

Community Safety and Well-being Task Force Recommendations

Recommendation

That Administration work with the Edmonton Police Commission to develop a work plan to implement the recommendations as set out in Attachment 1 of the April 6, 2021, Community Safety and Well-being Task Force report CR_8453, that includes a progress report back to Council in December 2021.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the July 6, 2020, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration initiate an inclusive, co-creation process to develop recommendations for the future of community safety and well-being in Edmonton, for recommendations to City Council in First Quarter 2021.

Executive Summary

During Spring of 2020, Edmonton City Council held a virtual Non-Statutory Public Hearing over several days where 142 Edmontonians expressed their perspectives about racism in our city and their experiences with policing. It was clear that far too many Edmontonians do not feel safe.

As one part of the motion passed on July 6, 2020 that resulted from what was heard at the public hearing, Edmonton City Council created the Community Safety and Well-being Task Force (the “Task Force”).

The Task Force, established in October 2020, was mandated to “create actionable recommendations for Council regarding the future of community safety and well-being in the city that are anti-racist.”¹

The Task Force was composed of 10 community members with lived experience, two members of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), two City of Edmonton staff, a member appointed by the Edmonton Police Commission (EPC), and an independent Chair.

¹ City of Edmonton Bylaw 19407.

Report

Given the timelines for the work, the Task Force followed an aggressive schedule in order to achieve its deliverables in under 6 months. The initial meeting was held on November 4, 2020, and were subsequently held weekly. .

The Task Force was provided with a large volume of independent research and Council Reports made to City Council by EPS, the EPC and City Administration. The Task Force also reviewed information from the public hearings that were held in Summer 2020. These sources, along with the firsthand experiences and perspectives of Task Force members, were used to identify four major areas requiring further exploration:

- How we define community safety
- The role of police in a safe community
- The conduct of police providing community safety
- The roles and conduct of others (peace and bylaw officers, community organizations) in a safe community
- Metrics and Implementation

The Task Force established a Working Group for each of these five major areas. Each Working Group was tasked with undertaking primary and secondary research, identifying key issues, and developing proposed solutions. Those were brought back and presented to the entire Task Force for review, discussion, and analysis.

Public Engagement

The Task Force also invited presentations from members of the community to give us insight on particular issues and topics. The Task Force engaged representatives from:

- Bear Clan Patrol
- Edmonton's Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
- REACH Edmonton
- Edmonton Police Commission
- Community Standards and Neighbourhoods Branch of the City of Edmonton
- Helpseeker

In addition, the Task Force requested and received written submissions from the City of Edmonton, EPC, EPS, and the Edmonton Police Association. These organizations were invited to provide information and perspective on issues related to those explored by the Task Force.

The Task Force appreciates all those who contributed time, information, and viewpoints to our work which played a critical piece in developing the recommendations. The Task Force is encouraged by the widespread desire for change

that was expressed by many parts of the community and specifically during the public hearings.

The Task Force recommendations reflect that desire to change, supporting an anti-racist community. They are informed by evidence, premised on common sense, and collectively aimed at making Edmonton safer for all.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

The Task Force has identified a range of existing and proposed performance metrics with the goal of driving organizational cultures to be more inclusive and anti-racist. (These are outlined in Appendix A to this report.) Making headway on these metrics will, collectively, help translate into a community that is safer for everyone.

Attachment

1. Safer For All - Report of Community and Safety Well-Being Task Force