

## Safety and Security Advisory Committee Meeting

held via Zoom  
Monday, July 26, 2021  
at 10:30 a.m.

**Present:** Matt Taylor, Chair  
Deirdre Riley, Vice Chair  
Aaryn Secker  
Adam Power  
Cheryl Watts  
Daryl Clarke  
Lynn Allin  
Susan Brown

**Council Liaisons:** John Vassilaki, Mayor  
Katie Robinson, Councillor

**Staff:** Adam Goodwin, Social Development Specialist  
Blake Laven, Director of Development Services  
Tina Mercier, Bylaw Services Manager  
Staff-Sgt Kirsten Marshall, RCMP  
John Schappert, Legislative Assistant

**Regrets:** Nicolette Rodriguez

1. **Call to Order**

The Safety and Security Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chair at 10:33 a.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the agenda for the meeting held on July 26, 2021 as amended to add item 4.4 – Policing Resources in the Community along with email correspondence related to this item.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3.1 Minutes of May 3, 2021 Safety and Security Advisory Committee

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting as presented.

4. **New Business**

4.1 "Where Are We Now" Updates from Primary Service Departments

- An update was provided by the Bylaw Services Manager.
- An update was provided by Staff-Sgt Marshall.
- An update was provided by the Social Development Specialist regarding the current wildfire situation.

4.2 Encampments Outside of Penticton Jurisdiction

The Bylaw Services Manager presented regarding encampments outside of Penticton jurisdiction, noting that they are public safety issues with the potential for weapons, sharps, fires etc. The Bylaw Services Manager highlighted that there is jurisdictional uncertainty in these areas and that the resources and cost related with responding to these encampments is increasing.

The floor was opened to the Committee for questions and comments. A Member at Large asked if other communities were facing similar issues and if it would be beneficial to coordinate with them regarding this issue. Staff responded that Penticton is not unique in facing this issue and that drafting a letter is likely the first step in coordinating these efforts. A Member at Large expressed that they feel that there is an influx of individuals coming to Penticton and joining these encampments and that this fact should be included in a letter to the province. Staff responded that this could be included in the letter. A Member at Large asked about the agencies that Bylaw is collaborating with currently on this issue.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee recommend that Council send a letter to the province requesting assistance with clean-up efforts along Highway 97 and other non-City lands, and establish a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) 'clean-team' or other dedicated enforcement resource to respond to this growing issue.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4.3 Complex Needs Individuals

The Director of Development Services noted that a small percentage of homeless individuals are creating a disproportionate amount of issues in the community. He mentioned that the City of Kelowna has determined that the current housing options do not help these Complex Needs Individuals and that an alternative, specific housing solution is a better fit for these individuals. The Director of Development Services mentioned that discussions with the City of Kelowna have taken place about potentially locating one of these housing solutions in Penticton. He then noted that staff have invited the manager of this program from the City of Kelowna to present to the Safety and Security Advisory Committee at a later date.

The floor was opened to the Committee for questions and comments. A Member at Large asked if the City of Kelowna received funding from the province regarding this project. Staff responded that they will allow the City of Kelowna representatives to speak to specifics when

they attend a meeting. A Member at Large asked about the types of organizations that oversee this specific type of housing. Staff responded that the exact model of running this type of program would still need to be determined.

#### 4.4 Policing Resources in the Community

The Mayor mentioned that he intends to hold a special Council meeting at a later date to discuss the hiring of five additional RCMP officers.

The floor was opened to the Committee for questions and comments. A Member at Large highlighted his personal experiences and supported increased enforcement not just in policing, but also with bylaw and social services. A Member at Large read out an email they received from a business owner regarding theft they have experienced. A Member at Large asked about the specific RCMP experience regarding that email, how the business community can support the RCMP and what can be done differently to reduce crime. Councillor Robinson spoke to the issue of prolific offenders.

#### 6. **Next Meeting**

The Next Safety and Security Advisory Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on August 30, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

#### 7. **Public Question Period**

#### 8. **Adjournment**

#### **It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Safety and Security Advisory Committee adjourn the meeting held on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 11:46 a.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified Correct:



John Schappert  
Legislative Assistant