



Report Number: C2019-0959

Meeting: Combined Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: 2019 July 22

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Relief for Calgarians Shouldering Security and Safety Costs Near Supervised Consumption Sites and Drug Use Hotspots

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Jeromy Farkas

WHEREAS Community support for mental health and addiction strategies is vital to their long-term success;

AND WHEREAS Private property and business owners near hot spots around the city are under tremendous stress and financial pressure as a result of issues stemming from drug use and social disorder;

AND WHEREAS The community has reached a crisis point regarding issues stemming from social disorder and drug use;

AND WHEREAS Many private property and business owners cannot afford the costs associated with security and cleanup, and have been forced to relocate;

AND WHEREAS Calgary Police Service statistics indicate a shift in drug use away from opioids and towards methamphetamines, which are associated with more violent crimes and property damage;

AND WHEREAS Council affirmed commitment to addressing these issues by approving \$25 Million for a mental health and addiction strategy;

AND WHEREAS a short-term focus necessitates immediate action, the City's mental health and addiction strategy work is also using a long-term focus to tackle the root causes of these issues through a cross-sector collaborative approach in recognition that no single stakeholder, organization or order of government can fully address the mental health and addiction issues experienced by Calgarians;

AND WHEREAS the right mix of short, medium and long-term measures are necessary to create hope and strengthen support for individuals, families and communities so that all Calgarians can all live healthy productive lives;

AND WHEREAS The City is investing in projects to enhance safety in the area surrounding supervised consumption services offered at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre;

AND WHEREAS on 2019 March 04, Council approved one-time funding of up to \$1M from Council's Community Action for Mental Health and Addiction initiative to support immediate actions that contribute to enhancing safety in the area around the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre;

NOTICE OF MOTION

AND WHEREAS it is unreasonable for residents and business owners who are disproportionately affected by social disorder and drug use to bear those costs alone;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs administration to:

1. Explore utilizing a portion of the \$25 million committed to the Mental Health and Addiction strategy, to defray the increased security, cleanup, and repair costs incurred by residents and business owners who are disproportionately affected by social disorder, and report back to Council by Q4 2019 with recommended criteria for eligibility, and a recommended model for distribution;
2. Explore “in-kind” contributions from the City that would reduce the costs being incurred by residents and business owners related to improving safety and security, such as:
 - waiving building/development permit fees
 - waiving business licensing fees
 - waiving inspection fees
 - providing technical expertise to assist with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design assessments and implementation
 - improved signage
 - street safety improvements
 - expedited road and lightning maintenance
 - educational and communications campaigns
3. Expand the scope of the City work co-ordinating and enhancing community safety near the Sheldon M. Chumir Supervised Consumption Site to include the areas adjacent to the Alpha House, using existing resources;
4. Collaborate with other orders of government, non-profits, and local business improvement areas, on matching or further leveraging of funds toward the aforementioned efforts.