



Public Spaces Bylaw Bylaw 20700

City Council | February 14, 2024

Context

- Behaviours in public spaces are governed by three primary bylaws:
 - ◆ Parkland Bylaw
 - ◆ Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw
 - ◆ Public Places Bylaw
- Others:
 - ◆ Traffic Bylaw



Approach

- All relevant Edmonton bylaws were mapped
- Comparable bylaws from Calgary, Ottawa, and Winnipeg were mapped
- Internal steering committee

Public Engagement Approach

- Values-based approach
 - ◆ What are the overarching values that intersect multiple bylaw offences?
 - ◆ What behaviours concern Edmontonians in public spaces?

- E-scan of past engagement data

Public Engagement Overview

Opportunities for Public (May 8-21, 2023)

Online Edmonton Insight Community survey and open link survey

- 6,425 survey responses
- 773 indicated at risk or experienced homelessness

Engaged Edmonton 'Ideas' and 'Q&A' tools

- 17 ideas tool submissions
- 17 questions submitted

Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Opportunities for Stakeholders (May 8-June 9, 2023)

One-on-one conversations

- Downtown Business Association
- Bissell Centre
- Homeward Trust
- Edmonton 2 Spirit Society
- Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)

Online Survey and Marketing Toolkit

- Emailed to 450 stakeholders

Stakeholder Survey Participation

- Representatives from the following organizations completed the online survey:
 - ◆ Edmonton Police Association
 - ◆ Edmonton District Labour Council
 - ◆ Downtown Edmonton Community League (DECL)
 - ◆ New Hope Resettlement Institute
 - ◆ Common Sense Edmonton
 - ◆ Edmonton International Street Performers Festival
 - ◆ PFlag

- Additional correspondence was received via email

Ongoing Information Sharing

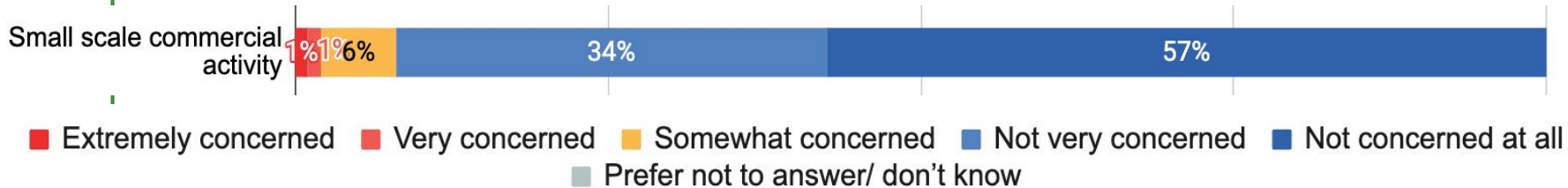
- Downtown Pedway Working Group
- Downtown Recovery Coalition
- BIA Council
- Downtown Property Managers Roundtable
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

Engagement Informed Decisions

→ Level of concern for visible drug use in public spaces



→ Level of concern for small commercial activity in public spaces



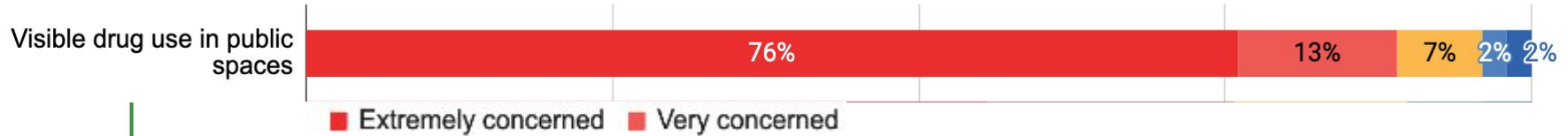
→ Safety was the top consideration and priority mentioned throughout engagement

Policy Decisions

- Visible drug use
- Panhandling
- Temporary shelters
- Lifejackets
- Food trucks

Visible Drug Use

- Currently prohibited in transit spaces
- Identified as the most concerning behaviour by Edmontonians
- Non-criminal enforcement tool
- \$500 fine



