

Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee – Minutes

Present:

Councillor Guerra – Chairperson
Councillor Annis
Councillor Elford
Councillor Patton
B. Burnside
C. Girardi
G. Tymoschuk, School Trustee

Regrets:

S. Drysdale

Staff Present:

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
N. Aven, Manager of Parks
L. Davison, Manager of Culture
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research & Design Manager
L. White, Manager, Community & Recreation Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Adoption of the Minutes

It was Moved by C. Girardi
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation
and Culture Committee meeting of September 18, 2019, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

**1. Sharon Carter, Tournament Director, and Bob Carter, Assistant
Tournament Director, Kahunaverse Sports Super Senior Slam
Pickleball Tournament**

Sharon Carter, Tournament Director, and Bob Carter, Assistant Tournament Director, Kahunaverse Sports Super Senior Slam Pickleball Tournament (Tournament), were in attendance to provide a presentation about the Tournament, taking place in Surrey, August 17-19, 2020.

An overview of the Tournament information was provided on table and the following comments were made:

- Pickleball can be recreational or competitive. It is estimated there are over three million Pickleball players in the U.S. and there has been a huge increase in the number of players in Canada over the past few years.
- More commonly identified as a sport for retirees that want to remain active, young players are now starting to participate.
- The Tournament is an independent, international tournament, sanctioned by Pickleball Canada and the Super Senior International Pickleball Association (SSIPPA) (formed in 2016 to promote pickleball among a very active senior population in the U.S. and internationally).

- The Tournament sponsor is Kahunaverse Sports (formerly Big Kahuna Sport Co.), founded in Surrey in 1998 and since become Canada's largest provider of institutional and team sporting equipment, apparel and accessories.
- Registration will open April, 2020. Entry fees are collected from all participants, who must be a member of Pickleball Canada. There are no prizes offered and any profit turned will be donated to a charitable organization; hoping to partner with the Surrey Firefighters Association. The Tournament will also be supporting the local food bank.
- To accommodate the anticipated 350-500 participants, ranging in age categories (50+ - 75+) and skill levels (3.0 - 5.0), the Tournament will be held at South Surrey Athletic Park (12 courts) and Crescent Park (14 courts).
- Marketing will be provided through Kahunaverse Sports, SSIIPA, US Pickleball Association, pickleball.com, Tournament website, Discover Surrey, Surrey Pickleball Club, various social media channels and by contacting pickleball clubs and media outlets in western Canada and Washington.
- An expected 500 - 1,000 visiting fans and supporters will provide increased spending in the community and raise awareness of the City of Surrey as a preferred location for sporting and leisure activities.

To accommodate the rapidly growing popularity of Pickleball, it was reported there are now 54 courts available in Surrey for Pickleball: Clayton Park(8), Sullivan Park (6), Morgan Creek Park (6), Greenaway Park (8), South Surrey Athletic Park (12), and Crescent Park (14).

It was further reported the City's representative on Sport Surrey has been working with the delegation in terms of how the Tournament Director can apply for a Sport Tourism Grant, insuring it is well under way in time for the event. Assistance with promotion at City facilities, etc., will also be provided.

C. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

1. Pamela Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner

Pamela Zevit, Biodiversity Conservation Planner, was in attendance to give a brief presentation of Surrey's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS).

A PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the BCS was given and comments were as follows:

- Biodiversity itself reflects the interconnectedness of all life on earth (variety of life, food security, urban environment, shade tree management, etc.). Effective worldwide efforts to conserve flora and fauna rely on engaging the public, and thus on public appreciation of conservation activities (most commonly, 'biodiversity').
- The BCS was developed over three years, including extensive community consultation with residents, developers, consultants and the environmental community, and was endorsed by Council in 2014.

