

SAFER FOR ALL STRATEGY - COMMUNITY SAFETY, WELL-BEING, INCLUSION AND ANTI-RACISM

RECOMMENDATION

That the May 16, 2022, Office of the City Manager report OCM00568, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only

Council is being informed of progress on actioning the recommendations of the Community Safety and Well-being Task Force, the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy, and community engagement.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the April 4, 2021, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration work with the Edmonton Police Commission to review Safer for All recommendations (April 6, 2021, Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force report CR_8453) and develop a joint strategy to enhance community safety, well-being, inclusion and anti-racism, informed by the report, and report back:

- b. in depth to City Council in First Quarter 2022.

At the July 5, 2021, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration work in a collaborative, decision-making way with the Anti-racism Advisory Committee, additional BIPOC stakeholders and the Edmonton Police Commission, to provide additional clarity and actionable data points on the tangible outcomes taken with respect to the 14 recommendations, as outlined by the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force, in the next update on the "Safer for All Strategy" (OCM00568 Safer for All Strategy - Community Safety, Well Being, Inclusion and Anti-racism).

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Executive Summary

- The City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Police Service have coordinated on complementary work which advances the implementation of the Safer for All recommendations.
 - A detailed overview of data points and actions taken by the City in alignment with the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force recommendations is provided in Attachment 1.
 - A coordinated response from the Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Service with respect to the Task Force's recommendations is provided in Attachment 2. This response is informed by feedback collected through the Edmonton Police Service's Commitment to Action.
- Some of the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force recommendations fall outside of the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Police Commission, and/or Edmonton Police Service's jurisdictional authority.
- The Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force work has been a valuable input into Administration's safety and well-being response, and contributed to a revised and refined Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy.
- From November 2021 to April 2022, the City met with the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, social services organizations and community partners to gain their perspectives on what safety and well-being means, what needs to happen for Edmontonians to feel safe, and how the City could prioritize actions and investments in things that can improve safety and well-being.
- The City will continue to advance safety and well-being in Edmonton by leveraging current and emerging funding opportunities, strengthening relationships with government, social sector and community partners, and identifying opportunities for leadership, in alignment with the City Plan's guiding values of Belong, Thrive, Live, Access and Create, and associated city building outcomes.

REPORT

Background

In June 2020, City Council held five days of non-statutory public hearings on the role of policing in Edmonton's community wellness and safety ecosystem. Council heard from more than 140 registered speakers.

On July 6, 2020, City Council passed a motion to:

- direct that the Edmonton Police Services (EPS) budget be reduced starting in 2021 by \$11.0 million on a permanent basis, with the reduction split over 2021 and 2022.,
- suspend the EPS Funding Formula policy pending a review and analysis-informed update,

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- redirect the funding harvested from the police budget to community programs, partners, and to end homelessness, and
- initiate the establishment of a Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force to provide external subject matter expertise and deliver a report on ways to better leverage monies spent to achieve better system outcomes. The Task Force was formed in fall 2020.

On April 6, 2021, the Task Force presented report CR_8453 Community Safety and Well-being Task Force Recommendations. The report included 14 recommendations for the Edmonton Police Service and the City of Edmonton. Council directed Administration to work with the Edmonton Police Commission to review the Task Force's recommendations, develop a strategy to enhance safety, well-being, inclusion, and anti-racism, and report back to Council in the first quarter of 2022. Council also directed Administration to return in 90 days with a report identifying quickly actionable items.

On June 30, 2021, Administration presented Office of the City Manager report OCM00567 Safer for All Interim Report - Community Safety, Well Being, Inclusion and Anti-racism to Community and Public Services Committee. This report identified in-progress and quickly actionable items that support community safety and well-being outcomes. Based on feedback from the public, Council directed Administration to collaborate with the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and other Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) community partners to identify tangible actions and outcomes aligned to the Task Force's 14 recommendations.

Alignment to Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force Recommendations

At the April 6, 2021, City Council meeting, the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force presented 14 recommendations to improve safety, wellness and integration within the social services system (CR_8453 Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force report). The Task Force recommendations have been a valuable input into Administration's safety and well-being response, and the City is undertaking several initiatives that align closely to the recommendations that are under the City's jurisdictional authority.

Attachment 1 provides an overview of actions taken by the City to respond to the Task Force's recommendations and, where available, describes the outcomes of this work to date. Attachment 2 presents a coordinated response from the Edmonton Police Commission and the Edmonton Police Service with respect to the Task Force's recommendations. This response is informed by work from the Edmonton Police Service's Commitment to Action.

There are two recommendations from the Task Force that fall outside of the authority of the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Police Commission and/or the Edmonton Police Service:

- **Recommendation 6:** Professionalize policing through the creation of a new regulatory college for police and peace officers.
 - 6.1: Provide funding to study the implementation of a regulatory college for policing
 - 6.2: Advocate to the Government of Alberta for implementation of the concept

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- **Recommendation 7:** Expect and instruct the Edmonton Police Commission to fully exercise its authority to provide strong guidance and oversight to EPS, in order to drive inclusivity and anti-racism in policing.
 - 7.1: Direct the Edmonton Police Commission to develop policies that address the community's expectations for inclusive and anti-racist policing
 - 7.2: Direct the Edmonton Police Commission to maximize its authorities in respect of funding and oversight to drive inclusive and anti-racist policing.

The Government of Alberta is responsible for ensuring that adequate and effective policing is maintained throughout Alberta, and requires municipalities with a population of greater than 5000 to establish and maintain an adequate and effective municipal police service under the general supervision of a commission. Per Section 2 of the *Police Act (Act)*, all matters relating to policing fall under the authority of the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, and the Minister may establish standards for Police Commissions and Services as well as ensuring those standards are met. To this end, only the Minister of Justice has the authority to establish a regulatory college and other standards for police and peace officers in Alberta. The City of Edmonton participated in consultations related to the *Police Act* review and, through its submissions, honoured the perspectives provided in the many Council and public conversations related to Community Safety and Well-being.

