

Community Support Program – Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Downtown Saskatoon

ISSUE

The existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District (Downtown Saskatoon) to operate the Community Support Program (CSP) expires at the end of December 2023. The plans to have oversight of the CSP transition to the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) requires further engagement with the CSP and Saskatoon Police Service (SPS). An extension to the current MOA is required into 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That the current Memorandum of Agreement with the Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District to operate the Community Support Program be extended to no later than December 31, 2024; and
2. That the City Solicitor's Office be requested to prepare the appropriate amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement, and that His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement under the Corporate Seal.

BACKGROUND

At the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services, meeting held on June 7, 2023, [a report](#) was considered on the Community Support Program (CSP) – Service Delivery Model. The Administration outlined a plan to explore program delivery modifications through a blended CSP/ SFD model. This approach would align with the coordinated efforts of the SFD and SPS to share information and data.

At the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services, meeting held on September 6, 2023, [an update report](#) was considered on the Community Support Program. The Committee resolved:

“That Administration delay timing to transfer responsibility of the Community Support Program from Downtown Saskatoon BID to the Saskatoon Fire Department to no later than December 31, 2024, in order to ensure thorough engagement with the CSO's, Saskatoon Police and Fire.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Since the June 7, 2023, report on the change to the CSP Service Delivery Model, engagement, proactive planning, and reactive response is ongoing as a holistic approach to keep people safe. Stakeholders have and will include:

- Downtown Saskatoon, Riversdale, and Broadway Business Improvement Districts (BID),
- Street Activity Subcommittee,
- SFD Community Risk Reduction,
- Saskatoon Police Service (SPS),
- Saskatoon Police Association,
- International Association of Firefighters' Local 80 (L80), and
- Transit Administration and Amalgamated Transit Union 615 (ATU).

The goal in the transition is to ensure the current level of service and response is the baseline, and that synergies with the SFD Community Risk Reduction Inspectors and the SPS Alternative Response Officers will open opportunities for increased levels of response and service for overall community safety and well-being.

To ensure all logistics are documented, implemented, and thorough engagement completed with the CSP, SPS, and SFD, has occurred, an Amendment to the current MOA is required into 2024.

The SFD has been in discussions with Downtown Saskatoon regarding the Amendment to the existing MOA and they are supportive of an extension to the MOA to ensure a smooth transition of the program oversight.

The MOA will remain largely unchanged, except for the Amending & Renewal Agreement will have the following terms:

- The term end will be to no later than December 31, 2024 – with a target to have the transition occur approximately mid-year 2024.
- The termination clause will be amended to indicate the MOA may be terminated by providing 30 days' written notice, to allow for a transition prior to the end of 2024, should all details have been concluded for the transition.
- The payment for the 1-year extension, starting January 1, 2024, will be up to \$543,900 annually. The lease will be prorated for the amount of time the BID provides the service, should the transition of oversight occur prior to January 1, 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City will pay \$543,900 annually to the Downtown Saskatoon BID to deliver the CSP until such time as the CSP transitions to the SFD. Should the transition to SFD occur prior to January 1, 2025, the annual amount will be prorated for the amount of time the BID provides the service. If the service is provided for the entirety of 2024, this is an increase of \$40,843.00 annually over the 2023 payment of \$503,057.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other privacy, legal, social or environmental implications of this report.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, the SFD will work with Downtown Saskatoon to finalize the logistics of the transition, including:

- timing of the transition,
- inventory and ownership of equipment and assets,
- transition of office lease agreement to the City,
- software licensing and transition of data,
- continued engagement for a smooth transition, and
- preparation and amendment of the renewal agreement for execution (Solicitor's Office).

Report Approval

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