- The goals of the BCS were to identify the Biodiversity that occurs within the City and develop a management strategy such that biodiversity is maintained through buildout of the City. Surrey is one of only a handful in BC that has this process.
- Surrey's residents have always expressed the desire to protect the natural environment; traditionally, parks space and protected areas are the result of conservation through land development. The BCS will be an important component regarding any revisions to the Tree Protection Bylaw.
- As the fastest growing city in BC, larger in area than the City of Toronto, Surrey's biodiversity is regionally significant with relatively large natural areas and high levels of local biodiversity, including 1/3 land in the ALR and a majority of original watercourses still existing, many of which are fish bearing.
- This biodiversity can be managed by protecting a critical Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) consisting of Hubs, sites and corridors. The GIN acts like the backbone of the BCS and was designated by mapping the City's known ecological areas, while factoring in wildlife behaviour and movement desire lines. These areas were also overlapped with land-use and development land encumbrances to minimize impacts to future development. Existing park spaces were also pulled into the GIN.
- The GIN was also designed to fit into a Regional context acknowledging that Surrey's biodiversity is part of a larger region, including connection with neighbouring municipalities and larger biodiversity corridors (Fraser River and the Salish Sea); also an appetite to start trans boundary work (e.g. Whatcom County, City of Blaine).
- The City has done a super job of protecting a lot of the lands and on target, but still have an unsecured balance to focus on to be addressed through biodiversity design guidelines, which include:
 - Working with Ducks Unlimited to build agricultural land stewardship and protection opportunities for the City;
 - Communications strategy and biodiversity marketing resources;
 - Financial Strategy (BCS DCC);
 - Updates to the OCP to analyze changes in the GIN since 2014;
 - Monitoring and Biodiversity indicator reporting integrating citizen science approaches;
 - Wildlife crossing and place name branding (watercourse signage); and
 - Advancing the BCS's objectives forward in a more concerted and consistent way across the City's physical and policy landscape, linking to biodiversity actions beyond the City.
- In summary, the BCS intrinsically supports the health and well-being envisioned for Surrey: connected, walkable neighbourhoods; jobs and economic viability; parks and open space - access to nature; healthy ecosystems and people; salmon and wildlife; and safety and security, all the while recognizing ongoing considerations and challenges (land prices, policy, social license, etc.).

The Chair suggested the creation of a biodiversity checklist on the health of the community, e.g. how development enhances and considers the health and human element – how far to the nearest park or recreation facility, etc. It was further suggested the presenter meet with members of the Healthier Community Partnerships to collaborate.

A computer overlay showing the impervious surfaces throughout the City and what has been eliminated in nature, was suggested.

2. **Brian Aasebo, Community Safety Program Manager**

Brian Aasebo, Community Safety Program Manager, was in attendance to provide an overview of the Surrey Anti-gang Family Empowerment Program (SAFE).

A PowerPoint presentation was provided as an overview of the SAFE program and the report to be reviewed under item E.1.

Comments were as follows:

- SAFE is an evidence-based approach to addressing and preventing youth gang involvement in Surrey made up of 11 programs, delivered by 10 partner agencies, using five years of funding from Public Safety Canada.
- The SAFE Program Leadership Group, a steering committee, is made up of senior staff representatives from each SAFE partner, together with Councillor Annis as the Council Liaison, to provide policy direction and guidance for the SAFE program. Meetings are held quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for December 6, 2019.
- The Community Safety section moved into the SAFE Centre, located on the 9th floor of the KPU space in the Civic Hotel building, at the end of May 2019.
- The Centre, not open to the public, is an access-controlled collaboration hub where City and external partners (1,000+ professionals) attend for trainings, workshops, meetings, focus groups, etc.
- CHART (Children and Youth At-Risk Table) is made up of SAFE partners as well as non SAFE-funded partners (CFSEU, FRAFCA, Fraser Health and MCFD) that supports children, youth and their families by bringing together various agencies to tailor a coordinated approach to service delivery; services not otherwise provided by a single agency's mandate or resourcing (clinical counseling and education, culturally sensitive support, etc.). A recent activity report noted 93 cases, having an average age of 15, 70% male.
- Promotion of the SAFE program is ongoing. In addition to the various City/partner social media channels, print materials, etc., the program is also promoted through attendance at relevant City and external events.
- The SAFE Model consists of an intervention stream (the SAFE program) and an enforcement stream provided by SGET (Surrey Gang Enforcement Team) and CFSEU-BC. Recognizing there is value in prevention, opportunities to expand the SAFE Model to include a prevention stream are sought. Research indicates that neighbourhood-based, culturally sensitive approaches that

target early to middle years (6 to 13) aged children and their families should be the focus.

