

**Additional Assessments**

**Prohibit or Regulate “Restricted Knives” Only**

Background	Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on suggestions provided by representatives of affected communities at the April 9, 2024 Urban Planning Committee meeting, Administration examined the possibility of establishing a definition of ‘Restricted Knives’.</li> <li>The objective was to use this definition to either prohibit, or establish regulations on the retail sale of specific types of knives that are designed, intended, or likely to be used for harming another person.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration could not identify any objective basis for restricting knives based on physical characteristics. Many knives designed, intended, and sold for practical purposes are very similar in form and function to knives that appear to be intended to harm a person. Aside from factors such as colours, graphics, or the settings in which they are sold, it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish them objectively.</li> <li>Administration and EPS could not find sufficient data to confirm what types of knives are being used in crimes, or any pattern in their physical characteristics.</li> <li>Attempts to establish a class of restricted knives in other jurisdictions were generally unsuccessful.</li> <li>From a practical perspective, any resulting definition will have multiple exclusions and barriers to enforcement. Knives not captured by the definition can still be used to harm people, and there would be no restrictions or regulations on these types of knives, regardless of where they are sold.</li> <li>The corresponding regulations would have also been unclear for many businesses as they would likely end up carrying a mix of restricted and non-restricted knives.</li> <li>Further legal implications as discussed in the private legal presentation.</li> </ul>

Transaction Recording

Background	Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration considered a potential requirement for businesses that sell knives to record details of the purchaser and the transaction - for example, the purchaser’s name, date of birth, and identification number; date and time of the sale; employee who sold the knife; and identifying details of the knife sold.</li> <li>• This is similar to a requirement that was recently passed for Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While transaction recording requirements were recently applied to the sale of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, knives and OC spray are regulated differently and have very different characteristics:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OC spray is classified and regulated by the provincial and federal governments as a controlled product. Edmonton’s transaction recording requirement for OC spray complements existing regulations and establishes more consistency.</li> <li>○ Other than a narrow subset of knives that are prohibited under the Criminal Code of Canada, the sale of knives is not regulated by the provincial or federal governments. Edmonton bylaws cannot establish regulations for criminal purposes.</li> <li>○ OC spray has a narrow intended use, can be clearly defined by simple characteristics, and typically has a unique serial number or other identifier. These factors lend themselves to effective transaction recording. By comparison, knives come in many different shapes and sizes, have a wide range of uses, and do not typically have unique identifiers associated with them. Transaction records would not conclusively identify a specific knife.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The usefulness of transaction records involving knife sales would be outweighed by the impact on personal privacy. There is also no provincial or federal legislation to support such a requirement to collect or disclose personal information.</li> <li>• The operational demands of recording each transaction would add significant red tape for businesses, as knives are very commonly purchased items.</li> </ul>