

Community Services Report to
Combined Meeting of Council
2019 February 25

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2019-0256

Update on Public Safety near Supervised Consumption Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Administration continues to develop recommendations and take action to respond to Notice of Motion C2019-0123 and to address public safety concerns near the Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS). In response to direction from the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services on 2019 February 13, this report provides Council with an update on: what we heard from the panel presentations and the public at Committee; progress on actions to address the Notice of Motion, including associated estimated costs, and; next steps for developing a collaborative implementation framework with our partners.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Endorse actions underway and currently funded identified in Attachment 1 ;
2. Authorize Administration to allocate up to \$1 million in one-time funding from Council's Community Action for Mental Health and Addiction initiative to support actions that require funding identified in Attachment 1;
3. Direct Administration to develop an implementation framework and report back to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than 2019 Q2;
4. Request the Mayor continue his advocacy with other orders of government, including sending a formal request on behalf of Council asking the federal and provincial governments to work together to address this matter; and
5. Direct Intergovernmental & Corporate Strategy to include these matters in ongoing advocacy efforts previously approved by Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the SPC on Community and Protective Services on 2019 February 13, Administration was directed in CPS2019-0221 to:

1. Consider the information from the panel presentations and discussion at the 2019 February 13 meeting when developing recommendations in response to Notice of Motion C2019-0123;
2. Report directly to the 2019 February 25 Meeting of Council with an update on actions taken to date to address Notice of Motion C2019-0123 and outline additional potential City actions and other next steps underway with stakeholders to form a collaborative implementation framework that examines responsibilities outside the City of Calgary's jurisdiction and seek to formalize potential partnerships; and
3. Report to the SPC on Community and Protective Services with regular updates.

On 2019 February 04, through Notice of Motion C2019-0123 Responding to Public Safety Issues at Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre's SCS Facility (Attachment 2), Council directed Administration to develop a set of immediate actions to respond to public safety issues near the SCS site and report to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services at the 2019 February 13 meeting.

On 2018 July 30, through Notice of Motion C2018-0956, Council earmarked up to \$25 million to develop a new Mental Health and Addictions Strategy over the next five years. Council allocated

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\$15 million to Community Services Prevention Investment Framework and other short term initiatives. Council directed Administration to use the remaining \$10 million for seed funding to convene a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy.

BACKGROUND

Report CPS2019-0221 provides background on the history of the SCS site located at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre and the recent data released by the Calgary Police Service (CPS) indicating an increase in reported crime and calls for police service near the SCS site. This report also identified several City initiatives activated in 2018 and 2019 that create a foundation to pursue additional solutions and partnerships to address public safety concerns near the SCS site. These include the creation of several cross-corporate teams that enhance coordination between City services and external partners, including: the Joint Encampment Team (JET) that facilitates a coordinated response to illegal encampments; the Operational Activities Coordination Team (OACT) that uses a collaborative approach to create and sustain safe and inspiring neighbourhoods in the downtown core; and the Community Outreach Team pilot program to address social disorder issues occurring on public transit. Additionally, CPS, Calgary Community Standards and Corporate Security increased their uniformed presence in the downtown core to monitor potential criminal activity and act as a deterrent. CPS has also been targeting drug trafficking in Central Memorial Park, including intelligence gathering to disrupt methamphetamine supply and distribution.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

What we heard

On 2019 February 13, the SPC on Community and Protective Services heard from City subject matter experts, representatives from community partners and members of the public on the current context and potential solutions for ensuring public safety near supervised consumption services. The panel included:

- Chief Steve Dongworth (Calgary Fire Department)
- David Low (Victoria Park Business Improvement Area)
- Peter Oliver (Beltline Neighbourhood Association)
- A/Deputy Chief Ryan Ayliffe (Calgary Police Service)
- Dr. Nicholas Etches (Alberta Health Services)
- Amy Woroniuk (Alberta Health Services)
- Kathy Christiansen (Calgary Alpha House Society)
- Owen Key (Corporate Security)

The Committee also received 12 presentations from the public, including Calgarians with lived experience with addictions and mental health concerns, local business owners, residents living in close proximity to the SCS site, health care professionals and other interested citizens. Speaking notes from panel members and several of the public presentations can be found in Attachment 3.

The following broad themes emerged during the discussion and will inform current and future work by The City and its partners:

- *Communication*

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Though channels of communication do exist between the community and service providers – including The City and Alberta Health Services (AHS) – this is an area that can be improved. Communication was identified as a key factor in building and maintaining relationships in the community, and identifying and resolving public safety concerns near the SCS site.

- *Collaboration*
The benefits of and need for continued collaboration between The City, AHS and community partners was reinforced by the panel and the public throughout the meeting. While coordination between partners is strong in some areas (needle response) identifying other issues and ways to work together should continue to be a priority.
- *Compassion*
Addressing public safety concerns near the SCS site requires solutions that balance the various needs in the community, as demonstrated by the unique and varied perspectives shared at Committee. From clients of the SCS to residents to business owners to front line staff, a compassionate approach should consider the impacts of actions to all stakeholders.

What's next

Administration continues to develop recommendations and take action to respond to Notice of Motion C2019-0123 and to address public safety concerns near the SCS site. As outlined in the presentations to the 2019 February 13 SPC on Community and Protective Services and accompanying report (CPS2019-0221) Attachment 1 provides details on current and additional potential actions categorized as follows:

- actions that are underway and currently funded;
- actions that can be implemented immediately with an allocation of funding;
- actions that require further discussion.

