

SEP 12 2018

ITEM: 7.1 UCS2018-1020
Re'd for Corp Record
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

- Thank you Chair and Councillors for having me today.
- I'm here today as the President of the Board of Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society.
- For those of you who are not already familiar with our charitable non-profit, we have been fulfilling an essential service for the City of Calgary and its citizens for the past 25 years by rehabilitating our local injured and orphaned wildlife.
- To give you an idea of the positive impact we have on the City and its goal of creating a Healthy and Green City allow me to break down our work by the numbers:
 - Each year we service upwards of 2,200 wildlife patients - the majority of which are brought to us by concerned citizens with injuries resulting from human impact and an expanding city. Injuries are often caused by Calgary Transit, garbage, pets, tree pruning, window strikes, development, and barbed wire.
 - Despite the high volume of patients we maintain one of the highest release rates in North America at 43%.
 - We produce these results with a small core team of employees and approximately 150 volunteers.
 - Each year we also answer over 500 inquiries that come to us through our social media channels as well as over 10,000 calls from Calgarians a year, many of which are directed to us by the City's 311 service.
 - In addition to rehabilitating wildlife we also educate over 5,000 Calgarians a year through over 200 education programs about how to live safely and harmoniously with our local wildlife to ensure a healthy, green and safe city.
 - And we do all of this on a shoestring budget of less than 350,000 dollars a year.
- I would also like to highlight that our services are fully regulated by Alberta Environment and Parks and the Federal Government which is what allows us to interact with local wildlife in ways that up to this point would be illegal for City staff, citizens and other departments such as Calgary Police Service and the Fire Department. We have also had a friendly and productive relationship with both City Administration and Councillors over the years often consulting on wildlife topics that contribute to maintaining the biodiversity of our city.
- Additionally people are sometimes surprised to learn that we run a fully accredited wildlife veterinary hospital.

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- Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society is a key component to maintaining healthy biodiversity in Calgary despite the ongoing and increasing impact our growing city has on its local wildlife. We contribute to maintaining a vibrant and attractive city by helping to ensure a vibrant and attractive local wildlife population, which is directly linked to creating psychologically healthier societies, happy citizens and a thriving economy.
 - We often receive feedback through various channels about our work and impact from Calgarians from Wards across the City. I'd like to share a few verbatims to give you another perspective on the impact we have:
 - Verbatim 1: "CWRS ignites children's curiosity about nature, science and the environment and helps them become adults who understand the critical choices they will need to make in their own lives to protect our wildlife for future generations."
 - Verbatim 2: "I am grateful to CWRS for giving me a community of like-minded souls, teaching us how to co-exist with wildlife, and, most importantly, helping wild animals in need. I have found Calgary is an incredible place to live. To me, CWRS, and the wildlife it endeavours to sustain, are true expressions of what is great about the city."
 - Verbatim 3: "We are all stewards of this world, stewards of nature and the environment and we have a responsibility not to just look after ourselves but look after the environment. What they do at CWRS is part of that."
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 - Like many nonprofits the economic climate of Calgary has made it exceedingly difficult for us to maintain the essential service we provide to the City in light of declining donations. While we are grateful for the bridge financing the City has provided to the CWRS the past two years, in order to plan for the future and effectively operate we ask that the City consider us in the budget planning to make room for ongoing, sustainable and long-term funding - allowing us to help the City achieve their mandate of creating a healthy and green city.
 - Thank you for your time.

Notes:

Revenue

- 42% donations
- 34% gov grants
- 12% in kind
- 8% education
- 2% membership

Expenses

- 56% vet services
- 23% education and development
- 20% administration
- 2% facility costs