

Present:

Councillor Stutt, Chair
Councillor Kooner, Vice Chair
P. McEvoy
P. Richards
R. Rai

Absent:

S. Dooley

Staff Present:

P. Sanderson, Manager Strategic Planning & Responses, Social Infrastructure & Community Investment (SICI)
A. Ordeman, Director, Police Support Services, Corporate Services
A. Murphy, Housing & Social Development Manager, SICI
T. Ahmad, Senior Project and Policy Lead, SICI
B. Aasebo, Community Safety Manager, SICI
R. Kang, Community Safety Lead, SICI
H. Mushiana, Community Programs Planner, SICI
L. Thomas, Fire Chief, Surrey Fire Service
G. Yeung, Legislative Services Coordinator
J. Sung, Legislative Services Coordinator
V. Ng, Legislative Services Assistant

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by Councillor Kooner
Seconded by R. Rai
That the agenda of the Public Safety Committee
(PSC) meeting of June 26, 2024, be adopted.
Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes – May 22, 2024

It was Moved by P. McEvoy
Seconded by Councillor Kooner
That minutes of the Public Safety Committee
meeting of May 22, 2024, be adopted.
Carried

B. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**1. Integrated Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update**

P. Sanderson, Manager Strategic Planning Responses, SICI

The following information was highlighted:

- As recommended by the Public Safety Committee, a Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) Plan was initiated to respond to changing policy landscape, increase access to existing City safety programs and services, increase integration of programs, and create new programs for evolving community needs. A cross departmental working group is drafting the CSWB Plan for Council's consideration at the end of this year, based on findings from multiple departments' community engagement. The plan will recommend for expansion of existing programs or creation of new programs.
- Community safety and wellbeing is achieved when physical safety, psychological safety, and cultural safety are established. Feeling of community safety is a result of social cohesion and sense of belonging to the community.
- Staff engaged with over 3200 residents using trauma informed approach, ensuring that people are comfortable sharing difficult experiences. The engagement result was then compared with past City engagements to find common themes.
 - The engagement found that major reasons for people to live in Surrey include existing community connections, affordable living, cultural diversity, and social support.
 - Surrey felt safe to residents because of supportive community and availability of housing and programs.
 - Surrey felt less safe to residents because of news regarding crime, racism, discrimination, and transportation safety concerns.
 - Surrey residents are asking for services such as employment support and community social activities.
 - People with limited ability or complex needs have difficulty obtaining support services.
 - The respondents felt that Surrey can be made to feel safer by increasing crime prevention, having trauma-informed frontline staff, increasing diversity in services staff, and increasing community connection.
- CSWB Plan will fit into the broader directions of Official Community Plan which is being updated in 2026. SICI is developing a social infrastructure strategy in tandem of CSWB Plan. Both strategies will have measurable components to evaluate impact of programs and investment.

In response to questions from the Committee, the staff provided the following information:

- Transportation safety concerns are regarding the travelling to and from transit stations on foot, wait time at transit stations, and overcrowding. Improvement to transportation routes requires long length of time, but small incremental changes can be done.
- There is already cooperation between City staff and Fire Service on program promotion and continued support. There are plans to help residents to become familiar with services that are not 911, and thereby empowering community relationships and block cohesiveness.
- CWSB engagement hosted booths at events to obtain resident input. They also obtained input from within senior advocate groups.
- Urban indigenous needs were heard in the engagement. SICI will form a division to better serve the urban indigenous population.
- One of the focus groups surveyed was an international student group. The CWSB plan will cross-inform the international student group and Focus Newton Taskforce to keep them updated in regards to the plan.

The Committee noted the following comments:

- City programs could be advertised in Discover Surrey publication.

2. **Community Safety Programming Update**

R. Kang, Community Safety Lead and H. Mushiana, Community Programs Planner, SICI

The following information was highlighted:

- Situation tables are models that identify risk and develop a collaborative multi-agency support. The goal for situation table is to reduce the risk of harm, criminality, or victimization in individuals or families. The need for situation table arose from the service gap between law enforcement and community services.
- Surrey Mobilization & Resiliency Table (SMART) assists vulnerable adults to provide them with service connections, mental health support, housing, or help with drug abuse. SMART obtains referrals from different agencies; it has helped with over 600 cases since its inception in 2015. Majority of referred cases are female.
- Children & Youth At-Risk Table (CHART) assists vulnerable children, youth, and their families. CHART has received over 800 referrals since its inception in 2019 and referred cases are increasing yearly. CHART is building new relationships with agencies and expanding capacity of existing partners to support the increasing cases.

