for crown land.

3. **S. Morris, Deputy Fire Chief**

The staff provided an overview of the Surrey Extreme Heat Response Guideline. The following information was highlighted:

- The Surrey Extreme Heat Response Guideline was developed after the 2021 heat dome event to coordinate all heat related activities in Surrey. The 2021 event had the most impact on population 70 years and older, homes without heat management, and low-income areas.
- Environment Canada developed initiation triggers for heat plans. The triggers are: special weather alert, heat warning, and extreme heat emergency. Special weather alerts are issued when there is temperature increase in forecast to allow planning and public education. Heat warnings are activated when life and health of a community is threatened by present conditions. Extreme heat emergency occurs when there's a three-day continuous increase in temperature above heat warning threshold.
- In Surrey, a heat warning is triggered by temperatures that reach a daytime high of 33 and a low of 17 degrees for two consecutive days. If these conditions were to increase for more than 3 days, it would then trigger a heat emergency.
- Fraser Health distributes tips for staying cool for vulnerable population and monitor patients in their facilities. BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness will coordinate local organizations, provide logistic assistance, and financial reimbursement. BC Housing and Homelessness Services Association of BC will provide cooling rooms and refuge areas to vulnerable demographic groups.
- Surrey prepares for the summer season by updating Extreme Heat Response Guideline, performing regional response exercise, preparing media messages, assessing public facility cooling, and identifying vulnerable groups.
- Once heat warning has been issued, the City will distribute messages across multiple channels regarding refuge facilities and heat management tips. Staff will provide water and bus transportation as needed.
- Heat emergency will trigger the coordination with subject experts. The City will then reach out to high-risk populations, extend operation of heat relief sites, increase available responders, increase water distribution to at-risk individuals, and send messages to address the increased risk to life.

- Once Environment and Climate Change Canada issues a cancellation alert, the City will scale down heat related activities and analyze the recent event to adjust the Extreme Heat Response Guideline.

In response to questions from the Committee, the staff provided the following information:

- Social service providers solicit facilities to provide relief in extreme weather events. Simon Fraser University is a candidate for public respite facility.
- Electronic billboards are useful to spread messages. There is no data on how effective the messages are in each location, but in an emergency the message is pushed to everywhere.
- Demographic that was most impacted in the 2021 heat dome event was also the least informed. There is a push to use the Alertable app that informs families to check on seniors in extreme weather events. QR code will be posted on public messages to allow more users to use the app.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

This section had no items to consider.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

F. MOTION TO HOLD A MEETING IN A CLOSED SESSION

It was
Moved by P. McEvoy
Seconded by Councillor Kooner
That Public Safety Committee close the meeting to the public pursuant to Section 90 (1) (k) of the *Community Charter*, which states:

- “(1) 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

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Dooley
Seconded by P. McEvoy
That the Public Safety Committee meeting

be adjourned.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Stutt, Chairperson