

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. A Community Safety and Well-being Framework (*corrected*)

Submitted by: Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's residents all have the right to life, liberty and security of the person ^[1]. Community safety is the right of all to go about daily life feeling safe, without fear or risk of harm or injury;
2. Over the past year, Canada and the world have faced the COVID-19 pandemic and the many challenges it inflicted — sickness and loss of life, months of isolation, struggles with mental health, business closures and job losses, deepening inequities affecting racialized communities, and major changes to everyday life. It was also a year that frontline and health care workers faced heightened risks to provide essential health services, and retailers and business owners adapted to provide goods and services in different, safer ways;
3. People's health and safety is impacted by diverse and interrelated identity factors, such as race, culture, religion, gender, ability, sexual orientation and socio-economic status. In particular, individual, structural and systemic racism and discrimination affects people and communities of colour and their safe participation in social, cultural, economic life and local government;
4. Canada has recently defined a national poverty line: The Market Basket Measure (MBM), which compares family disposable income to the cost of basic needs in a community. 20% of Vancouver's population have incomes below this line ^[2], which means a significant portion of residents are limited in their access to essential resources for life and security, particularly food and housing. Poverty is a complex and multifaceted issue that crosses multiple scales and impacts community safety and well-being. It is critical to understand and address the full spectrum of root causes and risk factors, as well as strengths and opportunities that affect the vulnerability and resilience of Vancouver's residents;
5. Vancouver's crime rates have changed over time and there is a need to address the root causes of crime and complex social issues by focusing on social development, prevention and risk intervention. According to a Vancouver Police Department report in October 2020, crime rose in the following categories in 2020 compared to 2019 ^[3]:
 - The number of homicides increased: 14 in 2020 vs. 9 in 2019.
 - Serious assaults, which includes assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and aggravated assault, are up by 14%.
 - Intimate partner violence is 4.6% higher than 2019.
 - Anti-Asian hate crime incidents increased by 138%.
 - Break-and-enters to businesses increased by 18%.
 - Arson incidents increased by 39%.
 - Assaults against police officers have gone up 47%.

Crime fell in these categories compared to 2019:

- Robberies decreased by 6%.
- Property crime decreased by 20%.
- Theft from vehicles has decreased by 37%.
- Theft, like shoplifting, decreased by 26.6%.
- Sexual offences reported to police have decreased by 5%.

6. Vancouver residents face transportation-related risks on a regular basis. In 2019, ICBC reported 80,000 vehicle crashes across the Lower Mainland, with 54,000 injured people and 23 fatalities ^[4]. The Vancouver Police Department reported 14 fatal vehicle crashes in the City of Vancouver. Among the top crash intersections are: Boundary Rd & Grandview Hwy & Grandview Hwy Onramp (207 crashes), and Boundary Rd & Kingsway & Turning Lane (162 crashes);
7. Vancouver faces risks from climate change, including increased temperatures and extreme heat, more intense and frequent rain and windstorms, coastal flooding from sea level rise and storms, and smoke from nearby wildfires;
8. The City of Vancouver has a responsibility to support communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for food, housing, income, education, health care, social and cultural expression and climate stability;
9. The City of Vancouver is often the first line of defense against community safety issues. It is where local neighbourhood solutions are matched to local issues and measures are developed, implemented and maintained. Together with many partners, the City supports a variety of programs that collectively aim to prevent and reduce crime, build safe communities, and promote collaborative community supports;
10. All City departments have a role to play in community safety and are guided and supported by a diversity of plans and policies. Community safety is informed by many City plans, policies and reports, including but not limited to: Corporate Plan 2020, City of Vancouver 2020 Budget and Five Year Financial Plan, Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan, VPD 2020 Strategic Business Plan, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Strategic Plan 2019-2020, Housing Vancouver Strategy, Community Plans, Extreme Weather Response Program, Restart Smart Vancouver, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Climate Emergency Action Plan, and Transportation 2040. Community safety is also informed by current work underway, including: Decriminalizing Poverty/Poverty Reduction Plan, UN Safe Cities Scoping Study, Sex Worker Safety Plan, MMIWG2S and Red Women Rising Recommendations, Equity Framework/Intersectionality Toolkit, Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force, Women's Equity Strategy, and the Healthy City Strategy.
11. Federal, provincial and regional orders of government and community organizations play critical roles in public safety, and many of the actions

taken to make Vancouver a safer place is carried out in partnership with these orders of government and community organizations;

12. Ontario is taking action to build a province where all people feel safer and more protected in their homes and communities by passing comprehensive community safety legislation. Through the Safer Ontario Act, 2018, the Province aims to shift to a proactive and collaborative approach to community safety and well-being planning, where municipalities take the lead in defining and addressing local needs. Through this approach, vulnerable populations can receive the help they need, when and where they need it most, from the providers best suited to support them. Municipalities are mandated to work with police services and local service providers in health care, social services and education to develop community safety and well-being plans that proactively address locally identified community risks;
13. The City of Surrey adopted a Public Safety Strategy to advance three goals for public safety: increased feelings of safety in our community, improved quality of life for everyone, and increased opportunities for civic participation. The Strategy also outlines existing and enhanced programs underway, as well as new initiatives supporting four key priorities: Prevent and Reduce Crime, Ensure Safe Places, Build Community Capacity, and Support Vulnerable People; and
14. The City of Burnaby developed a Community Safety Plan, a strategic document aimed at improving the health, safety and well-being of Burnaby residents. Burnaby's Community Safety Plan offers a picture of its ongoing safety initiatives, and outlines plans for the future with a focus on five key areas: Community Amenity Safety, Crime Prevention and Reduction, Transportation Safety, Emergency Services and Emergency Management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to take a cooperative and collaborative approach to creating Vancouver's Community Safety and Well-being Framework (with residents, organizations, businesses, academia, The Vancouver School Board, First Nations, and other governments, among others), before December 2021, to provide strategic direction for working together with community and key stakeholders to make the best use of available resources to enhance community safety and well-being across broad and critical priority areas, such as personal health, social development, safe public spaces, homes and amenities, crime prevention and reduction, transportation safety, climate safety and emergency management.
- B. THAT 'Community Safety and Well-being' be included as a Council priority in the 2022 Budget process so that all City departments can report on how they are contributing to community safety and well-being outcomes.

- C. THAT as part of the Vancouver Plan process, community engagement efforts address provisional goals related to community safety, preparedness and resiliency in the 2021 work plan to help inform the proposed foundational Community Safety and Well-being Framework.
- D. THAT the Community Safety and Well-being Framework takes an equity-based approach to planning and action, which seeks to understand and address the root causes of inequity so that all residents have access to the people, places, programs, services and supports necessary for their safety and well-being. The framework's development and implementation should be reflective of the community and include multi-sectoral representation and engage people with lived experience and knowledge responding to the diverse needs of community members.

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[1] Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Section 7

[2] City of Vancouver. Vancouver City Social Indicators Profile. 2020.
<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/social-indicators-profile-city-of-vancouver.pdf>

[3] Vancouver Police Department. Crime Incident and Crime Rate Statistics. 2019.
<https://vancouver.ca/police/Planning/2019/15-19CR.pdf>

[4] ICBC. Profile: Intersections. December 2019.
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/icbc#!/vizhome/QuickStatistics-Intersectioncrashes/Intersections>