

**Community Services Report to  
SPC on Community and Protective Services  
2019 February 13**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CPS2019-0221**

**Public Safety Near Supervised Consumption Services**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the 2019 February 13 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services, representatives from The City of Calgary, the Calgary Police Service (CPS), Alberta Health Services (AHS) and community partners will provide information on the current context and their perspectives on what is needed to address public safety concerns near the Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) site. To inform the discussion, this report includes a summary of current activities that are supporting communities near the SCS facility and addressing crime and disorder issues in the area.

**ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services direct Administration to:

1. Consider the information from the panel presentations and discussion at the 2019 February 13 meeting when developing recommendations in response to Notice of Motion C2019-0123.
2. Report back to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than Q2 2019.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

On 2019 February 04, through Notice of Motion C2019-0123 Responding to Public Safety Issues at Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre's SCS Facility (Attachment 1), Council directed Administration to develop a set of immediate actions to respond to public safety issues near the SCS site and report to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services at the 2019 February 13 meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

Opioid-related overdose deaths continue to increase in Alberta, with the highest rate occurring in Calgary. SCS sites allow people to use illicit drugs in a monitored, hygienic environment to reduce harm from substance use, while offering additional support services such as counselling and opioid-dependency treatment. The SCS located at the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre opened on 2017 October 30 after receiving the necessary exemption from Health Canada and is currently the only SCS operating in Calgary. By the end of 2018, the site had reported 54,473 client visits, responded to a total of 802 overdoses involving 228 individuals, and made 417 referrals to support services. The most frequently-used drug within the site is methamphetamine (2,215 times) followed by fentanyl (1,646 times).

Statistics from a recent CPS report indicate an increase in reported crime and calls for police service near the SCS site. Area residents and business owners have been voicing concerns about an increase in crime and social disorder in the area since the SCS site opened. AHS identified the need to provide a formal mechanism for communication with the community and in 2018 November, established a Community Liaison Committee, which includes multiple City services, local residents and businesses, harm reduction agencies and peer support/members with lived experience.

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**INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

Calgarians want neighbourhoods and public spaces that are safe, accessible and inclusive. Multiple City business units provide services to address public safety issues, often in collaboration with other orders of government and community partners. Current activities that are supporting communities near the SCS facility and addressing crime and disorder issues in the area include:

- In 2018 April, the Joint Encampment Team (JET) was formed. The team facilitates a coordinated response to illegal encampments, connecting occupants with support services. Since the launch of JET, 1,500 encampment complaints, of which 226 were in the core, have been resolved within 30 days and 40 people found in these encampments have been housed.
- In 2018 July, the Operational Activities Coordination Team (OACT) was established. This cross-corporate team uses a collaborative approach to create and sustain safe and inspiring neighbourhoods in the downtown core. The team is comprised of representation from Calgary Community Standards, Calgary Fire Department, Calgary Neighbourhoods, Calgary Parks, CPS, Calgary Transit, Corporate Security, Roads and Waste & Recycling.
- In 2018 August, the Community Outreach Team pilot program was launched to address social disorder issues occurring on public transit. The team pairs a Transit Peace Officer with an outreach worker from the Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership (DOAP) team, operated by Calgary Alpha House Society. During the first three months of the pilot, the Community Outreach Team encountered 408 individuals on the public transit system who required assistance. Of those, 106 individuals were referred to various social support services and 74 individuals were transported to social service agencies.
- In 2018 August, CPS, Calgary Community Standards and Corporate Security increased their uniformed presence in the downtown core to monitor potential criminal activity and act as a deterrent. The increased presence is expected to continue throughout 2019.
- In 2018 December, CPS has been targeting drug trafficking in Central Memorial Park, including intelligence gathering to disrupt methamphetamine supply and distribution.
- Corporate Security has CCTV provisions within Central Memorial Park to help monitor for criminal activity (violence, drug trafficking, property offences, etc.). A full Crime Prevention through Environmental Design review of Central Memorial Park and surrounding areas to include the Calgary Public Library and Haultain School is also planned, which will drive recommendations for improvements to security surveillance capabilities.
- In 2019 January, Calgary Alpha House Society launched a needle response team to pick up needles on public and private property on weekdays as an immediate measure in response to increasing reports of needle debris. This is part of OACT's development of a longer-term coordinated response to debris clean-up, and is funded by AHS. In addition, the Calgary Fire Department continues to respond to calls about needle debris outside business hours on public and private property where safety is a concern such as school yards and playgrounds.
- In 2019 January, Calgary Neighbourhoods announced funding for community organizations to support a wide range of programs and services to include funding for DOAP 2.0 (to be known as DOAP Downtown) to build relationships with downtown businesses on Stephen Avenue and in East Village, as well as coordinating access to medical, shelter, housing and addiction programs.