- In 2017, the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention stated “the rate of return for crime prevention and community safety programs range from \$4 to \$82 for every \$1 invested”. Similarly in 2019, SFU’s Altering Pathways Research reported “the custody, policing, court, and health-related costs of a single individual from the study amounted to nearly \$2,000,000. Prevention and intervention programs...[have] the potential to save substantial tax dollars.”
- To lobby for funding for the expansion of the SAFE Model prevention stream, a Prevention Prospectus has been produced as a tool for senior staff, politicians and community activists, seeking \$6.6 million over five years to target neighbourhood-based, culturally sensitive prevention approaches supporting 6 to 13 year-olds and their families.
- The Prevention Prospectus outlines five key prevention programs:
 1. After School for All Drop-in (expand to more sites and increase partners)
 2. Cultural Community Engagement (involve youth in City events to help coordinate and take more pride in their city)
 3. Strength Based Gang Prevention
 4. Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative
 5. Junior Civic Ambassador Program (expand program to be offered throughout the full calendar year)

These programs are intended to provide early and middle years youth with positive activities, mentorship and skill-building in order to bolster protective factors and reduce risk factors that leave them susceptible to gang recruitment and violence. Additional funding will expand and build on these programs. Further information can be found on the SAFE website at Surrey.ca/safe.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the presentation and their support for the implementation of a prevention stream to the SAFE Model. A brief discussion ensued with respect to the funding process and it was reported that Community Safety staff are working with the City’s Intergovernmental Relations Department to further strengthen discussions with various levels of government and to ensure funding for Surrey is on the radar.

3. **Ted Urich, Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager**

Ted Urich, Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager provided a presentation on the Fraser River Access Study and Fraser View Greenway, giving context to the report under item E.2.

A PowerPoint presentation was given, providing an overview of the project background and route selection criteria. Comments were as follows:

- There are four existing recreational access areas along the Fraser River:
 - Barnston Elbow
 - Surrey Bend Regional Park

- Surrey Public Wharf
- Bridgeview including Brownsville Bar and Tannery Park

Demand to use waterfront areas and obtain water access for recreational purposes, and to experience the cultural and natural history of those areas, has increased as the City has grown. As a result, the City has been looking to identify improved access along the Fraser River.

- In 2014, staff worked with Metro Vancouver and other neighbouring municipalities on the Experience the Fraser (“ETF”) project, a Provincially funded project to map a continuous greenway system from Hope to the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia).
- In support of the ETF, a future greenway and possible access points were identified along the northern edge of the Fraser River. To refine the alignment of the greenway and determine short, medium and long-term opportunities for access to the Fraser River, a Fraser River Access Study (Study) was created.
- In early 2019, McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd were engaged by Parks' staff to assist in the completion of the Study that identifies all current access points and the scale of Surrey's limited contact.
- With the extent of existing dedicated use along the Fraser River (industry, train transportation corridor, SFPR and residential areas), there was a great deal to consider in developing a greenway to follow the Fraser River; proximity and connections to existing points, while protecting regional connections, were important.
- As a result of limited riverfront access opportunities, it was determined that the Fraser View Greenway was best located in upland areas away from the river itself, with views of the river.
- The Fraser View Greenway Concept Plan (Plan) is a long-term plan that proposes a greenway route covering approximately 17 km from Golden Ears Way to Tannery Park, passing through a variety of terrain including forested, residential and industrial areas.
- The Plan is split into nine segments that reflect the changing contexts along the route, dividing the pathway into independently constructible pieces and breaking down this large project into manageable segments (specific mapping of property, street, etc.).
- In summary, the Plan:
 - Builds on previous work of the Surrey Bend Management Plan, Experience the Fraser and Greenways Plan;
 - Respects existing uses of Industrial, Transportation and Residential; and
 - Is incremental and forward thinking to prepare for acquisition and funding opportunities.
- Implementation strategies:
 - Update greenways layer;
 - Work to include the Fraser View Greenway into Metro Vancouver's Regional Greenways update;

- Opportunity acquisitions of High Priority sites in the Study;
- Grant funding applications as they become available; and
- Ongoing consultation with residents and businesses.
- A specific timeline has not been determined; there are short, medium and long-term goals, recognizing that there are some acquisitions or greenway alignments that can be achieved quickly, while others may be another 20-30 years away.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Surrey Youth Prevention Program Prospectus**

File No. 1810-01

The memorandum from the Community Safety Program Manager, dated October 16, 2019, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed.

