



Report Number: PFC2019-1523
Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee
Meeting Date: 2019 December 03

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Deeming Calgary 9-1-1 an Essential Service at The City of Calgary

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart

WHEREAS:

1. The critical functions provided by 9-1-1 are an integral part of Alberta's public safety net services, which include:
 - a. Police;
 - b. Fire; and
 - c. Emergency medical services.
2. The job function of answering, evaluating and dispatching 9-1-1 calls require extensive technical training and experience to ensure the safety of emergency first responders;
3. Emergency safety first responders require specialized information provided by 9-1-1 employees in dangerous and threatening situations;
4. The extensive technical training and experience required to answer, evaluate, and dispatch 9-1-1 calls cannot be easily filled during a labour dispute;
5. The Alberta Labour Relations Code and the Emergency Services Act protect the welfare of citizens by preventing the disruption of these three essential public safety services;
6. 9-1-1 employees are not currently deemed an essential service under provincial legislation;
7. 9-1-1 employees can disrupt all three essential services through their ability to strike or be locked out;
8. Any labour disruption would pose an immediate and significant risk to property, public safety, and the delivery of all emergency services to the citizens of Calgary and surrounding communities;
9. The City of Calgary (The City) has made multiple attempts to designate 9-1-1 employees as an essential service, including through the City Charter process; and
10. This is not unique to Calgary, but also affects safety across Alberta communities where emergency calls are dispatched by 9-1-1 employees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council endorse the proposal of the following resolution to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association:

WHEREAS the critical functions provided by 9-1-1 are an integral part of Alberta's public safety net services, which include police fire and EMS;

AND WHEREAS the job function of answering, evaluating and dispatching 9-1-1 to fire, police and EMS calls requires extensive technical training and experience to ensure the safety of emergency first responders in dangerous and threatening situations, and this experience cannot be easily filled during a labour dispute;

AND WHEREAS the Alberta Labour Relations Code and the Emergency Services Act protect the welfare of citizens by preventing the disruption of police, fire and EMS by deeming them an essential service;

AND WHEREAS 9-1-1 employees are not currently deemed an essential service under provincial legislation, but can disrupt all three essential services through their ability to strike or be locked out; and

AND WHEREAS any labour disruption would pose an immediate and significant risk to property, public safety, and the delivery of all emergency services to the citizens of Alberta.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the interest of community safety across the province, that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association call upon the Government of Alberta to deem 9-1-1 employees an essential service in the same manner as police, fire, and EMS.