

RESPONSE TO HEALTH, SOCIAL SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES

BACKGROUND

Council Direction

- At the 2017-MAY-29 Public Hearing, Nanaimo City Council defeated the proposal to rezone 437 Wesley Street to allow a supervised consumption site
- Council directed Staff to prepare a report on short, medium and long-term responses to the concerns regarding social issues raised by residents at the Public Hearing

Consultation Process

- City Staff interviewed every merchant individually in the downtown core
- City held three open public forums: two for businesses, one for residents
- Ongoing dialogue with service providers, RCMP, Island Health, Bylaws, and School District

Top Concerns and Priorities of Businesses and Citizens

- Personal safety
- Cleanliness of city centre: garbage, discarded syringes
- Lack of information flow within the business community
- Petty theft and vandalism
- Public defecation/urination
- Open substance and alcohol use
- Extreme behaviours in public areas by inebriated/mentally ill individuals
- Congregations of users accompanied by aggressive and intimidating behaviours directed at shoppers, merchants, residents, and tourists
- Problematic public spaces (Diana Krall Plaza, Quennel Square!!!!)

Current Responses

- Enhanced Footprints security patrols
- (9 am to 8 pm; 11 pm to 8 am)
- Enhanced clean up by Urban Clean-up Initiative (John Howard Society)
- Additional safe sharps disposal boxes
- Frequent RCMP patrols

Proposed Responses to Health, Social, Safety and Security Issues

CATEGORIES	RESPONSES /ACTIONS	PRIMARY LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME*	PRIORITY	\$
Housing	Provision of a short term supported housing solution, such as modular homes on City land	BC Housing, CoN	NGOs	Immediate	High	
	Go after more supportive housing across the full continuum	CoN, BC Housing		Medium term	High	
	Incremental increase of shelter beds	BC Housing	Shelter operators	Medium term	High	
	Provision of temporary camping options for small numbers in various locations coupled with support and security services	CoN	Island Health, RCMP, Bylaw Enforcement	Immediate	Moderate	
	Continue to pursue affordable housing opportunities	BC Housing	CoN, NGOs	Medium term	High	
Education	Prevention, education and awareness in school curriculum	SD68		Medium term	High	
Health	Service enhancements – outreach services, peer support network	Island Health		Immediate	High	
Services	Support provision of Supervised Consumption Sites at a range of possible locations	Island Health / CoN	NGO	Immediate	High	
	Provision of a daytime space for street people to access	Homelessness Coalition/ CoN / Island Health	NGO's	Immediate	High	

* Immediate = Less than 1 year Medium-term = 1 – 4 years Long-term = 5+ years

Public Safety Committee, November 2, 2017

Proposed Responses to Health, Social, Safety and Security Issues

CATEGORIES	RESPONSES /ACTIONS	PRIMARY LEAD	PARTNERS	TIMEFRAME*	PRIORITY	\$
Services (cont.)	Look for opportunities to provide services and supports to the street involved population in a variety of locations	CoN	Island Health, NGO's	Medium term	Moderate	
	Provision of "who to call", homeless services directory and Safe Streets Act condensed version for merchants and residents	CoN	RCMP, Bylaw Enforcement	Immediate	Moderate	
Public Realm / Built Environment	Urban Clean up team Increased power washing of sidewalks downtown and more frequent street sweeping	CoN	Nanaimo Region John Howard Society	Immediate	Moderate	
	Provision of more toilets downtown	CoN	Porta Potty rental	Immediate	High	
	Focused efforts to enhance the downtown for residents and visitors	CoN	Business community	Medium term	High	
	Programmatic and built form enhancements; e.g. Diana Krall Square	CoN	Library	Medium term	High	
	CPTED Modifications to school site	SD68	CoN, RCMP	Medium term	High	
Safety / Security	Increase security patrols downtown; RCMP foot patrol in the downtown core	CoN, RCMP	Private security firms	Immediate	High	
	Revitalize the CPSO in the downtown	CoN		Immediate	High	

* Immediate = Less than 1 year Medium-term = 1 – 4 years Long-term = 5+ years

Public Safety Committee, November 2, 2017