It was
Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by Councillor Annis
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture
Committee receive the report from the Community Safety Program Manager, dated October 16, 2019, entitled "*Surrey Youth Prevention Program Prospectus*", as information.

Carried

It was
Moved by G. Tymoschuk
Seconded by B. Burnside
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture
Committee recommend that Council direct staff to advocate the Provincial Government for resources to fund the prevention programs as generally described in the report.

Carried

It was
Moved by Councillor Elford
Seconded by B. Burnside
That a copy of the report be attached to the
minutes of the meeting.

Carried

2. Fraser River Access Study and Fraser View Greenway Report

File No. 6120-20/F

The memorandum from the Parks Planning, Research & Design Manager, dated October 16, 2019, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee receive the report for information.

It was

Moved by G. Tymoschuk

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee receive the report from the Parks Planning, Research & Design Manager, dated October 16, 2019, entitled "*Fraser River Access Study and Fraser View Greenway Report*", as information.

Carried**3. City Leisure Access Pass Program**

File No. 0250-20/S

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, dated October 16, 2019, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee receive the report for information.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture reported that the Leisure Access Program (LAP) provides barrier-free access to participate in recreation activities. 6,650 families qualified for the LAP in 2018; an increase from 2017 of 6,281 qualified families. Limits to the levels of subsidy were implemented approximately three years ago in order to ensure a sustainable program.

It was

Moved by G. Tymoschuk

Seconded by Councillor Annis

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, dated October 16, 2019, entitled "*City Leisure Access Pass Program*", as information.

Carried**4. 2019 Surrey International Children's Festival Annual Report**

File No. 0330-01

The memorandum from the Manager, Performing Arts, dated October 3, 2019, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee receive the report for information.

It was Moved by G. Girardi
Seconded by Councillor Patton
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture
Committee receive the report from the Manager, Performing Arts, dated
October 3, 2019, entitled "*2019 Surrey International Children's Festival Annual
Report*", as information.

Carried

5. Sport Tourism Report - May – August 2019
File No. 6980-01

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture, dated October 10, 2019, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee receive the report for information.

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture highlighted some of the Sport Tourism activities completed during May to August 2019 and the related hotel room bookings. A brief review of the City's partnership with Discover Surrey was provided, noting the ongoing development of relationships working with all levels of sport organizations, accommodation and hospitality industries and various sponsors to support sporting event initiatives within Surrey, was provided.

The following was noted:

- Accommodation is a challenge during the summer months due to increased tourism; the focus is to attract events for the shoulder season where the capacity is optimal for hotels.
- Council has authorized contract negotiations for the 2021 BC Special Olympics Summer Games. The Committee will be updated of the progress.

It was Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by Councillor Elford
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture
Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation &
Culture, dated October 10, 2019, entitled "*Sport Tourism Report - May – August
2019*", as information.

Carried

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Verbal Update

L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided the following update:

- **13th Annual Surrey Kids Conference** (November 1 - 2) – This is a free conference for kids grade 1 - 7, offering workshops that include physical, education, creative and inspirational components.
- **11th Annual Youth Speak-Up Forum 2019** (City Hall, October 25) - Planned by the Surrey Youth Leadership Council, youth ages 13 – 18 participate in a full day of workshops and activities to discuss and provide recommendations on community topics and priorities that are important to youth. Additional information, including a copy of the 2018 Youth Speak-Up Forum Report, can be found at www.surrey.ca/youth.
- **Weekend Relief Plantings** – The City has been hosting many successful public planting events every Saturday throughout the spring and fall in parks throughout the city. The last two plantings of the season will take place at Godwin Farm Biodiversity Preserve Park on October 26th and Elgin Heritage Park on November 2nd.
- **Greenaway Pickleball Courts** - The much-anticipated conversion of the two tennis courts at Greenaway Park to eight permanent pickleball courts is now fully completed and open for play. Firsthand accounts are that it's a huge hit with the local pickleball community.
- **Fraser View Park – Dog Off-leash Area** - The new dog off-leash area is nearing completion and will be open for public use on November 15th.
- **Surrey: A City of Stories** by K. Jane Watt – This book is one of the City's major Canada 150 projects. It recently received significant profile when the author was awarded an honorary degree from Kwantlen Polytechnic University for excellence in historical research and commitment to community consultation. Of the 3,000 books printed in September 2017, there are less than 100 remaining.
- **Surrey Civic Theatres** - The Surrey Civic Theatres and City of Surrey Facilities received a \$400,000 grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces Fund to upgrade the theatre lighting technology and replace the existing HVAC system at the Surrey Arts Centre. The upgrade will result in greater energy efficiency and climate control in the theatres.
- **Surrey Tree Lighting Festival** - The City will host the ninth annual Tree Lighting Festival on November 23rd on Civic Plaza. The 60 ft. decorated tree will be lit at approximately 6:30pm. Highlights include an expanded Holiday Market, free photos with Santa and over 30 local performers, choirs and children's acts. Activities will take place on Civic Plaza, University Drive and the City Centre Library.
- **Being Punjabi: Unfolding the Surrey Story** – A successful opening reception for the exhibition was held on October 3rd. Open until February 23, 2020, this feature exhibition is the first major exhibition that tells the story of Surrey's Punjabis in Canada and is told through the voices of Surrey's Punjabis

