

**DECISION REPORT**

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**Dissolution of the Safe Streets Commission****ISSUE**

The Safe Streets Commission, formally created by City Council in 2011, is no longer a functioning body. Emerging in its place, since 2017, is the Safe Community Action Alliance (SCAA). There is a need to formally dissolve the Safe Streets Commission and transfer its current assets to the SCAA.

**BACKGROUND**

In November 2011, City Council reviewed a baseline study of street activity in downtown Saskatoon. Key themes emerged from the report:

- a) increase the perception of safety on Saskatoon streets;
- b) ensure people are not on the street because there is nowhere else to go; and
- c) develop strategies to foster investment from business community and community at large in support of projects that would achieve these results.

From that review it was decided a City-appointed corporation, with members being appointed by City Council, emerge as the Safe Streets Commission. The intention was to create a strong network of knowledge and expertise. The corporation was comprised of the Mayor, representation from BIDS and the Regional Inter-Sectoral Committee. By 2016 the Regional Inter-Sectoral Committee was no longer in operation and the Safe Streets Commission had outgrown its original purpose. The last scheduled meeting of the Safe Streets Commission was in 2013.

**Current Status**

The Safe Streets Commission needs to be dissolved as the priority has shifted to the community-centered SCAA. Assets of the Safe Streets Commission, namely a \$10,000 bank account, should be redirected to the SCAA.

The Safe Community Action Alliance was formed in 2017 with a focus on addressing both short-term, immediate issues as well as longer term, systemic matters that continue cycles which hamper well-being and safety within the community.

**Public Engagement**

In 2017, a survey was done with 28 groups (representing a cross section of business and community service agencies) confirming a common desire for greater connection and linkages amongst service providers. An identified model for ongoing collaboration emerged ultimately with the creation of the Safe Community Action Alliance.

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### **City of Saskatoon's Current Approach**

The Safe Community Action Alliance, operating since 2018, is the City of Saskatoon's current response to the community feedback provided on community safety and wellbeing.

### **OPTIONS**

**Option 1 - That the Safe Streets Commission be dissolved and the assets of the Safe Streets Commission, namely \$10,000 cash, be allocated to the newly created Safe Community Action Alliance.**

#### **Advantages:**

- The legal dissolution of a legal entity that is no longer serving the purpose for which it was created.
- The operating budget is transferred to support a community body that is functioning in its place, the SCAA.

#### **Disadvantage:**

- No disadvantages can be identified at this time.

**Option 2 - That the Safe Streets Commission not be dissolved and that the assets of the Safe Streets Commission remain.**

#### **Advantage:**

- That the Safe Streets Commission could be reinvigorated and potentially become operational again.

#### **Disadvantage:**

- A legal entity that is no longer serving a purpose remains in place.
- The \$10,000 operating budget remains with the non-functioning entity and is not available to the SCAA.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. Option 1 - that the Safe Streets Commission be dissolved and that the assets of the Safe Streets Commission be allocated to the Safe Community Action Alliance;
2. that the City Solicitor perform the necessary steps to achieve the dissolution of the Safe Streets Commission; and
3. that the Mayor and City be authorized to execute any documents required for this purpose.

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### **RATIONALE**

In 2017, a survey was done on community safety and well-being. Most of those interviewed recognized the good work that had been done by the Safe Streets Commission, however, utilizing existing organizations to have a more robust approach to community safety and well-being was requested. The SCAA initially got underway in 2017, and has been officially operating since 2018 with a focus on addressing both short-term, immediate issues as well as longer term, systemic matters that continue cycles which hamper well-being and safety. Specifically, the SCAA signifies the intent and commitment of Saskatoon's community agencies and organizations, City Council, government representatives and local business interests to work together to create changes and solutions that can work towards achieving safety and well-being for all in Saskatoon.

The four organizations overseeing the work of the SCAA are:

- City of Saskatoon;
- Saskatoon Tribal Council;
- Saskatchewan Health Authority; and
- Saskatoon Police Service.

### **ADDITIONAL IMPLICATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS**

There is currently a \$10,000 annual allocation to support the Safe Streets Commission. This budget would be transferred and be available to the SCAA through the Recreation and Community Development Division.

### **COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**

With the Safe Community Action Alliance underway, all communication on community safety and well-being would be addressed at this table.

#### Report Approval

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