Panhandling

- Aggressive panhandling prohibited in all spaces
- Panhandling prohibited within and adjacent to roadways
- \$250 fine



Temporary Shelters

- No change in enforcement approach
- No policy change, but greater clarity is added
- \$250 fine



By Identity

At least 10% more likely than average
 At least 10% less likely than average

% Concerned (Extremely + very)	Total (n=6425)	Racialized minority (n=628)	Persons with disability (n=598)	Indigenous (n=267)	New to Canada <3 years (n=60)	LGBTQ2S+ (n=610)	Household with children 12 and under (n=1,174)	Household with children 13 to 17 (n=577)	Household with adults 18-64 (n=4100)	Household with adults 65+ (n=1434)	Experienced risk of homelessness (n=773)
Panhandling in public spaces	68%	70%	62%	67%	82%	49%	67%	68%	65%	75%	63%
Lingering in public spaces, such as a transit platform, without intent to use the area for its intended purpose	75%	77%	66%	76%	75%	53%	74%	75%	72%	84%	72%
People sleeping in public spaces at night	72%	73%	64%	66%	83%	48%	70%	72%	67%	82%	67%
People being in public spaces at night	36%	39%	34%	40%	42%	25%	34%	41%	33%	42%	36%
Visible drug use in public spaces	88%	91%	82%	86%	95%	71%	88%	90%	86%	94%	83%

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Q9. The City wants to know about which behaviours and activities you care most about. Thinking about your experiences, interactions and any behaviours you've witnessed in public spaces, how concerned are you with the following?

Lifejackets

- Federal law requires lifejackets to be present in a vessel
- New: lifejackets must be worn
- Exception: Edmonton Riverboat
- \$250 fine



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Using drones in public spaces	33%	31%	32%	28%	32%	29%	25%	26%	29%	44%	32%
Using bikes for travel or recreation on sidewalks	25%	21%	30%	21%	22%	19%	15%	18%	22%	36%	26%
Using scooters or e-scooters on sidewalks	35%	31%	36%	26%	28%	29%	23%	24%	30%	49%	35%
Playing sports, such as golf, frisbee or soccer, in public spaces	5%	6%	5%	5%	8%	3%	4%	5%	4%	7%	6%
Swimming in or skating on bodies of water such as rivers and lakes in public spaces	9%	9%	13%	8%	13%	7%	7%	6%	7%	15%	11%
Allowing dogs in and around bodies of water in public spaces	15%	17%	15%	11%	22%	8%	14%	13%	13%	22%	14%
Having dogs off-leash in public spaces	41%	44%	43%	36%	50%	37%	42%	38%	37%	48%	40%

Q2: The City wants to know about which behaviours and activities you care most about. Thinking about your experiences, interactions and any behaviours you've witnessed in public spaces, how concerned are you with the following?

Food Trucks

- Permits required in most situations (e.g. events)
- Exception: valid business licence; legal parking locations
- Continued compliance with provincial and municipal rules:
 - ◆ parking, including payment and time restrictions
 - ◆ food safety, safety code requirements
 - ◆ vehicle safety and maintenance requirements
- \$250 fine



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Having performances in public spaces, such as playing an instrument or juggling	3%	4%	4%	4%	7%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Having amplification devices in public spaces, such as a speaker or megaphone	35%	34%	37%	34%	40%	40%	30%	28%	34%	38%	36%
Small scale commercial activity in public spaces, such as fitness classes or food trucks	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Large gatherings of people or events in public places (this could include parades)	7%	6%	8%	7%	8%	7%	6%	7%	6%	7%	7%

Q5: The City wants to know about which behaviours and activities you care most about. Thinking about your experiences, interactions and any behaviours you've witnessed in public spaces, how concerned are you about the following topics:

Enforcement Approach

- 4E Approach
 - ◆ Engage
 - ◆ Explain
 - ◆ Encourage
 - ◆ Enforcement
- Lawful placement
- Post-enforcement options

Fines

- \$250 default
 - ◆ increased/decreased based on severity
 - ◆ reflect prior Council direction
- Minimum vs specified

Next Steps

- Possible amendments
- Internal and external implementation
- Coming into force: May 13, 2024

Questions.