



Report Number: EC2025-0856

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2025 September 08

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Strengthening Public Safety through Further Measures Building on the Public Behaviour Bylaw Amendments Addressing Visible Display of Weapons and Noxious Substances (such as OC Spray)

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Terry Wong

WHEREAS City Council adopted amendments to the Public Behaviour Bylaw 54M2006 on June 24, 2025, during its regular meeting (Item 9.4.3 Public Behaviour Bylaw Weapons Provision, CD2025-0510), which now prohibit the open display of weapons and noxious substances—such as bear spray or oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray—in public areas unless a lawful purpose is evident, with violations subject to fines of approximately \$250;

AND WHEREAS these amendments were a necessary first step in addressing public concerns about intimidation and threats to safety in shared spaces, but do not adequately address the individual(s) or business(es) reporting of visual sighting of and/or known concealed possession (i.e. hiding) of dangerous weapons or the presence of replica and intimidation-style items that continue to contribute to a sense of fear and disorder;

AND WHEREAS the current bylaw limits enforcement to situations where weapons are visibly displayed, leaving a gap in the City's ability to proactively intervene in cases where individual(s) or business(es) reporting of weapons carried but not shown, particularly in high-risk environments such as the downtown core, public protests, transit corridors and stations, LRT vehicles and buses, libraries, public parks and recreation facilities, etc.;

AND WHEREAS other major Canadian cities, including Toronto and Vancouver, have adopted or pursued municipal bylaws that selectively prohibit the possession of weapons in public places, offering broader enforcement authority and targeted deterrents in support of local safety strategies;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have the authority under the Municipal Government Act to enact bylaws that protect public safety, promote the well-being of residents, and address harmful or nuisance behaviors in public spaces.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to:

- 1) Bring a report to the Community Development Committee no later than 2026 January that considers more punitive fines for the open display of weapons, potentially including:
 - a) a base fine higher than the current \$250;
 - b) different fine amounts for different types of weapons, informed by their varying potential to intimidate the public; and,
 - c) escalating fine amounts for repeat offenders.

- 2) Return to the Community Development Committee no later than 2026 Q2 with:
 - a) An investigation of potential municipal, provincial, and federal rule changes that would allow more flexibility for peace officers to seize, transport, and dispose of weapons; and,
 - b) An analysis of the approaches taken by other Canadian municipalities who have sought to ban certain types of weapons and their applicability to Calgary.

Attachment:

1. Notice of Motion Checklist