using story, music, food, video and more; highlighting the many experiences and contributions of this unique and passionate community.

- **Halloween** – Many events will be happening for Halloween, including 'Boo-seum', October 26th (1-4pm) for young families, expected to reach over 2000 visitors.
- **Surrey Remembers** – There are several events happening on November 11th. The Remembrance Day memorial and ceremony is outside at Veterans Square, the Cultural Campus Plaza and includes Museum of Surrey programming.
- **Surrey of Museum** – With 100,000 visitors recorded already, expected attendance is 110,000 for 2019 making it the busiest museum, outside of the Royal BC Museum and Museum of Anthropology, in Western Canada.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 20, 2019** in **Meeting Room 2E – Community Room A**.

K. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Burnside
Seconded by C. Girardi
That the Parks, Recreation & Culture

Committee adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

Councillor Laurie Guerra
Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

ONE RECOMMENDATION

1. **Surrey Youth Prevention Program Prospectus**
File No. 1810-01

That Council direct staff to advocate the Provincial Government for resources to fund the prevention programs as generally described in the report from the Community Safety Program Manager, dated October 16, 2019, entitled "*Surrey Youth Prevention Program Prospectus*" (attached as **Appendix 1**).



COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee

FROM: Community Safety Program Manager

DATE: October 16, 2019 **FILE: 1810-01**

RE: Surrey Youth Prevention Program Prospectus

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee:

1. Receives this report for information;
2. Recommend to Council that staff advocate the Provincial Government for resources to fund the prevention programs as generally described in this report; and
3. Attach a copy of this report to the minutes of the meeting.

The intent of this report is to provide the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee with the Surrey Youth Prevention Program Prospectus (the “Prospectus” attached as Appendix “I”) in order to garner the Committee’s support in recommending that Council facilitate outreach to the provincial government to request funding for prevention programs.

BACKGROUND

In July 2018, the City developed the SAFE Model for gang prevention, intervention and enforcement. An application to Public Safety Canada to support the intervention stream of the SAFE Model was successful and Council launched the new SAFE Program at City Hall on January 22, 2019. Since the implementation of the SAFE program, the Community Safety section of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department has updated the Prospectus to support continued advocacy for funding from government and other potential funders for the prevention stream.

DISCUSSION

The SAFE model was developed to create an evidence-based continuum of programming that includes prevention, intervention, and enforcement. SAFE interventions are delivered in partnership by the City, Surrey School District No. 36, police, academic institutions and not-for-profit community-based service providers. Together, the interventions in the SAFE Program are enhancing coordination among stakeholders; targeting at-risk children, youth and their families; delivering evaluative, outcome-based programming that is culturally and gender-specific; and prioritizing neighbourhood and cultural context in program delivery.

