

Community Safety Investment Joint-Funding Partnership Working Group Report Back

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council:

1. As a result of recent funding opportunities from the other orders of government in support of community safety, disband the Community Safety Investment Joint-Funding Partnership Working Group; and
2. That the previous members of the Community Safety Investment Joint-Funding Partnership Working Group be thanked for their participation to date.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The circumstances which led to the creation of the Community Safety Investment Joint-Funding Partnership Working Group (Working Group) have significantly changed. The Working Group is no longer required to secure funding support from the other orders of government to achieve community safety outcomes.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** More resources and increased collaboration and coordination among the orders of government and community partners are now in place to achieve positive community safety outcomes.
- **Why does this matter?** This change in circumstances underscores that community safety is a significant priority by all orders of government and that barriers to change will not be overcome through funding alone.
- Following Council direction, Administration approached the provincial and federal governments with an invitation to participate in the Working Group, however, there was no commitment to participate. While the Working Group was unable to proceed as envisioned in the terms of reference, less formal networks and strategy implementation actions are currently driving toward positive outcomes in community safety.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
- Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

In November 2020, Council directed Administration to develop terms of reference and guiding principles for a working group to engage the Governments of Alberta and of Canada in the development of a joint-funding partnership to address the issues in the Community Safety Investment Framework. The mandate of the group was to address collaborative funding opportunities related to the crisis response system.

In March 2021, Council approved the terms of reference (Attachment 2) and in April 2021, invitations to the Government of Alberta's Minister of Justice and the Government of Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to join the Working Group were sent but no commitments to participate were received.

Existing Working Group members have met twice in early 2022 to discuss background, progress to date and next steps related to the Working Group. However, in March 2022, Administration paused the Working Group to reconsider the purpose of formally convening the

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group given subsequent announcements between all three orders of government signaling new funding opportunities in support of community safety.

Administration is currently responding to new collaborative opportunities to address community safety by:

- Accessing up to \$7.7M from the Building Safer Communities Fund available through Public Safety Canada
- Accessing up to \$4M in support of community safety initiatives through the Downtown Strategy available through the Government of Alberta
- Utilizing the \$8M available annually through The City of Calgary's Community Safety Investment Framework to strengthen existing crisis supports and transform how to respond to people and families in crisis
- Working closely with our partners at the Calgary Police Service through shared governance and resourcing of projects such as the work to Transform Calgary's Crisis Response System
- Coordinating system planning through networks such as the Staying Safe Implementation Team in support of Calgary's Mental Health and Addiction Strategy and Action Plan or groups such as the Coordinated Community Winter Response.
- Addressing policy and legislative barriers with the support of Intergovernmental and Corporate Strategy or through collaborations such as the work of Calgary Police Service partners, working with 9-1-1 and the Distress Centre/211 on a call diversion pilot project

This work aligns with the original intent and objectives of the Working Group as outlined in the terms of reference, resulting in the recommendation to disband.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

Stakeholder dialogue undertaken with Administration, Calgary Police Service and Calgary Police Commission committee members confirmed agreement with the recommendation to disband the Working Group.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

If the recommendation is approved, Administration will continue to work towards: the outcomes of the Community Safety Investment Framework with our community partners and the Calgary Police Service to improve the wellbeing of Calgarians through an equitable and effective crisis response system; the principle of prevention in the Social Wellbeing Policy by supporting safe and connected communities (which will be advanced through the Building Safer

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Communities Fund from Public Safety Canada), and the overall goal of *Calgary's Mental Health and Addiction Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023*, to create hope and strengthen support for everyone.

Environmental

Not Applicable

Economic

Funding in support of community safety has been, and is being, made available. This funding will ensure that Calgary can advance on the outcomes contained in the Community Safety Investment Framework, the Social Wellbeing Policy, and *Calgary's Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023*.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

RISK

Disbanding the Working Group could be misunderstood as The City not taking community safety concerns seriously. Communicating clearly about new funding opportunities, collaborations, projects and initiatives connected to community safety outcomes will demonstrate commitment to Calgarians.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Direction
2. Community Safety Investment Joint-Funding Partnerships Working Group Terms of Reference
3. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Not applicable		