

**Present:**

Councillor Stutt, Chair  
Councillor Kooner, Vice Chair  
A. Barmi  
P. McEvoy  
P. Richards  
R. Rai

**Absent:****Staff Present:**

T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Community Services  
R. Costanzo, General Manager, Corporate Services  
L. Thomas, Fire Chief, Surrey Fire Services  
P. Sanderson, Manager, Strategic Planning & Responses  
J. Burger, Manager Operations, Police Support Services  
B. Aasebo, Manager, Community Safety  
S. Lee, Administrative Assistant

**Guests:**

B. Edwards, Assistant Commissioner, Surrey RCMP  
S. Gill, Chief Superintendent, Surrey RCMP

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## **INTRODUCTIONS**

A roundtable of introductions was held.

### **A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was

Moved by P. McEvoy

Seconded by A. Barmi

That the agenda of the Public Safety Committee

meeting of April 26, 2023, be adopted.

Carried

### **B. DELEGATIONS**

This section had no items to consider.

### **C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

This section had no items to consider.

### **D. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Public Safety Overview and Committee Interests and Priorities**

General Manager, Community Services, Fire Chief, General Manager, Corporate Services, Assistant Commissioner, Surrey RCMP, and Chief Superintendent, Surrey RCMP provided a presentation regarding an overview of public safety and highlighted the following information:

- An overview regarding how the mandate and structure of Public Safety Committee have evolved since 2009 was provided. Different strategic approaches have evolved over the years, including the Plan for Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents (2006), Crime Reduction Strategy (2010), and Public Safety Strategy (2017).

- Four priorities of Surrey Public Safety Strategy were highlighted: Prevent and Reduce Crime, Ensure Safe Places, Build Community Capacity, and Support Vulnerable People. These priorities are imbedded with approximately thirty different programs, and staff monitor those programs extensively. Due to the Municipal Police Unit Agreement, these priorities are closely aligned with Surrey RCMP Strategic Framework which are: Crime Reduction and Community Safety, Community Engagement and Mobilization, Organizational Performance and Continuous Improvement, and Employee Wellness.
- Surrey Fire Service oversees Surrey Emergency Program and operates the Regional 911 Fire Dispatch Centre. In 2022, they had 38,000 emergency responses in Surrey, such as fires, technical rescue, motor vehicle collisions, hazardous materials, and approximately 22,500 medical assistance calls (including overdose responses). Their current evidence informed community risk reduction programs include HomeSafe, Distressed Properties, Second Responder Overdose Prevention, Neighbourhood Emergency Planning, Business and Multi-residential Fire Code Compliance Inspections, and Take Home Naloxone Program. Surrey Fire Service collaborates with Bylaws on reporting of secondary suites, building code and other potential bylaw infractions observed at incidents, fires in parks or encampments, and the Dry Season Action Plan. Their collaboration with RCMP includes General Investigation Unit, traffic collision investigation, Operational Communication Centre backup location, metal theft, special event occupancy limits, and training centre use.
- Approximately 32,000 complaints are received by Bylaw Call Centre through phone, email, and My Surrey request app. One-third of the complaints are related to regulatory property enforcement, such as noise complaints, unsightly premises, and illegal construction on private properties. Highway and Traffic Bylaw is enforced by responding to an average of approximately 14,000 street parking complaints and 350 commercial vehicle complaints.
- Bylaw Services also operates Surrey Animal Resource Centre and enforces the Animal Responsibility Bylaw by responding to animal-related complaints including stray animals and dog bites. Their Adjudication & Appeals Centre facilitates the screening and review of all parking, commercial vehicle, and municipal tickets disputes for adjudication and provincial court. Street Smart Initiative, implemented in 2022, involves the Bylaw Officers partnering with Lookout Housing and Health Society to identify and respond to issues relating to homelessness primarily in City Centre and Newton, and includes working with Parks and Fire Services on removing tents and structures in parks or green spaces.
- Through federal and provincial grants, Community Services is providing new enhanced services with their community partners for vulnerable populations in City Centre, such as the Safety and Community Services Network, Safe Sleep, Nourish Surrey, Healthy Living, Street Smart, and Clean Team. This is an integrated holistic approach for proactively moving the homeless population to services of housing and other support as they continue to build new programs. Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) Program is a proactive approach to preventing and addressing youth gang involvement while increasing family, school, and community connections. Delivered by 10 partner agencies, SAFE is made up of 11 programs such as Children and Youth At-Risk Table (CHART). 3,320 children and youth and 475 parents and caregivers were supported under SAFE program as of September, 2022.