The Prospectus (Appendix “I”) outlines the opportunity for potential funders to invest up to \$1.32 Million per annum over five years (total \$6.6 Million) to support five prevention programs that will be brought under the SAFE umbrella. These programs are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. SAFE Youth Prevention Programs in the Prospectus

Program Name	Lead Agency	Funding Proposed per Annum	Nature of Program Delivery
Afterschool for All Drop In Program	Parks, Recreation & Culture Department	\$626,500	This will dramatically expand the afterschool activities currently delivered (e.g., MYzone) to enhance services across Surrey neighbourhoods for the critical hours of 3 to 6 pm during weekdays.
Cultural Community Engagement	Parks, Recreation & Culture Department	\$130,000	This initiative focuses on connecting with marginalized immigrant and refugee children, youth and families in the Newton area to build anti-gang messages into cultural events. The program also promotes the benefits of community engagement and healthy child and youth development through culturally appropriate outreach in the community.
Strength Based Gang Prevention Program	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	\$126,200	Based on significant research at Kwantlen Polytechnic University into the protective factors that create barriers to recruitment into the gang lifestyle, this program will be delivered within the South Asian community in Surrey to support youth and families. An eight-week syllabus for program leaders in the community will help to integrate strength-based approaches into existing programs.
Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative	Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative	\$250,000	This program connects youth with educational and recreational activities that focus on improving school and community engagement, social interactions and improve individual confidence and autonomy. The Yo Bro Yo Girl Initiative works with elementary and high school aged children outside of school hours to build relationship skills and improve physical literacy through recreation programs. The program has demonstrated value in diverting young people away from the gang lifestyle and other precursors to criminal activity.
Junior Civic Ambassador Program	Options Community Services	\$189,712	This program is delivered during after school hours and involves children 5 to 12 years old participating in groups to build leadership, life skills, performing arts skills and activities that build civic responsibility. The program involves youth in workshops, tours and activities (e.g., street garbage clean-ups) that focus on civic pride and participation.
Total per annum funding required:		\$1,322,412	

Research on gang recruitment and participation recognizes that it is critical that youth are directed to programs at early ages when they are still adaptable to program influences. This means that prevention programming must start early and remain consistent throughout childhood and adolescence. Through investment in prevention programs, it is possible to address the factors and reduce the likelihood of child and youth gang involvement in Surrey.

CONCLUSION

The SAFE Program is an important initiative for the City that is directly addressing the gang violence that is plaguing the region. With \$7.5 Million in funding over five years from the Government of Canada, the City and its partners are delivering new interventions for children, youth and families in Surrey at risk of gang involvement.

Continuing to advocate other levels of government for funding to support prevention programs on the continuum of the SAFE Model will enable the City to support children and youth to help them build resiliency and strong social connections. Independent review of evaluations of gang prevention programs in the literature reveal that strong prevention programs promote positive social connections to families and friends while building attachment to schools and communities. Prevention is the starting point that gets children, youth and families into the continuum of care, upstream before challenges begin to occur. Therefore, investing in strong, coordinated prevention programming is needed to address the issue of youth gang involvement.

The Prospectus (Appendix "I") has been developed to help support the City's advocacy efforts to attract the investment needed for these prevention programs.



Brian Aasebo
Community Safety Program Manager
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" – Surrey Youth Prevention Program Prospectus

SAFE

Surrey Anti-Gang
Family Empowerment
Program



Surrey Youth Prevention
Program Prospectus



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

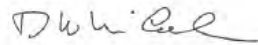
The City of Surrey has a track record of success when addressing complex issues in innovative ways. Bringing together partners, adopting best practices and ensuring our efforts are measurable, are fundamental to the work we do.

The Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) model is an example of how the City uses a collaborative, “outside of the box” approach to address challenges in our community. SAFE has been developed in response to the urgent need for a coordinated, evidence-based, multidisciplinary approach to address gang violence and disrupt the pathways by which youth are recruited into the gang lifestyle.

In 2018, the Task Force on Gang Violence Prevention conducted a program review and from their findings SAFE was developed. The model includes prevention, intervention and enforcement activities that are coordinated across multiple government agencies and community-based organizations.

The intervention piece of the model is up and running and is being supported by the Federal Government through Public Safety Canada funding. The City and its partners are now seeking support to implement the prevention piece of the model that will ensure our children and youth are given the best opportunity to steer clear of gangs and the gang lifestyle.

In the following pages you will find out more about SAFE and how you can join us in supporting this one-of-a-kind model to create positive change in our communities.



Doug McCallum
Mayor



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The Opportunity

Investing \$1.3 million per year for five years will prevent youth in our community from becoming involved in gangs and the gang lifestyle.

Research clearly demonstrates that a truly comprehensive approach to addressing gangs is what works. Investment and dedication to efforts that fall along a full continuum of programs and services specific to gang prevention, intervention, and enforcement is needed. With this in mind, the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) model was developed.

