

DATE OF MEETING MAY 16, 2022

AUTHORED BY DALE LINDSAY, GENERAL MANAGER, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
/ DEPUTY CAO

**SUBJECT DOWNTOWN NANAIMO COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN
UPDATE**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with the Final Report of the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan detailing the findings of the security review and recommendations presented to Council at the 2022-APR-20 Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.

Recommendation

That Council receive the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan.

BACKGROUND

In recognition of ongoing challenges with social disorder in the downtown, Council previously allocated funds to complete a Safety and Security Review of the City Core.

Neilson Strategies was engaged to complete this work, and has met with local stakeholders and reviewed approaches taken by other communities experiencing similar challenges and presented their findings and recommendations at the 2022-APR-20 Finance and Audit Committee.

The Finance and Audit Committee moved and seconded a recommendation that Council add full implementation of the proposed Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan to the 2022-2026 Financial Plan effective 2022-JUL-01. The final 2022-2026 Financial Plan was brought forward at the 2022-MAY-09 Council Meeting for adoption.

DISCUSSION

The Consultants have presented the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan Final Report for approval by Council. This is a long term plan which provides pragmatic actions designed to make Downtown Nanaimo and surrounding areas safe for residents, visitors, businesses, and persons in need which will achieve tangible decreases in public disorder; anticipate and address the needs of businesses; improve the perception of Downtown; and ensure that vulnerable citizens feel treated with compassion, respect, and dignity; and, receive assistance in connecting with available community services.

The safety plan complements the efforts of the Systems Planning Organization and individual community service agencies aimed at helping to address the health (broadly defined) and housing needs of vulnerable populations, as well as the myriad of root causes which give rise to situations of need.

Implementation of the Plan will include funding for a number of new and augmented programs, services and initiatives to meet these goals which include;

- 12 Community Safety Officers (CSOs)
- 2 Permanent Community Clean Teams
- 4 Parks Ambassadors (2022 only)
- A Vandalism Relief Grant
- Additional Downtown Parkade Cleaning
- A Downtown Ambassador Program
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments of Public Spaces

Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan Update

As per the recommendations in the report, an Inter-Departmental Working Group has been created for the implementation of the Action Plan and has been meeting regularly to allow for implementation to proceed without delay.

Job descriptions are being developed for the new Community Safety Officers, Park Ambassadors, and Clean Team positions. The procurement process is underway for the new vehicles and equipment, and supplies have been ordered to repaint downtown road curbs. Training, uniforms, and equipment needs are being determined. First rounds of training for frontline parks and sanitation staff have been delivered. |

OPTIONS

1. That Council receive the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan.
 - The advantages of this option: The Plan provides a framework for a governance structure, spaces and asset strategies and tiered responses to address safety and public disorder in the Downtown.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
 - Financial Implications: The annual operating cost of the fully implemented plan is approximately \$2.5 Million.
2. That Council provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Downtown Safety Plan and Security Review has been completed.
- Full implementation of the Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan has been approved by Council and added to the 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan.
- The Downtown Nanaimo Community Safety Action Plan Final Report has been received for acceptance and approval by Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Downtown Nanaimo Safety Action Plan Final Report |

Submitted by:

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development Services /
Deputy CAO |

Concurrence by:

Jake Rudolph
Chief Administrative Officer |