

**Present:**

Councillor Kooner, Chair  
Councillor Stutt, Vice Chair  
A. Krilow  
C. Iszak  
M. Mubanda  
N. Atwal

**Absent:**

J. Cuenca  
J. Gosal

**Staff Present:**

T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Social Infrastructure & Community Investments  
C. Brown, Manager, Non-Market Housing & Homelessness Services, Social Infrastructure & Community Investments  
S. Lee, Legislative Services Manager  
G. Yeung, Legislative Services Coordinator

**Guests:**

M. Iwerma, President, The Nigeria-Canada Association of BC  
E. Onukwulu, Former President, The Nigerian-Canada Association of BC

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**A. ADOPTIONS**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by Councillor Stutt  
Seconded by M. Mubanda  
That the agenda of the Livability and Social  
Equity Committee meeting held on October 16, 2024, be adopted.  
Carried

**2. Adoption of the Minutes – June 19, 2024**

It was Moved by M. Mubanda  
Seconded by Councillor Stutt  
That the minutes of the Livability and Social  
Equity Committee meeting held on June 19, 2024, be adopted.  
Carried

N. Atwal joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

**B. DELEGATION****1. Equity and Inclusion Initiatives**

Mike Iwerima, President, The Nigeria-Canada Association of BC, provided a presentation regarding equity and inclusion initiatives aimed to empower and unite the Black community. The following information was highlighted:

- A moment of silence was observed at the beginning of the meeting for six members of the Nigerian community who passed away in the past month. Families of these six members are in need of social, emotional, and financial support including accommodation, employment and residency status. The Nigeria-Canada Association of BC will be applying for the Council Initiatives Fund in hopes of providing aid to the six families.
- Equity and inclusion initiatives were proposed to help integrate the Nigerian community into Surrey for community cohesion and prosperity. Challenges include funding, opportunities, access to information and grants, visibility and screening processes. Diversity training programs focusing on cultural competency, anti-racism, and bias recognition support inclusive environments while mentorship programs fostering network opportunities and career development can lead to more successful job placements and internships.
- Economic empowerment strategies presented include collaboration with financial institutions to create accessible micro-loans and grants for Black-owned businesses, workshops covering topics related to business planning, marketing, and financial literacy, and establishing a mentorship network. Proposed programs to promote education and youth development include scholarships, after-school programs, and curriculum collaboration to incorporate diverse perspectives.
- Community engagement and partnerships with the City of Surrey have helped to create visibility and a sense of belonging to the society for the Nigerian community. Key efforts to address social justice and racial equality issues include community outreach, resource centres that provide legal-aid, counselling and support, and partnerships with local organizations to advocate for policy changes.
- With continued support from the City of Surrey, the Nigeria-Canada Association of BC proposes to hold a flag-raising ceremony and proclamation for Nigeria on October 1, host annual celebratory events, and establish a Nigerian House to bring social cohesion, equity, and recognition.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- The Committee suggested connecting the family members of the six deceased with the Ministry of Children and Family Development for assistance. However, residency status would need to be granted before accessing services.
- The Committee welcomes members of the Nigerian community to apply to City of Surrey committees relevant to their areas of interests and expertise.

## C. STAFF PRESENTATION

### 1. A Pathway to Home: Surrey Homelessness Prevention and Response Plan

Non-Market Housing and Homelessness Services Manager, Social Infrastructure and Community Investments, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding A Pathway to Home: Surrey Homelessness Prevention and Response Plan. The following information was highlighted:

- Surrey's Homelessness Plan is focused on the portion of the Housing Continuum that includes shelters, supportive housing, and non-market rental, with a vision to achieve a functional end to homelessness in Surrey, defined by no recurring or long-lasting homelessness.
- There are nine guiding principles to the Surrey Homelessness Prevention and Response Plan with the priority being Housing for All, alongside the City as champion, government level partnerships, reconciliation and indigenous-led housing solutions, and coordinated responses across networks. Approaches and solutions are person-centred, data and evidence driven, focusing on prevention, and early intervention. There will be ongoing monitoring of implementation progress.
- According to the 2023 Point-in-Time Homeless Count, the City of Surrey had the second highest prevalence of homelessness in the region with 1,060 people, which is believed to be an undercount. There has been considerable increase since 2005 and is projected to reach 2,020 people by 2029 without significant interventions.
- Surrey remains underserved with approximately 1 non-market unit per 134 residents, compared with 1 non-market unit per 59 residents in the rest of the region. Rapid increase in affordable and supportive housing is required to address this critical shortage.
- Surrey's Homelessness Plan is developed within the framework of existing plans and policies at the federal and provincial levels, embedded in the Official Community Plan, complemented by the Affordable Housing Strategy and Housing Needs Report, and informed by the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee and Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls Report.