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- In 2019 January, shortly after the public release of the CPS report, AHS announced funding for an additional DOAP team, to be known as DOAP Beltline.

To help The City develop a set of immediate actions to address the specific concerns around the SCS site, Administration has asked City subject matter experts and external representatives to present to the SPC on Community and Protective Services. Presenters will provide information on the current context and perspectives on potential solutions.

The information and ideas discussed at the 2019 February 13 SPC on Community and Protective Services meeting will be considered along with other inputs as Administration develops recommendations on such actions, along with the opportunities, impacts and costs, as outlined in Notice of Motion C2019-0123. These recommendations will be presented to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than Q2 2019.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

Administration takes a One City approach to address issues of public safety and ensure safe and inspiring neighbourhoods. The current work to address social disorder and crime in the area includes Calgary Community Standards, Calgary Fire Department, Calgary Neighbourhoods, Calgary Parks, CPS, Calgary Transit, Corporate Security, Roads and Waste & Recycling. The City works collaboratively with its external partners, including other orders of government, social service providers, non-profits, business improvement areas, and neighbourhood and community groups. The panel discussion on 2019 February 13 will reflect a breadth of expertise and perspectives from within The City and in the community.

### **Strategic Alignment**

This report and the associated work align closely with the Council-approved Community Action on Mental Health and Addiction Notice of Motion C2018-0956. In response to observed trends in the community related to mental health, addictions, and citizen concerns about crime and social disorder, Council directed Administration to develop a community-wide mental health, addiction and crime prevention strategy and earmarked \$25M for the strategy. On 2019 January 30, Calgary Neighbourhoods announced \$3 million in funding for 19 community organizations to support a wide range of programs and services in 2019. Responding to public safety issues aligns with the following 2019-2022 Citizen Priorities: a prosperous city, a city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods, a healthy and green city, and a well-run city.

Responding to public safety issues near SCS sites aligns with the following 2019-2022 Council Directives:

- P3 – Revitalize the city's downtown core
- P4 – Enhance partnerships with other orders of government, the non-profit sector and businesses
- N1 – Work with community partners to address social issues
- H4 – Create communities that support healthy lifestyles and interaction amongst residents
- H6 – Make parks and green spaces a priority
- W1 – Speak in a collective voice that improves communication with Calgarians
- W2 – Work on improving the value of municipal services, eliminate service silos

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### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

Ensuring public safety near the Safeworks SCS site is critical to address social, environmental and economic impacts to individuals, families and communities. By working together with community partners and other orders of government, The City can take immediate action to mitigate public safety concerns that have been identified around the SCS site.

The information presented by external representatives and the public on 2019 February 13 will provide additional insight into the social, environmental and economic impact of this issue. Administration will provide a full assessment of the social, environmental and economic aspects associated with this report no later than Q2 2019.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### ***Current and Future Operating Budget:***

Notice of Motion C2019-0123 resolves to consider allocating a portion of the funds available through Council's Community Action for Mental Health and Addiction initiative towards actions identified to address public safety issues near Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre's SCS site. Administration will report back on this aspect of the Notice of Motion no later than Q2 2019.

#### ***Current and Future Capital Budget:***

There are no current or future capital budget implications to this report.

### **Risk Assessment**

The responsibility for promotion, prevention, and treatment related to mental health and addiction is being shared among the federal and provincial governments, the municipality, the non-profit and private sectors, and the community. Some of the activities that may be identified to address the public safety and social disorder issues near the SCS site may be outside the municipal mandate. Ongoing and clear communication and collaboration with external partners and stakeholders can help alleviate this risk.

### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The information and perspectives from Committee, City and external representatives and the public at the 2019 February 13 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services will inform the development of recommendations to respond to Notice of Motion C2019-0123 in Q2 2019.

### **ATTACHMENT**

Notion of Motion C2019-0123