SAFE represents a new model for community wide youth violence and gang prevention. The model is built on the understanding that prevention, intervention and enforcement are all required. By investing along the entire continuum we will collaboratively address gaps, build on effective existing programs, as well as ensure community-wide coordination. All of which will be complemented by a rigorous evaluation framework.

The model is led by the City of Surrey and relies on a partnership approach delivered by municipal and provincial government, police, and not-for-profit community-based service providers. The partners enrich the model through their expertise and experience working with the target client population.

Public Safety Canada has provided a substantial contribution to the City of Surrey and its partners for the "intervention" portion of the continuum to address youth gang involvement for the next five years (2019-2023). This investment in Surrey, for the development and provision of direct intervention is necessary and welcomed. We thank the Government of Canada for their support.

We are now seeking partners to support the prevention stream of the model so we can holistically address this complicated issue.

Independent review of evaluations of gang prevention programs in the literature reveal that strong prevention programs promote positive social connections to families and friends while building attachment to schools and communities.

Prevention is the starting point that gets children, youth and families into the continuum of care, upstream before challenges begin to occur. This is why investing in strong, coordinated prevention programming is needed to address the issue of youth gang involvement. As such, the City and its partners are seeking support for the prevention programs in the SAFE model.

The model is built on the understanding that prevention, intervention and enforcement are all required.

Prevention Works

By supporting our children and youth we can help them build resiliency and strong social connections.

The City of Surrey is a fast growing, vibrant and diverse community that welcomes over 800 new residents each month.

- It is the second largest City in British Columbia, one of the fastest growing in Canada and has over 500,000 residents.
- It has a large youth population, with 25 per cent of the overall population being under the age of 19.
- It has the largest school district in B.C. at 71,350 students in 2016/17.

With this rapidly growing, diverse youth population, it is clear that Surrey needs support for prevention programs designed to divert young people from gang involvement.

Youth gangs and violence are serious issues for citizens and policy makers. In 2017, half of Surrey's six homicides had a link to gangs. Between 2016 and 2017, the city's youth crime increased 34 per cent, with spikes in 15 to 17-year-old suspects. Recent high-profile gang-related homicides have eroded feelings of safety.

Gang violence prevention and disrupting the pathways by which youth are recruited into gangs is a challenge for several reasons.

- Surrey's location and population make it particularly vulnerable to gang and drug activity. Surrey's gangs are non-traditional, coming from multi-ethnic backgrounds and a mix of affluent, middle-class, and low-income households.
- Youth are being recruited into gangs at a younger age than in other communities.
- We know that, the first criminal offense for gang members typically occurs at age 16 and the first school suspension at age 13.

Prevention is the key – it works to stop a negative trajectory before it begins.



Through investment in prevention programs, we can address the following factors and reduce the likelihood of child and youth gang involvement.

- Trauma or domestic abuse
- Substance use
- Lack of parental involvement
- Peers or family involved in crime
- Lack of positive friendships
- Few positive adult role models
- Cultural identity issues
- Poverty
- Mental illness and behaviour issues
- Perceived glamour, status and desire for money
- Lack of fear of consequences or enforcement
- Neighbourhood influences
- Being in debt to a gang and threatened with violence

In 2018, the City of Surrey conducted a systematic review of existing programs and services and reviewed research to understand the issues and opportunities around programs for children and youth more broadly. It was found that youth from a variety of backgrounds can become involved in gangs for many reasons and it is often a combination of these factors that lead to vulnerability.

Research on gang recruitment and participation recognizes that it is critical that youth are directed to programs at early ages, when they are still adaptable to program influences. This means that prevention programming must start early and remain consistent throughout childhood and adolescence.

“...youth from a variety of backgrounds are vulnerable to gang involvement due to Surrey’s diverse, young and growing population.”

Surrey’s Prevention Programs - A Review

Evaluations of gang prevention programs revealed that there are several factors which can positively impact the effectiveness of programs. Strong prevention programs promote positive social connections to families and friends while building attachment to schools and communities. Successful programs also show high levels of participant retention for the duration of the program.

