

## Safety framework and priorities set for Bylaw Services 2018 operational plan

(Penticton BC – March 7, 2018) – The City of Penticton’s Bylaw Services Department has laid out its operational plan for 2018 which includes the announcement of a Community Safety Framework and the creation of seven priority areas to focus on and deploy resources.

Presented during Council’s Regular meeting held March 6, 2018, a new Community Safety Framework emphasises the important role partnerships play in addressing health and safety concerns, with all levels of government playing an important role in identifying and implementing solutions.

“Solutions start with partnerships between organizations with common concerns who contribute resources towards joint strategies and mutual goals”, said Bylaw Supervisor, Tina Siebert. “The Community Safety Framework presented to Council emphasises the specific role that Bylaw Services plays locally within these partnerships and how, by working together, we can better address issues associated with health and safety.”

To operationalize their portion of the framework’s vision, Bylaw Services has placed priority on the following seven bylaws – Good Neighbour, Park Bylaw, Traffic Bylaw, Controlled Substance Property Remediation Bylaw, Business License Bylaw, Building Bylaw and Pawnbrokers Second-Hand and Auction Houses Bylaw.

“The decisions involving which bylaws to focus on were informed through discussions with community stakeholders during the February 8, 2018 Bylaw Prioritization session which brought together a wide range of community partners to identify, prioritize and shape the department’s operations for 2018 through 2019. Direct feedback was heard from business associations, social service agencies, provincial partners and key City departments.”

The establishment of a Community Safety Framework, along with a stakeholder driven bylaw prioritization process, are just two of several initiatives the City has partnered on or led to address issues surrounding health and safety in Penticton. Additional work includes:

- A city driven forum on homelessness, addictions and mental health was arranged in June 2017 to help bring together stakeholders for a better community response to the social issues the community is facing;
- The Superintendent of the Penticton RCMP held a public forum in July 2017 to discuss policing in the community;
- Taking the need for affordable housing seriously by supporting increases in the supply of rental housing and partnering with various not-for-profit housing providers and BC Housing to assist those in need; and

- The creation of a Community Safety and Wellness Committee comprised of community leaders, citizen representatives and partner agencies to focus on issues such as property crime and social disorder to both promote and guide public safety initiatives with support from emergency and community services.

"The RCMP look forward to working closely with Bylaws in building community Safety and Wellness in Penticton", said RCMP Superintendent, Ted De Jager. "These partnerships, along with other government and support agencies will form the foundation of the Community Support and Wellness Committee set to launch in late March 2018."

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