

Community Safety and Wellness Update – Councillor H. Gough

- 1) *Poverty reduction:* The work of the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership to develop a poverty elimination framework for Saskatoon continues. The strategy is intended to call on a broad range of sectors to engage in moving toward a Poverty Free Saskatoon. City administration remains engaged in the framework development and I am participating in outreach efforts to potential partners across sectors.
- 2) *Community Safety and Crime Prevention:* Along with a member of our planning department, a civilian member of the Saskatoon Police Service, and a BID director, I attended three days of Community Safety and Crime Prevention training in Edmonton last month put on by the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention and REACH Edmonton. This training was a great opportunity for all of us to learn from other communities about the value of dedicated community strategies to identify gaps and harness collaborative capacity toward crime prevention and a safer community. Opportunities for Saskatoon will be considered and updates provided to this committee.
- 3) *Property Maintenance & Rental issues:* I continue to hear about residential properties that negatively impact nearby communities in an ongoing way and rental properties that do not promote wellbeing for tenants. Work is being done by administration to explore new mechanisms to remedy these situations and to promote active and effective property management. Recommended amendments to Bylaw No 9455 in response to Councillor Hill's inquiry about overdue demolition permits are encouraging from a community safety and nuisance perspective.
- 4) *Safe Community Action Alliance:* The partnership has selected four priority areas and is setting up working groups to further consider two of these areas: appropriate housing for hard to house individuals and the methamphetamine issue in our community. Connection with the Smart Cities Strategy work has been established to identify synergies.
- 5) *Housing/Homelessness:* Recent meetings of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities provided an opportunity to further consider Saskatoon's readiness for upcoming investments by the Federal Government resulting from the National Housing Strategy. This month's Housing Business Plan report to SPC Planning & Development outlines the City's considerations in this area.