Section 31(5) of the *Act* states that municipal Councils are not permitted to perform any functions or exercise any powers over policing that have been delegated to an established Police Commission. Further, Section 29(3) of the *Act* clarifies that Council's role is to establish the total budget for the purposes of the police service, and that the Police Commission is responsible for allocating the funds provided for under the budget and overseeing the Edmonton Police Service.

The City will advance its work on Community Safety and Well-being by leveraging current and emerging funding opportunities, relationships with government, social sector and community partners, and identifying opportunities for leadership.

Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy

As noted in Financial and Corporate Services report FCS00226 ConnectEdmonton - Next Steps, Edmonton is moving towards becoming the safest city in Canada by 2030. Administration has developed the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy to help achieve this objective by taking a whole-system approach. The Strategy is described in the May 16, 2022 Office of the City Manager report OCM00991 Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy.

Transformational system change requires clear purpose, focus on long-term outcomes, agility to respond to emerging needs, the ability to learn and apply lessons, and strong commitment to collaboration. The Community Safety and Well-being Strategy sets the City of Edmonton on a path to achieving transformational system change through:

- A proposed Framework containing seven pillars that will establish the focus of measurable actions, investments and partnerships to achieve short, medium and long term outcomes.

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- Community conversations for working with members of the Edmonton community to ensure the overall plan is responsive and that progress is being made with respect to measures derived through logic models.

City Council’s direction and public feedback at Committee meetings, public hearings and during community conversations has confirmed that safety and well-being in Edmonton is a top priority. The seven pillars of the proposed Community Safety and Well-Being framework reflect a community-driven approach that honours the Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force’s work and advances their recommendations in a strategic and future-focused way to achieve desired outcomes.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT

From November 2021 to May 2022, Administration met with representatives from the following organizations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa Centre • Alberta Health Services • Anti-Racism Advisory Committee • Bear Clan - Edmonton • Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society • Big Brothers Big Sisters • Boots on the Ground • Boyle Street Community Services • Boys and Girls Club • Buddhist Community • Canadian Council of Muslim Women • Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton • Catholic Social Services, • Chinatown and Area Business Association • City Manager’s Faith Leaders’ Roundtable • City of Edmonton Youth Council • Community Safety and Well-being Task Force members (select) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Business Association of Edmonton • Edmonton 2 Spirit Society • Edmonton Accessibility Advisory Committee • Edmonton Chamber of Commerce • Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations • Edmonton Community Foundation • Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities • Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues • Edmonton Public Library • Edmonton Public Schools • Edmonton Shift Lab • EndPovertyEdmonton • Francophonie Albertaine Plurielle • Government of Alberta (various ministries) • Harm Reduction Support (HARES) YEG • HomeEd • Homeward Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfaith Centre for Education & Action • Islamic Family & Social Services Association • Ismaili Council of Edmonton via the City Manager’s Faith Leaders Advisory Group meetings • Jewish Federation of Edmonton • John Humphrey Center for Peace and Human Rights • Migrante Alberta • REACH Edmonton • Saffron Centre • Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE) • Sifarish Network • Sisters Dialogue • University of Alberta • Water Warriors YEG • Women’s Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE) • Youth Restorative Action Project • YWCA Edmonton
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations | Edmonton | |
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Administration approached conversations about the Community Safety and Well-Being task force recommendations using a broad and system-wide lens. The goal was to understand how to develop a Community Safety and Well-being strategy that responds to the Safer for All recommendations while identifying potential opportunities or systemic challenges for the City to take action.

These exploratory and relationship-centered conversations focused on identifying what safety and well-being means, what needs to happen for Edmontonians to feel safe, how the City should prioritize actions and investments in things that can improve safety and well-being, and how to include more Edmontonians in future community conversations. Some of the themes discussed include:

- Addressing poverty
- Supports while dealing with poverty
- Acknowledging and dealing with trauma
- Dignity for everyone
- Breaking down barriers between bureaucracy and mutual aid
- Celebrating uniqueness
- Whose safety and well-being is being considered
- Belonging
- Love and care
- Less talk, more action - take immediate action where possible to support the most vulnerable

The insights gathered from community conversations have been incorporated in the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy. The Community Safety and Well-being strategy is meant to be agile and responsive to changes as the City and its stakeholders continue to listen, learn and lead.

The insights gained from conversations with the community will be included in a repository of all Community Safety and Well-being research and engagement data. This repository will support the City in taking evidence-based and data-informed actions, achieving the outcome of a more inclusive and equitable place for communities that experience marginalization.

GBA+

Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) was considered and implemented throughout actions and outcomes aligned to the Community Safety and Well-Being task force recommendations, outlined in Attachment 1. As work progresses, Administration will complete in-depth GBA+ reports that identify findings, mitigations and removal of barriers.

As the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy described in report OCM00991 impacts all community members, each recommendation-aligned action will need to:

- reflect on and attend to project team biases

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- identify missing or marginalized perspectives
- create engagement plans that consider the needs of identified communities
- describe findings
- recommend equity measures for each finding and identify priority order for actions
- create an implementation plan for each equity measure
- evaluate the effectiveness of the equity measures

ATTACHMENTS

1. Actions and Outcomes Aligned to Community Safety and Well-Being Task Force Recommendation - City of Edmonton Administration
2. Response to Safer for All Task Force Report - Edmonton Police Commission / Edmonton Police Service