

Safe Community Action Alliance and Community Safety and Well-Being Updates and Funding Requests

ISSUE

The Safe Community Action Alliance (Alliance) and the Community Safety and Well-Being Partnership (CSWB Partnership) make important contributions to quality of life in Saskatoon. In addition to the Alliance and the CSWB Partnership, Community Safety and Well-being is an identified City Council Strategic Priority area with identified actions.

To support the ongoing administration of the CSWB Partnership and to implement actions derived from the City of Saskatoon (City) Strategic Priority of Community Safety and Wellbeing, additional funding is required from the City.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development, and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the contingency within the Safe Community Action Alliance Trust be approved as the funding source of \$10,000 to meet the City of Saskatoon's contributions to the administration of the Community Safety and Well-Being Partnership for 2021;
2. That Administration be directed to bring forward to the 2022-2023 Business Plan and Budget deliberations an option for a \$20,000 increase to the base operating budget to fund the ongoing administration of the Community Safety and Well-Being Partnership; and
3. That Administration be directed to bring forward to the 2022-2023 Business Plan and Budget deliberations an option for increased operating funding of \$50,000 over two years to implement broad-based actions that address community safety and well-being.

BACKGROUND

The Alliance is an inter-sectoral collaboration of 35 agencies with expertise, experience and interest in addressing issues related to safety and well-being in Saskatoon. Administrative oversight is provided by its four funders: Saskatchewan Health Authority; Saskatoon Police Service; Saskatoon Tribal Council, and the City.

The CSWB Partnership works to address root causes of complex social and community well-being issues through policy, funding, and system changes. Partnership membership is comprised of the: Mayor's Office, Saskatoon Fire Department, Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc., Saskatchewan Health Authority, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan

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Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and participation from provincial ministries when needed.

Community safety and wellbeing initiatives have shown to reduce crime, improve public perceptions of quality of life and safety and reduce discrimination and racism leading to population growth, increased migration rates, and demographic diversity, all of which benefit the city's general economy.

At its meeting of January 12, 2021, the SPC on Planning, Development and Community Services received an information report outlining an approach to creating a comprehensive Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWB Plan) for Saskatoon. In that report, the recommended approach was a three-phased, three-year timeframe to develop the community-wide CSWB Plan. The Committee moved:

“That the Administration work with the appropriate Councillor lead on clarifying the scope and objectives and report on options to have this work done in one to two years”.

It has been determined to advance the work of community safety and wellbeing for the City and the community as a whole, a strategic framework needs to be developed. The framework will identify a vision, project charter and will set out guiding principles upon which the work would be based. With this work spread out over two years, additional funding of \$50,000 is being requested. Specifically, \$25,000 in 2022 Operating Budget with an additional \$25,000 increment in the 2023 Operating Budget. Once the framework has been fully developed, the new funding embedded in operating would be used to support implementing strategies and actions identified in the framework.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The City currently has an approved operating budget of \$30,000 to support the work of the Alliance (\$25,000) and the CSWB Partnership (\$5,000). In recent planning meetings with community partners led by Saskatoon Police Services, Saskatoon Fire, Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Mayor's Office it was determined that in order for both the Alliance and the CSWB Partnership initiatives to move forward in a more deliberate and coordinated manner, additional funding support is required from each of the partners, including the City. Each funding partner is being asked to provide a total of \$50,000. While the level of City funding to the Alliance will remain at \$25,000, it is being recommended that City funding to the CSWB Partnership be increased to \$25,000 annually, requiring an increase of \$20,000 to the base operating budget.

The full budget requirement for the CSWB Partnership administration was not known when the 2021 budget was approved; therefore, a one-time allocation of \$10,000 was approved for the CSWB Partnership, tied to COVID impacts in the community. This provided a total of \$40,000 for SCA Alliance and CSWB Partnership in the 2021 budget, so Administration is recommending that the contingency within the Safe Community Action Alliance Trust be approved as the funding source for \$10,000 to meet the City's contributions to the administration of the Community Safety and Well-Being Partnership for 2021. In 2022 and beyond, the additional base operating funding will be required as

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the Trust account does not have sufficient funds to cover future expenditures. The Trust account balance would then be approximately \$3,900. This additional funding for 2021 will support the ongoing administration of the CSWB Partnership.

Complementing, and in support of SCA Alliance and the CSWB Partnership, is the ongoing work in social development and social planning by the Social Development team within the Recreation and Community Development Department. As was outlined in the [January 12, 2021 report](#) to the SPC on Planning, Development and Community Services, that work is guided by the strategic Council priority area of Community Safety and Well-Being. Identified actions within this priority include:

1. Supporting community collaboration on healthy lifestyles, income disparities, crime reduction and access to education, employment, crime reduction, and access to education, employment and housing;
2. Supporting the Age-Friendly Saskatoon Initiative; and
3. Tabling a social development strategy that identifies municipal priorities.

Given the current realities in the community related to overall community safety and well-being, and the growing sense of urgency to act, funding is required to make more substantial progress on these actions. Administration is recommending a \$50,000 increase to the base operating budget over two years; \$25,000 in 2022 and \$25,000 in 2023, with the funds initially being used to develop a community-wide Community Safety and Wellbeing strategy to define and evolve the City's role in advancing solutions to social challenges, safety and housing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Subject to City Council approval, the contingency within the Safe Community Action Alliance Trust will be used as the funding source for \$10,000 to meet the City's contributions to administration of the Community Safety and Well-Being Partnership for 2021.

Administration will bring forward options for additional operating funding totalling \$45,000 in 2022 and \$25,000 in 2023, to the 2022-2023 Business Plan and Budget deliberations:

- for 2022, a \$20,000 increase to the City's annual contribution to the Community Safety and Well-being Partnership;
- for 2022, an additional \$25,000 to develop a Community Safety and Wellbeing strategy; and
- for 2023, a \$25,000 increase to complete the development of the CSWB strategy.

Once the framework has been fully developed, the ongoing \$50,000 embedded within the Operating Budget would be used to support implementation of strategies and actions identified in the strategy framework. In addition to this, there will continue to be progress made related to community safety and well-being through the ongoing work in

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social development and social planning by the Social Development team, complemented by the work of the SCA Alliance and the CSWB Partnership.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations in this report support the City's 2022-2025 Strategic Priority of Community Safety and Wellbeing.

REPORT APPROVAL

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