The actions identified in Attachment 1 will form the basis of a collaborative implementation framework to be presented to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than 2019 Q2. This framework may include additional actions and associated costs that arise from The City's continued discussions with its partners and the community.

This is a complex issue at the intersection of federal, provincial and municipal jurisdiction, and its successful resolution will require cooperation from other orders of government. While dialogue is ongoing, Administration recommends that The City call on the federal and provincial governments to work together to address this matter and to do so in concert with each other and with The City, working toward a coordinated solution. These efforts could include a letter from the Mayor on behalf of Council to federal and provincial counterparts, as well as directing Intergovernmental & Corporate Strategy to include these issues with the ongoing advocacy efforts previously approved by Council.

Administration will continue to update Council on its progress on the actions in Attachment 1 through regular reporting to the SPC on Community and Protective Services.

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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Administration takes a One City approach to address issues of public safety in safe and inspiring neighbourhoods. The current work to address social disorder and crime in the area includes Calgary Community Standards, Calgary Fire Department, Calgary Neighbourhoods, Calgary Parks, Calgary Police Service, Calgary Transit, Corporate Security, Roads and Waste & Recycling. The City works collaboratively with its external partners, including other orders of government and their agencies, social service providers, non-profits, business improvement areas, and neighbourhood and community groups.

At the 2019 February 13 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services, representatives from The City, CPS, AHS, community partners and the public provided information on the current context and their perspectives on what is needed to address public safety concerns near the Safeworks SCS site. The City will continue to engage with members of the panel and the community as it develops a collaborative implementation framework. Based on the conversation at Committee, communication was identified as an area of improvement for The City and its partners and communication activities are included in Attachment 1.

Strategic Alignment

This report and the associated work align closely with the Council-approved Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Notice of Motion C2018-0956, with \$25 million available for prevention investment, medium and long term actions/outcomes that deal with these issues. The first expenditure from these funds was \$3 million allocated this year through the Prevention Investment Framework with a Mental Health and Addiction Lens to 19 community organizations that support a range of relevant programs and services.

In 2019, Calgary Neighbourhoods also allocated \$1.18 million in funding for the Crime Prevention Investment Plan to evidence-based projects operated by non-profits that support crime prevention through social development.

Responding to public safety issues aligns with the following 2019-2022 Citizen Priorities: a prosperous city, a city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods, a healthy and green city, and a well-run city and specifically to the following 2019-2022 Council Directives:

- P3 – Revitalize the city's downtown core
- P4 – Enhance partnerships with other orders of government, the non-profit sector and businesses
- N1 – Work with community partners to address social issues
- H4 – Create communities that support healthy lifestyles and interaction amongst residents
- H6 – Make parks and green spaces a priority
- W1 – Speak in a collective voice that improves communication with Calgarians
- W2 – Work on improving the value of municipal services, eliminate service silos

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Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Ensuring public safety near the Safeworks SCS site is critical to address social, environmental and economic impacts to individuals, families and communities. Crime and social disorder results in social and economic costs for individuals, families and communities. The panel and public submissions at the 2019 February 13 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services provided insight on various experiences of those using SCS, living or working near the SCS site. The unique perspectives presented emphasised the importance of working collaboratively to create solutions that address the needs of all stakeholders. By working together with community partners and other orders of government, The City can take immediate action to mitigate public safety concerns that have been identified around the SCS site.

The information presented by external representatives and the public on 2019 February 13 found in Attachment 3 provides additional insight into the social, environmental and economic impact of this issue. This information will be considered as The City develops next steps with its partners.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Notice of Motion C2019-0123 resolves to consider allocating a portion of the funds available through Council's Community Action for Mental Health and Addiction initiative towards actions identified to address public safety issues near Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre's SCS site. The \$25 million earmarked from the Fiscal Stability Reserve for the initiative was allocated towards two streams, \$15 million for prevention investment (which began this year with \$3 million allocated to projects in the community), and \$10 million to achieve the medium and long term outcomes of the strategy. The funds are for one-time and seed initiatives, not ongoing operations.

This report recommends allocating up to \$1 million in one-time funding from Council's Community Action for Mental Health and Addiction initiative to be used to implement actions from Attachment 1 that require funding. Additional costs may be identified as The City continues to develop actions with its partners and the community to address public safety concerns in the area.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no current or future capital budget implications to this report.

Risk Assessment

The responsibility for promotion, prevention, and treatment related to mental health and addiction is being shared among the federal and provincial governments, the municipality, the non-profit and private sectors, and the community. Some of the activities to address the public safety and social disorder issues near the SCS site (identified in the "Further Discussion" section on page 2 of Attachment 1) may be outside the municipal mandate. There is a risk that other orders of government may not work with The City to take immediate action to address these identified issues. Ongoing and clear communication and collaboration with the federal and provincial governments, external partners and stakeholders can help alleviate this risk.

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Using funds earmarked for Council's Mental Health and Addictions initiative for actions that address public safety concerns near supervised consumption services, will mean they are not available for other future initiatives. Seeking financial contribution from other orders of government to share public safety related costs will mitigate this risk.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The City is able to initiate several actions immediately to address public safety concerns near the SCS site with an allocation of one-time funding while it continues to work with its partners and the community to develop a collaborative implementation framework in response to Notice of Motion C2019-0123.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Actions to Address Public Safety near SCS at Sheldon Chumir Health Centre
2. Notice of Motion C2019-0123
3. CPS2019-0221- Panel and Public Submissions