

DATE OF MEETING March 3, 2025

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**SUBJECT 2024 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Council with the 2024 Public Safety Committee Annual Report and seek Council's direction on which themes should be prioritized by the Committee in 2025.

### **Recommendation**

That Council identify themes and initiatives that should be prioritized by the Public Safety Committee in 2025 based on the Public Safety Committee Workplan 2024 to 2026 and direct Staff to update the workplan accordingly and report back to the Public Safety Committee.

## **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Public Safety Committee (the Committee) is to provide a forum for engaged citizens to discuss concerns and propose solutions that would serve to enhance safety and security within the City of Nanaimo. The Committee advises Council on strategic, and policy initiatives related to the City's provision of public safety programs, with a goal of maintaining and enhancing a safe and healthy community.

As per the City's Committee Operating Guidelines, Staff are providing Council with an annual report outlining the activities of the Committee for 2024.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Committee is comprised of eleven voting members, two members of Council and nine members-at-large. The following individuals are members of the Committee:

- Councillor Armstrong, Chair
- Councillor Eastmure, Co-chair
- James Bowen
- Scott Brodie
- Kim Coulthard
- Doug Cowling
- Destiny Herman
- Kevin Lambert
- Collen Middleton
- Jennifer Millbank
- Ruth Taylor

The Committee held six meetings in 2024 and considered the following topics:

Presentations:

- Committee Orientation/Meeting Procedures
- 2024 Public Safety Statistics, Nanaimo RCMP
- Community Safety and Wellbeing, Nanaimo Fire Rescue Statistics
- Community Safety and Wellbeing, City of Nanaimo Initiatives and Programs
- FireSmart
- Introduction of Superintendent Andrew Burton, Officer in Charge, Nanaimo RCMP

Delegations:

- Improving Pedestrian Safety in the South End

Reports:

- Public Safety Committee Terms of Reference
- 30 Km/h Speed Limits Near Elementary Schools
- Draft Public Safety Committee Term Work Plan
- Updated Draft Public Safety Committee Work Plan
- Verbal Update re: Drop-In Hub Service
- Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program Overview
- City of Nanaimo Liquor Control Strategy

### **Public Safety Committee Work Plan 2024 to 2026**

The Public Safety Committee Work Plan 2024 to 2026 (Attachment A) was adopted by the Committee on 2024-OCT-09, and later by Council at the Regular Council Meeting on 2024-OCT-21. This plan serves as the foundation for annual work plans from 2024 to 2026. It includes initiatives that are intended to be both achievable and within the Committee's scope. Additionally, while the work plan outlines priority rankings for each initiative, these rankings do not necessarily determine how quickly an initiative will be considered or addressed, as other factors must also be considered. The Committee members can provide input on additional initiatives or areas of interest throughout the term, if they are consistent with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

The initiative themes include:

- Transportation Safety
- Crime Prevention (City)
- Homelessness, Addiction, and Community Impacts
- Health and Wellness
- Advocacy
- Education

Public safety issues are complex and often fall outside municipal control. Given the Committee's broad work plan, and the limited time available during meetings, it can be challenging to focus on specific items for discussion and provide recommendations to Council.

Staff are seeking direction from Council on which themes and work plan items identified by the Committee should be prioritized for 2025. |

## **OPTIONS**

1. | That Council identify themes and initiatives that should be prioritized by the Public Safety Committee in 2025 based on the Public Safety Committee Workplan 2024 to 2026 and direct Staff to update the workplan accordingly and report back to the Public Safety Committee.
  - The advantages of this option: it meets the annual report requirement set out in the City of Nanaimo's Committee Operating Guidelines and will help to prioritize the Committee's public safety themes and initiatives for 2025.
  - The disadvantages of this option: by prioritizing themes and initiatives for 2025, other public safety initiatives may be delayed until 2026.
  - Financial Implications: depending on themes and initiatives prioritized, there may be budget considerations including Staff time, supplies, or additional funding required.
  
2. That Council provide alternate direction. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The 2024 Public Safety Committee Annual Report provides an overview of the Committee's activities for 2024.
- The Public Safety Committee Work Plan 2024 to 2026 was adopted by the Committee on 2024-OCT-09, and later by Council at the Regular Council Meeting on 2024-OCT-21.
- Staff are seeking direction from Council on which themes and initiatives identified by the Committee should be prioritized for 2025.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A: Public Safety Committee Work Plan 2024 to 2026 |

### **Submitted by:**

Christy Wood  
Manager, Social Planning

### **Concurrence by:**

Dave LaBerge  
Director, Public Safety

Richard Harding, General Manager,  
Community Services/Deputy CAO |