

Calgary



Public Behaviour Bylaw - Weapons Provision

CD2025-0510

June 12, 2025

Calgary



Previous Council Direction

(October 29, 2024 – CD2024-0944):

- No formal Council direction
- Interest identified through Councillor questions
- Administration to explore aligning Transit & Public Behaviour bylaws



That the Community Development Committee recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed bylaw, in Attachment 2, to amend the Public Behaviour Bylaw 54M2006.

Why This Matters

- Prohibits visible display of weapons & noxious substances
- Closes enforcement gap outside transit property
- Responds to Calgary Police Service concerns
- Supports safe & welcoming public spaces

ISC: Unclassified

REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION	
2024 Response to Bear Spray Usage	
Date	2024 11 15
Commission Role	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information only <input type="checkbox"/> Approval
Type of Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Commission meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Governance and Personnel (G&P) Sub-Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Finance and Audit (F&A) Sub-Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint Oversight (COC) Sub-Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Racism Committee
Purpose	Select the appropriate category (below) to explain "why" the Commission is receiving this report and (if applicable) insert a narrative here identifying the report's alignment to the 2019-2022 CPS Service Action Plans (Strategic Priority/Objective/Action Plan). <input type="checkbox"/> Obligation under the Police Act <input type="checkbox"/> Update on progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Response to CPC Motion
Recommendations	<p>That the Calgary Police Commission receives this report for information following up on the motion that was approved:</p> <p>"For the Service to bring back to CPC in November 2024 a report identifying CPS strategies to address the availability of Bear Spray in assaults and robberies."</p>
Background / Issue	<p>Offenders using bear spray as a weapon is not unique to Calgary as jurisdictions across Canada are reporting increased incidents. A recent CBC news article suggests guns are expensive and hard to obtain, whereas offenders find it much easier to get their hands on bear spray to be used as a weapon but also for personal protection as it is much easier to obtain¹.</p>

Proposed Bylaw Amendments – Weapons Provision

Weapon



Fixed-blade knife and collapsible baton

Noxious Substance



Bear spray canister

- Prohibit the visible display of weapons & noxious substances in any public place
- Define “weapon” & “noxious substance”
- Introduce specified penalties: \$250
- Include exemptions for licensed activities

What This Bylaw Targets



Appropriate Public Behaviour



Inappropriate Public Behaviour



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