A comprehensive review of Surrey’s prevention programs conducted in 2018 showed that:

- Gang prevention programs in Surrey are currently focused on youth who are most at-risk, and there is scope to develop programs with a wider focus on the general population.
- With additional resources, proven programs can better promote their services to target groups, ensure their long-term operation and improve outcomes.
- More programs are needed that focus on younger children (ages 6–13) and their families to intervene before risks become elevated.
- More focus on neighbourhood-based approaches would improve outcomes and address specific areas of the community with higher levels of vulnerability and risk.
- Expanding access and resources for exiting and outreach services for high-risk gang-involved youth and adults is an important step to disrupt gang activity.
- Surrey programs can be enhanced to recognize our cultural diversity and ensure culturally, and gender appropriate services are available in our key neighbourhoods.

Key Prevention and Intervention Programs in Surrey



SAFE Model Prevention Programs

Given what we know about what works, as well as what is currently being offered, the City and its partners have identified five prevention programs that would be part of the SAFE prevention stream. The partner agencies involved in prevention programming enrich the model through their expertise and experience working with the target client population.

These programs are designed to target specific demographic factors yet also include programs that would be delivered to all children, youth and families in the target neighbourhoods where the need is greatest. A brief description of the programs is provided below.

After School for All Program

This relates to a range of programs and services delivered to support children and youth with high quality, affordable programming especially in the critical after school hours (3:00pm-6:00pm). Included in this area are programs like MYzone, which focuses on middle years children to provide healthy activities and supports.

After School for All Program partners include:

City of Surrey, First Steps, Keginow Native Housing Society, Simon Fraser University, Surrey Association for Community Living, Surrey Museum, Surrey Nature Centre, Surrey RCMP, Surrey Schools and Umoja.

Cultural Community Engagement

This initiative focuses on connecting with marginalised immigrant and refugee children, youth and families in the Newton area to build anti-gang messages into cultural events. The program also promotes the benefits of community engagement and healthy child and youth development through culturally appropriate outreach in the community.

Strength Based Gang Prevention Program

Based on significant research at Kwantlen Polytechnic University into the protective factors that create barriers to recruitment into the gang lifestyle, this program will be delivered within the South Asian community in Surrey to support youth and families. An 8-week syllabus for program leaders in the community will help to integrate strength-based approaches into existing programs.

Strength Based Gang Prevention Program partners include:

City of Surrey, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC), MOSAIC BC, and South Asian Community Coalition Against Youth Violence (SACCAYV).

The Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative

This program connects youth with education and recreational activities that focus on improving school and community engagement, social interactions and improve individual confidence and autonomy. The Yo Bro|Yo Girl Initiative works with elementary and high school aged children after school to build relationship skills and improve physical literacy through recreation programs. The program has demonstrated value in diverting young people away from the gang lifestyle and other precursors to criminal activity.

Junior Civic Ambassador Program

This program is delivered by Options Community Resources Society during after school hours and involves children 5-12 years old participating in groups to build leadership, life skills, performing arts skills, and activities that build civic responsibility. The program involves youth in workshops, tours and activities (e.g., street garbage clean ups) that focus on civic pride and participation.



Budget Estimates

The SAFE model is led by the City of Surrey. The City facilitates the work of the partner agencies and organizations and manages the program budget. Investments in the SAFE model will flow through the City to partner agencies at the ground level. A high level of coordination and accountability is in place to ensure investments are maximized.

The table below highlights the funding needs for each program per year with a five-year total commitment value noted at the bottom.

PROGRAM	COST	LEAD AGENCY
Afterschool For All Drop in Program	\$626,500	City of Surrey
Cultural Community Engagement	\$130,000	City of Surrey
Strength Based Gang Prevention Program	\$126,200	Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)
Yo Bro I Yo Girl Youth Initiative	\$250,000	Yo Bro I Yo Girl Youth Initiative
Junior Civic Ambassador Program	\$189,712	Options Community Services Society
Total dollar value for one year	1,322,412	
Total dollar value for a five-year commitment	6,612,060	

Invest In Our Future

The SAFE Model is an innovative, collaborative, one-of-a-kind model that supports our children, youth and families. It demonstrates how all levels of government can effectively work together to support those most in need in our community.

Investing in children and youth is an investment in the future. Together, we will build safe families, safe communities, and a safe City. The time is now. By investing in positive change today, we will create a bright and positive future for tomorrow.

Contact the SAFE Office at communitysafety@surrey.ca to discuss how you can support SAFE prevention programs in Surrey.

