

**Present:**

Councillor Locke, Chair  
G. Bremault, Vice-Chair  
A. Begalka  
M. Cheema  
A. Dhillon  
A. Willis  
N. Chima  
N. Nastoh

**Absent:**

S. Andhi Bilkhu  
C. Mohr  
S. Kular

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Planner  
L. Blake, Administrative Assistant

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**A. ADOPTIONS**

1. October 2, 2019 Social Equity and Diversity Committee agenda to be adopted

It was

Moved by G. Bremault  
Seconded by A. Dhillon

That the agenda of the October 2, 2019 Social  
Equity and Diversity Committee meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

2. The minutes of the Social Equity and Diversity Committee meeting, held  
September 4, 2019 to be adopted

It was

Moved by M. Cheema  
Seconded by A. Willis

That the minutes of the Social Equity and  
Diversity Committee meeting held September 4, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Erin Gibson, Regional Harm Reduction Coordinator  
Fraser Health**

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding substance use issues  
and use of naloxone in response to an opioid overdose and highlighted the  
following information:

- There are complex underpinnings that lead to substance use issues, such as  
untreated trauma, social stigma and exclusion, drivers of shame and a toxic  
drug supply. Stigma associated with substance use can result in  
restrictions on participation, social exclusion and poor quality of life. An  
individual may not seek treatment or help because of stigma or feeling  
unworthy.

- Illicit substance use deaths have become the most common unnatural cause of death in BC. The overall life expectancy in BC has decreased due to the overdose crisis. Overdose risks include using alone, the substances being used and how they are administered and an individual's health and history.
- The signs of an overdose include unresponsiveness, slow breathing, blue or greyish skin, cold and clammy skin and small pupils.
- Naloxone can temporarily enable breathing within three to five minutes during an opioid-related overdose. As the effects of naloxone are temporary, it is recommended that emergency services be called or the individual experiencing an overdose be taken to a hospital. The *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* provides some legal protection for individuals seeking medical or emergency assistance during an overdose, such as from minor possession of an illegal substance.
- Naloxone kits are heat and light-sensitive but cold resistant. Kits are available from non-profit organizations or available for free from most chain pharmacies such as London Drugs, Costco, Real Canadian Superstore, for individuals who have taken the certification. A nasal-spray version of naloxone is available for police and correctional staff and is free for First Nations people. It was noted that the nasal-spray is more expensive to purchase and is not as effective as the injectable version if the individual has nasal scar tissue or nasal clogs or blocks.

The delegation provided a demonstration of how to assist an individual experiencing an overdose with and without naloxone.

2. **Bonnie Burnside, Downtown Surrey BIA and Member of the Whalley Temporary Homeless Accommodation Community Advisory Committee**

The delegation was in attendance to discuss issues that are beyond the responsibility of the Whalley Temporary Homeless Accommodation Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and highlighted the following information:

- There was a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) established in 2012 to address any impacts associated with the winter shelter on 136A Avenue. This CAC was disbanded when the shelter closed in the spring of 2013.  
  
In November 2015, a CAC was established for the new Boulevard Shelter. Members included representatives from the RCMP, service providers, City staff, local businesses and property owners, BC Housing and Fraser Health. When the temporary accommodation units opened in June 2018, the Boulevard Shelter CAC was expanded to include the adjacent housing project (Whalley East CAC); a second CAC was established for the two new housing projects on the west side of King George Boulevard (Whalley West CAC). In May 2019, the two CACs amalgamated to form a single CAC.
- The CAC provides an opportunity for members: to learn about the operations of the Boulevard Shelter and the three temporary modular housing projects; and to identify and problem-solve solutions to any

impacts that the shelter/housing is having on the surrounding neighbourhood.

The issue is that there are a significant number of people in the area that are unhoused. All the shelters and supportive housing projects are full. There is nowhere for these people to sleep or to be during the day. The issues associated with homeless people in the area (who are not shelter or housing residents) is beyond the scope of the CAC; as well the CAC members are not decision-makers who can address the broader issues associated with homelessness.

- The delegation requested the Committee's support on the following:
  - Provide the CAC with rapid response tools, including funding, to address challenges as they arise.
  - Advocate to all levels of government to ensure that Surrey receives its fair share of all types of housing needed for its growing population, especially the most vulnerable and those with special needs.

The Committee the following comments:

- As Surrey and Vancouver are similar sizes, Surrey should receive similar housing support as Vancouver. A comparative analysis could be created to demonstrate the needs of Surrey to Vancouver.
- A Task Force that brings together key stakeholders from multiple sectors could be created to identify innovative, long-term solutions to homelessness and housing in the city.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was Moved by M. Cheema  
 Seconded by A. Begalka  
 That the Social Equity and Diversity  
 Committee recommend that Council create a Housing Task Force to address  
 long-term homelessness and housing needs in the city.  
Carried

## **C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

### **1. City of Surrey Sustainability Dashboard**

<http://dashboard.surrey.ca/>

### **First Call – Federal Riding Factsheets on Poverty**

<https://stillin5.ca/federal-election-2019-toolkit/child-poverty-by-riding/>

The links were distributed for information.

**2. Orange Shirt Day Event Report  
September 26, 2019 at City Hall**

Aileen Murphy, Senior Planner, advised that an Orange Shirt Day event was held on September 26, 2019 at City Hall.

The Committee suggested that a Surrey School District representative could be requested to speak at the 2020 Orange Shirt Day.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**1. Jonquil Hallgate, Friendship Boulevard Foundation**

No information was received from the Foundation so this item was deferred to a future meeting.

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Sister's Closet  
Monday, October 21, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Committee Work Plan – November 6, 2019 meeting**

The Committee requested that BC Non-Profit Housing Association, or a similar research organization, be invited to present at the November 6, 2019 meeting.

**2. Committee Member Updates**

- Nav Chima, Simon Fraser University, advised that he has joined the Board of Directors for SurreyCares.

**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Equity and Diversity Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. Bremault  
Seconded by N. Chima  
That the Social Equity and Diversity

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Equity and Diversity Committee adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk



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Councillor Brenda Locke, Chair

**SOCIAL EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION INDEX  
Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

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1. **Bonnie Burnside, Downtown Surrey BIA and Member of the Whalley Temporary Homeless Accommodation Community Advisory Committee**

That the Social Equity and Diversity Committee recommend that Council create a Housing Task Force to address long-term homelessness and housing needs in the city.