- The Plan is comprised of a situation report, engagement summary report, and the Surrey Prevention and Response Plan which outlines goals, objectives, actions, and an implementation framework. An estimated 2,326 new spaces or units are needed in Surrey by 2029 to address homelessness.
- The Plan is broken down into 7 strategic goals containing 19 objectives each with a series of city-led actions, organized under four themes: process, partnership, support, and policy. Each of the 60 actions identifies a City Division as the implementation lead or other essential partners. The implementation framework serves as a structured roadmap to guide the City to deliver the strategic goals over the next five years with a majority of the actions under the ongoing and short-term category.

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

- There is a 55 cap on business licenses available for supportive recovery homes. The 55 cap was established by Council and can be changed. Supportive recovery homes require a business license.
- In contrast to supportive recovery homes, supportive housing is typically built by BC Housing. BC Housing selects a non-profit housing provider as an operator who will operate the housing and provide wrap around support services to residents.
- With regards to the Point-in-Time Count being understood to be an undercount, it is important to note that this count is conducted at one point in time every three years. The count is undertaken by volunteers for a large geographic area (all of Surrey). Respondents answer questions that will identify them as being homeless. People who are experiencing hidden homelessness, such as those who may be couch surfing or staying with friends or family, are generally not captured by the count.
- Approximately 30% of the respondents in the homelessness count identify as Indigenous.
- Names or identifying information is not collected in the Point-in-Time Count, therefore, the Count does not allow for tracking how many people are coming into or leaving homelessness.
- The targeted number of new spaces to be created by 2029 does not reflect the undercount. However, it does include the replacement of approximately 160 temporary or substandard shelter spaces that could close by 2026.

- Currently, there is a rental redevelopment policy that guides what can happen when an existing rental site is being redeveloped. The policy aims to protect the tenants through relocation and compensation and to replace the existing rental units within the new development. Bill 16, recently introduced by the Province, will allow tenant protections to be embedded into a bylaw as opposed to a policy.
- As there is no specific mandate in BC for municipalities related to housing or shelters, the City's primary role is to understand the issue and advocate to BC Housing, and the provincial and federal governments, to provide funding to build, replace or update shelter spaces and provide permanent housing solutions.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- It was requested that a presentation be given to the Committee on how the 55 cap is determined with the purpose of providing a recommendation to Council to update it as appropriate

#### D. OTHER BUSINESS

##### 1. 2025 Meeting Schedule

The 2025 Meeting Schedule for the Livability and Social Committee was presented.

It was Moved by Councillor Stutt  
Seconded by A. Krilow  
That the Livability and Social Equity Committee  
receive the 2025 meeting schedule as presented.  
Carried

##### 2. 2025 Annual Work Plan

General Manager, Social Infrastructure and Community Investments, summarized the 2025 Annual Work Plan for the Livability and Social Equity Committee. The following information was highlighted:

- Each year the Committee reviews the work that has been done and provides updates to confirm priorities for the upcoming year. The proposed Annual Work Plan outlines themes, external delegations, and topics for staff presentations to LSEC as a mechanism to provide advice and recommendations to Council for possible future actions.

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

- The Fraser Health Authority can be invited as an external delegation to present on relevant topics.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- It was recommended that the Surrey Healthier Community Partnerships provide a list of accomplishments highlighting the goals they have achieved from their plans.
- It was recommended to schedule another joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee to share perspectives on overlapping topics such as, actions being taken by law enforcement teams.
- It was requested that the Fire Chief be invited to give a presentation on second responders, relevant statistics, and resources utilized by various groups.

It was Moved by N. Atwal  
 Seconded by C. Iszak  
 That the Livability and Social Equity Committee:

1. Support the 2025 Annual Work Plan; and
2. Recommend that Council endorse the 2025 Annual Work Plan as presented.  
Carried

**3. Civic Distinction Awards Ceremony**

General Manager, Social Infrastructure and Community Investments, provided a memo which invites the members of the Livability and Social Equity Committee to attend the Civic Distinction Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at Surrey City Hall Atrium and Council Chambers.

It was Moved by A. Krilow  
 Seconded by M. Mubanda  
 That the Livability and Social Equity Committee receive the memo dated October 7, 2024 for information.  
Carried

**E. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Livability and Social Equity Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by N. Atwal

Seconded by M. Mubanda

That the Livability and Social Equity

Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The Livability and Social Equity Committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Jennifer Ficocelli,  
City Clerk and Director Legislative Services

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Councillor Kooner, Chairperson

**LIVABILITY AND SOCIAL EQUITY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION INDEX  
Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

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**1. 2025 Annual Work Plan**

The Committee recommends that Council receive the 2025 Annual Work Plan as presented.