

COMMITTEE REPORT

NO: **P003**

DATE: **April 11, 2016**

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE **April 11, 2016**

FROM: **Director, Public Safety Strategies**

FILE: **7450-30**

SUBJECT: **Public Safety Strategy Development – Update 2**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Department recommends that the Public Safety Committee receive this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to update the Public Safety Committee on the development of the City of Surrey Public Safety Strategy.

BACKGROUND

In December 2015, the City of Surrey began the development of a new Public Safety Strategy by hiring a Director, Public Safety Strategies. The intent of the new position is to provide additional focus to the integration of all public safety portfolios and City Departments in order to achieve results which align with Council's vision of increasing Public Safety in Surrey. Building on current service delivery models, the strategy will focus on enhancing program integration and effectiveness while also identifying and implementing new initiatives that reflect an innovative and progressive approach to public safety.

At the February 29, 2016 meeting of the Public Safety Committee, Mayor and Council endorsed the Public Safety Strategy Development Framework. The Public Safety Strategy will be "an evidence-based, collaborative approach to enhance liveability by addressing issues related to crime, personal safety, emergencies, disasters, road safety, and persistent social challenges." It will utilize a broad array of evidence-based strategic initiatives embedded in a "scorecard" approach that includes a clearly articulated vision, mission, and strategic themes that will be measurable with clear targets. The Strategy will clearly link to other strategic initiatives, specifically the Sustainability Charter, the Official Community Plan (OCP), and Surrey's commitment to innovation as demonstrated by the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge and Innovation Boulevard.

DISCUSSION

Public Safety Strategy Development – Work to Date

Once the strategy development framework was endorsed by Mayor and Council, the Public Safety Strategy Team undertook a number of steps to begin developing the model. To date the following has been completed:

1. *An extensive Public Consultation Plan has been implemented*

This includes attending five RCMP Community Forums to introduce the strategy and seek participant feedback. A number of focus groups will take place in April and May with target populations including youth, seniors, vulnerable groups, diverse groups, post-secondary students, and the general community. Through City Speaks we have also developed an online questionnaire.

2. *Leveraging Existing Initiatives*

The Public Safety Working Group has identified approximately 20 potential initiatives either underway or in development around the City. These initiatives are being reviewed to determine their viability as strategic initiatives. To be considered a strategic initiative they must be linked to one of our three draft Strategic Themes – Preventing and Reducing Crime; Ensuring Safe Places and Supporting Vulnerable Populations. Additionally they must be supported by the City, have a clear focus on public safety, and they must include measures and targets.

3. *Determining New Initiatives – Hosting Innovation Forums*

In addition to the above, we are also holding a number of Innovation Forums to address issues that are not currently being addressed. These include:

- *A Roundtable on Distressed Properties*
 - This event, scheduled for April 28, 2016, will bring a small number of senior City staff together for a one day event with researchers who have studied this issue. The day will be spent understanding the research, considering the Surrey context and determining next steps.
- *Integrated Services – Best Practices in Providing Services for Court Entrenched Offenders*
 - This event will allow researchers to come together with practitioners to look at the research and best practices on integrated services model. This event is intended to support the development of the Surrey Integrated Services Network, an option to community courts for ensuring adequate community supports to social chronic offenders who are heavily involved in the criminal justice system but are not receiving effective supports and interventions to move them away from offending.
- *The Role of Business Improvement Associations in Enhancing Public Safety*
 - This event, not yet scheduled, will bring together members of BIAs, City staff and the police to review the proactive role BIAs play in public safety. The focus will be on research and best practices in other locations and determining a plan for supporting Surrey BIAs in their commitment to public safety.

- *Homelessness and Public Safety*
 - This event, scheduled for late spring, will bring together practitioners and researchers to understand the link between homelessness and public safety including concerns about victimization of the homeless, links with the criminal justice system and the role of service providers.
- *Green City – Safe City: A Public Forum*
 - Research has indicated that the “greening” of cities, when done right, can have positive impacts on liveability and public safety. This forum will explore the research as well as current and potential new approaches in Surrey.

Next Steps

A key aspect of the work of the Public Safety Working Group over the next several weeks will be determining our key strategic initiatives as well as the forms of data that can be used to set measures and targets.

In addition several other tasks will take place between now and the launch date. These include:

Community Consultation	March – May 2016
Strategy Development (Preliminary Objectives, Measures, Initiatives)	April – June 2016
Public Safety Committee Update	June 20, 2016
Finalizing Strategy	July – August, 2016
Public Safety Committee Approval	September 19, 2016
Strategy Launch	October 2016

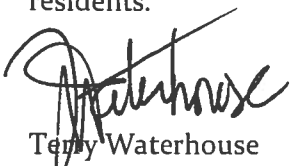
SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The development of the Public Safety Strategy supports overall objectives of the City’s Sustainability Charter specifically, creating a safe and secure environment for the City’s residents, businesses and visitors. The priorities and objectives outlined in the framework are well aligned with the following Charter action items:

- SC5: Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents
- SC11: Public Safety and Security; and
- SC17: Crime Reduction Strategy

CONCLUSION

The development of the Public Safety Strategy for the City of Surrey will serve to optimize all public safety resources available to the City of Surrey. Additionally, it supports the development and implementation of an overall strategic vision ensuring the safety and well-being of all City residents.



Terry Waterhouse
Director, Public Safety Strategies

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