- Top risk factors for cases in CHART are family dysfunction, negative peers, mental health issues, low school attachment, and poor school performance. Data that CHART collects is used for the City to identify service gaps and changing community needs.
- Surrey Youth Resiliency Program (SYRP) started in 2023, funded through the Building Safer Communities Fund. SYRP has 8 partners that help them deliver prevention and intervention programs; the programs contribute to the SAFE program coverage. Key priorities that they have identified include culturally appropriate programming, after school activities, trauma counselling, and one-on-one mentorship. SYRP supported over 850 children, youth, and their caregivers in the first year.
- SAFE will be supported by the City starting in 2024. SAFE is broadening its scope to include families, mental health, healthy relationships, culturally appropriate supports, and youth resiliency. The program is looking for proposals to fund for three years that align with the identified priorities.
- A comprehensive study was done on challenges that international students face. It was found that there are issues with general lack of knowledge on legal rights, unawareness of community resources, lack of mental health support, unhealthy coping mechanisms, and exploitation. Specific programming for international students will be put forward in the Fall for review.

In response to questions from the Committee, the staff provided the following information:

- There are some programs that have significant waitlist for child and youth mental health programs. SAFE supports people waitlisted in Child & Youth Mental Health Intake Clinics by providing counsellors until they are accepted into programming.

Chair recognized Community Safety Manager to speak from members of public seating.

- The original table that was associated with the five-year Federal funding agreement has been dissolved. A table encompassing broader programs and agencies will be created in the near future and it is open for Public Safety Committee members to attend.
- SAFE program covers age group from 6 to 19 years old. SYRP can cover the age group up to 24 years old. People that come into the program that are 18 to 19 years old are connected to SMART because there are more programs that support adults there. There aren't programs that specifically transition youths to adults but there is a system to transfer people from CHART to SMART. It is recognized that transitioning from high school to adulthood is more difficult than transitioning from elementary to high school.

Chair recognized Manager Strategic Planning & Responses, Social Infrastructure & Community Investment to speak.

- There is a broad range of mental health issues that youths are experiencing including anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, drugs, isolation, loneliness, social media, bullying, and exploitation. There is a trend across Canada of increasing number of youths requiring hospitalization and medication for mental health issues.
- The revamped SAFE program in 2025 will have a focus on healing the family system to eliminate the root cause of many youth mental health challenges. The new programs will boost youth resiliency, heal their mental health, and supporting their family systems.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Verbal Update on Freshet, Drought, Wildfire and Coastal Fire Burning Bans** *L. Thomas, Fire Chief, Surrey Fire Service*

The following information was highlighted:

- The City contracted US National Weather Service to provide daily climate updates.
- El Niño event is when warmer southern hemisphere ocean water moves to northern hemisphere and causes Pacific Jetstream to move South. This results in warmer and dryer climate in North America. Canada has been under the influence of El Niño for at least five years now, causing numerous radical weather events.
- La Niña event is when warmer ocean water moves to southern hemisphere. This results in colder and wetter climate in North America, which is the traditional weather pattern for the region. US National Weather Service predicts that there is a 65% chance of La Niña event occurring in Fall 2024. There is no concern of freshet as snowpack has diminished over the years. Low risk of atmospheric river as La Niña will reduce the risk of such event.
- Drought is a concern due to low snowpack, early low elevation snowmelt, persistent dry conditions, and above normal seasonal temperature. Typically, southern coastal BC experiences level one drought from May to October. Northeast BC is currently in serious drought condition where numerous wildfires are burning. 2024 is considered to be relatively normal in rainfall amount compared to 2023.
- Current coastal fire prohibition, effective May 17, allows category one fire which is campfire the size of two feet by two feet by two feet on provincial public land. Municipalities may have different fire prohibition in place; Surrey does not allow open burning anywhere. The two currently banned categories are category two which is bonfire and category three which is burning of local material.

In response to questions from the Committee, the staff provided the following information:

- Crescent beach area has multiple jurisdictions, information will be distributed to residents and visitors to clarify the responsible authority for fire ban infraction.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Round Table Discussion

- Chair attended the board meeting for Metro Vancouver Transit Police where the community groups requested police presence on Skytrain platform or in train cars. Chair is recommending that this community request be heard at Council-in-Committee.
- There is concern about open drug use causing the community to feel unsafe.
- The committee Chair is looking to invite Surrey Police Service to participate in future meetings.
- The committee is reviewing the City granting process to ensure funded projects/programs are aligned with City priorities and objectives and City funds are used for defined activities with associated measurables.
- Committee requested a future presentation on the effects of various common drugs.
- 911 emergency number is being upgraded to enable IP tracking that allows the operator to pinpoint distress call location in a 3-dimensional space. Broad band network will also allow callers to send picture to the 911 number and operator will be able to send the image to first responders.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by P. McEvoy
Seconded by P. Richards
That the Public Safety Committee meeting

be adjourned.

Carried

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Jennifer Ficocelli
City Clerk and Director Legislative Services

Councillor Stutt, Chairperson