- The Community Safety team also launched Empower Surrey that offers tips, tools, and information through workshops to empower parents, caregivers and other trusted adults and minimize risk of gang involvement for their children. In April 2023, the City launched the Surrey Youth Resiliency Program, introducing eight new projects led by eight community organizations. Finally, Project IRIS (Integrated Resources for Investigations and Safety) is a voluntary camera registry that records the location of residents' security cameras in Surrey. It is a partnership between the City of Surrey, businesses, police, and the community to help police solve crimes and aid in important investigations.
- The strategic objectives of Surrey RCMP related to Public Safety includes early intervention with at-risk youth, collaborative response to homelessness, mental health and addiction, disruption of illegal drug distribution networks, gang and gun related violence, domestic violence and sexual offences, property crime, traffic safety, community engagement, enhanced communication and information sharing, and public trust and partnerships. Simply making arrests per the Criminal Code is not the answer to making the community safe. Looking at all the drivers (such as youth with learning disabilities, experiencing homelessness, mental health, and addiction) and collaboration is the key as the police will be more effective working together with them.
- The Chief Superintendent, Surrey RCMP, provided an overview of the effectiveness and efficiency of their 58 public safety programs, such as Police Mental Health Outreach Team, Surrey Gang Enforcement Team, and Inadmissible Patrons Program. The RCMP's relationship with School District 36 (SD36) is the largest in Canada. They have 23 School Resource Officers that run several programs with SD36. The crime rate in Surrey has decreased over the years according to statistics. Year-to-date, they are down 14% on violent crime from last year and 7% overall.

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

- The drug unit is not seeing an increase in methamphetamine use. Methamphetamine remains a “niche” drug particular to its users and still considered the least socially acceptable drug to use. Street level prices remain constant while fentanyl prices drop by 50%. Domestic fentanyl production exceeds local methamphetamine production as the RCMP are coming across more fentanyl labs. Organized crime remains active in both, but there has been no notable increase in methamphetamine use or production.
- Youth violence is on the decline. There is a very small percentage that are engaged in violence. There is use and possession of replica weapons and an escalation of edged weapons. There has also been an increase in mental health issues, social anxiety, and online conflicts due to 2.5 years of isolation period for the students when they were away from their peers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The City is required to have an emergency response plan, which covers 15 different major hazard types, such as earthquake and flood. The plan is only available in hardcopy and is not digitally accessible for security reasons.

- The crime rate in Surrey has declined over the years according to statistics. However, in the age of social media such as Twitter and TikTok, information is being broadcast rapidly and the impact has been profound. They are creating perceptions that are not necessarily consistent with the facts.
- There is a need to increase public awareness regarding current public safety policies, strategic approaches, and programs from the City. The Committee could also assist in providing recommendations for updating the policies around public safety.

## **2. Review of the Terms of Reference**

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference.

It was	Moved by R. Rai
	Seconded by P. Richards
	That the Public Safety Committee support
the Public Safety Committee Terms of Reference as presented.	
	<u>Carried</u>

## **3. Committee Workplan**

The Committee provided the following suggestions for issues that could be addressed through the 2023 Committee Workplan:

- Crime prevention for youth and adults
- Increasing mental health outreach programs
- Violence against women, children, and elders
- Food security

The General Manager, Community Services, will draft a workplan based on the comments provided and bring it forward to the Committee for feedback.

## **4. 2023 Committee Meeting Schedule**

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2023 meeting schedule. Meetings are proposed to be held in person at Surrey City Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., except May 2023 where the meeting is tentatively rescheduled to May 31st, 2023 to be held in-person at Surrey RCMP Detachment. No meetings are scheduled for July, August, and December.

It was	Moved by P. McEvoy
	Seconded by A. Barmi
	That the Public Safety Committee adopted
the 2023 meeting schedule as amended.	
	<u>Carried</u>

**E. CORRESPONDENCE**

This section had no items to consider.

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

This section had no items to consider.

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

This section had no items to consider.

**H. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by R. Rai

That the Public Safety Committee meeting

be adjourned.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

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Councillor Stutt, Chairperson