

FOR: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING DATE: February 11, 2026
DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC SAFETY
SUBJECT: **2025 Public Safety Committee Annual Report**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide the 2025 Public Safety Committee Annual Report to Mayor and Council for review. |

Recommendation

That the Public Safety Committee recommends that Council review and accept the 2025 Public Safety Committee Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

The Public Safety Committee (the Committee) provides a forum for community input and advises Council on public safety policies and initiatives to support a safe and healthy Nanaimo.

As per the City's Committee Operating Guidelines, and on behalf of the Committee, Staff are submitting an annual report to Council. |

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 four meetings in 2025 and considered the following topics in alignment with the Committee’s Terms of Reference (Attachment A) and the 2024 – 2026 Workplan (Attachment B):

Presentations:

- Save our Streets Communities Driving Change Forum Highlights and Overview – Dave LaBerge, Director, Public Safety, Karen Kuwica, Save Our Streets, and Jess Ketchum, Save Our Streets
- RCMP Nanaimo Detachment Priorities 2024 – 2025 – Eric Rochette, Inspector, Nanaimo RCMP
- Nanaimo Fire Rescue Priorities for 2025 – Tim Doyle, Fire Chief
- Public Safety Department 2024 Overview – Dave LaBerge, Director, Public Safety

Reports:

- Community Resilience Early Warning System (CREWS) – Dave LaBerge, Director, Public Safety, Adnan Ansari, Executive Director, Muflehun, and Humer Khan, Technical Lead, Muflehun
- Update re: Drop-in Hub – Christy Wood, Manager, Social Planning
- Pedestrian Infrastructure Upgrade Priorities – Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation

Other Business:

- Neighbourhood Safety Audits – Dan Hopkins, Community Policing Coordinator
- RCMP Detachment Priorities for 2025 – Rob Graves, Staff Sergeant, Nanaimo RCMP
- Social Issues and GIS Data Mapping – Christy Wood, Manager, Social Planning
- Public Safety Committee Survey – Sheryl Armstrong, Councillor
- Drop-in Hub: Overview of Mitigation Strategies and Impact on Neighbourhood – Christy Wood, Manager, Social Planning
- Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy: Building Safer Communities Fund – Christy Wood, Manager, Social Planning
- Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming – Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
- City Staff Engagement Related to Public Safety and Street Disorder – Ruth Taylor, Member-at-Large
- Solutions for Public Congregation Near the Hub – Ruth Taylor, Member-at-Large
- Future Committee Direction – Sheryl Armstrong, Councillor
- Committee and Staff Discussions – Homelessness response, HEARTH Housing model, and integration of individuals with substance use disorder in housing projects

Table One: Summary of Workplan Actions (2025)

Themes	2025 Committee Actions
Transportation Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided input on Pedestrian Infrastructure Upgrade Priorities • Provided input on the Lost Lake Road Traffic Calming project
Crime Prevention (City)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided input on 2025 policing priorities • Received information on Community Early Warning System (CREWS) • Received information on Neighbourhood Safety Audits and related City-led crime prevention programs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input requested on Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy sustainability
Homelessness, Addiction and Community Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided input on Drop-in Hub operations and neighbourhood impacts • Received information on engagement related to public safety and street disorder • Provided input on solutions for congregation in public spaces • Recommended that Council direct Staff to provide regular updates on the Drop-in Hub to the Committee for ongoing input
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored through related Committee discussions
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received information on Save our Streets Communities Driving Change Forum
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received information on Fire Rescue Priorities for 2025 • Received information on addressing social issues through GIS data mapping

Proposed Future Meeting Topics:

- Ongoing updates on the Drop-in Hub
- Review of findings from the Community Resilience Early Warning System (CREWS)
- Direction received from Council on matters requiring Committee feedback
- Other items consistent with the Committee’s Terms of Reference and 2024–2026 Work Plan

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Annual Report is submitted by Staff as required by the City’s Committee Operating Guidelines and does not require a statutory notification or further community engagement.

ALIGNMENT WITH CITY PLAN

The report is aligned with the following City goals:

- ☒ A Connected Nanaimo: Equitable Access and Mobility
 - C2.2 Integrated Walk, Roll, Cycle & Transit Network
 - C2.4 Safe Mobility
- ☒ A Healthy Nanaimo: Community Wellbeing and Livability
 - C3.1 Community Safety & Security
 - C3.2 Affordable Housing
 - C3.5 Emergency Management
- ☒ An Empowered Nanaimo: Reconciliation, Representation and Inclusion
 - C4.3 Access for All
 - C4.4 Political Voice and Engagement

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The report is aligned with the following Council Strategic Framework priorities:

- Social, Health and Public Safety Challenges
- Communicating with the Community

OPTIONS

1. That the Public Safety Committee recommends that Council review and accept the 2025 Public Safety Committee Annual Report.

- The advantages of this option: it meets the annual report requirements set out in the City's Committee Operating Guidelines
- The disadvantages of this option: None
- Financial Implications: None

2. That the Public Safety Committee provide alternate recommendations.

KEY MESSAGES

- The 2025 Public Safety Committee Annual Report provides Council with an overview of the Committee's activities and progress on its approved workplan.
- The Public Safety Committee's 2025 workplan actions focused on the following key themes, transportation safety, crime prevention, homelessness, addiction, community impacts, advocacy, and education.
- Proposed future meeting topics include ongoing Drop-in Hub updates, findings from the Community Resilience Early Warning System (CREWS), matters referred by Council, and other items aligned with the Committee's Terms of Reference and 2024–2026 Work Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Terms of Reference: Public Safety Committee

ATTACHMENT B: Public Safety Committee Workplan 2024-2026

Authored by:

Christy Wood
Manager, Social Development

Concurrence by:

Dave LaBerge
Director, Public Safety

Lisa Bhopalsingh
**General Manager Community Services &
Deputy CAO**