



City of Toronto Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

Date: June 12, 2019

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Wards: All

SUMMARY

On March 26, 2019, the Ontario Government's Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019, or Bill 68, received royal assent. Bill 68 amends policing legislation in the province including the Police Services Act which will eventually be replaced by the new Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019.

The Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 will, when it comes into force, mandate community safety and well-being planning from local municipalities. Such a requirement already exists under the Police Services Act, but Bill 68 will amend the legislative provisions that apply to the City. Under Bill 68, the City of Toronto will be required to develop and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, working in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee. Additional requirements are also outlined in Bill 68 pertaining to conducting consultations, risk analysis, actions to mitigate those risks, monitoring, evaluating, reporting and publishing the plan. Through the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, the City of Toronto will take a leadership role in defining and addressing priority risks in the community through proactive, integrated strategies that ensure vulnerable populations receive the help they need from the providers best suited to support them.

This report outlines the approach the City will use to develop a Community and Safety Well-Being Plan that fulfills the obligations under Bill 68 and support community safety and wellbeing across the city.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee receive this report for information

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

(July 23, 2018) Immediate Steps to Address Gun Violence

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.CC44.14>

(July 4, 2017) Update on City Supported Community-Led Violence Prevention and Intervention

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD21.13>

(July 12, 2016) Enabling New Tri-level Initiatives to Increase Community Safety in Toronto

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.MM20.2%23>

(December 9, and 10, 2015) Update on the Specialized program for Interdivisional Enhanced Responsiveness (SPIDER)

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD8.3>

November 30, December 1 and 2, 2004) Update on the Community Safety Plan

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2004/agendas/council/cc041130/pofcl020a.pdf>

(May 21, 22 and 23 2003) Community Crisis Response Program

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2003/agendas/council/cc030521/pof4rpt/cl020.pdf>

COMMENTS

Community Safety and Well-Being Plans are to be completed by most municipalities no later than January 1, 2021, two years after the legislation adding Community Safety and Well-Being Plans to the Police Services Act received royal assent. Both the current Police Services Act and Bill 68 require the establishment of an Advisory Committee, with a prescriptive list of who should be on the committee, to assist municipalities in developing their Community Safety and Well-Being Plans. As Bill 68 will apply to the City upon its coming into force, the City's plan to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being Plans aims to meet the requirements of Bill 68's Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 which will eventually replace the existing Police Services Act.

Bill 68 also requires consultations with prescribed stakeholders to provide input into the development of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plans, and once the plan is approved by Council, there is a requirement that it be published and posted on the internet. The Community Safety and Well-Being Plans will be monitored, evaluated, revised and reported on, although the regulations detailing these requirements has not yet been developed by the Ministry.

The City of Toronto is a leader in the development of community safety and wellbeing initiatives including the Community Crisis Response Program, FOCUS and SPIDER

programs, as well as targeted initiatives such as the work in the Downtown East. These programs and initiatives are based on a common inter-sectoral approach consistent with the Community Safety and Well-Being Plans as described in the legislation. In fact, the FOCUS program is a joint initiative developed in a unique partnership between Toronto Police Service, United Way of Greater Toronto and Social Development, Finance and Administration.

Social Development, Finance and Administration and Toronto Police Service have been collecting rich data on community safety risks in Toronto neighbourhoods through FOCUS, SPIDER and Community Crisis Response Program. Community safety risk factors include mental health, social isolation, poverty, unsafe or unstable housing and a range of aspects. The analysis of the data collected will be the basis for the risk analysis of the plan.

Community and stakeholder engagement will be used to ensure that the analysis of risk factors reflect what the community is experiencing. Risks will be discussed with key stakeholders across Toronto in order to ensure that the plan captures the diverse risks Torontonians experience. Consultations will also be designed to help identify additional solutions, actions or initiatives community safety partners can undertake to increase community safety and wellbeing.

A related provincial initiative, Justice Centres to be developed in the north Etobicoke and the Downtown East, provide an additional opportunity to address community safety and wellbeing. Social Development, Finance and Administration, Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit and Strategic and Corporate Policy, City Manager Office, are working closely with the Ministry of the Attorney General to create two Justice Centres in the City as this work is closely aligned with the creation of the plan.

The Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit will assemble a Community Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee relying on existing relationships and other governance bodies that have a community safety and wellbeing lens. Bill 68 requires advisory committees to include representation from education, local health integration networks or physical or mental health, community social services, youth services, custodial services to children and youth, the municipality, the police service board, the police service and any other person prescribed by the Province. In a Toronto context it will also be important to include housing providers, anti-racism/equity leaders and settlement service providers and safety for women. The Advisory Committee will ensure that the Community Safety and Well-Being Plans will be created around the risks that Torontonians might face in their communities, ensure that the plan is sustainable, and that it is relevant to all Torontonians.

Staff are engaging with staff in other Ontario municipalities to share approaches and best practices to community safety planning. Toronto is also a member of the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention and participates regularly in discussions nationally and globally in crime prevention, community safety and wellbeing. Toronto is proud of what programs have been built to address these issues and is eager to learn from others who are creating best practices.

The advisory committee will be established by September and begin its work over the fall 2019 and winter 2020. Consultations will occur in late winter 2020 with the drafting of the plan in spring of 2020. A second round of consultations will be undertaken to ensure the plan has relevance for the breadth of stakeholders and be forwarded to Council for consideration in the fall of 2020.

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ATTACHMENTS

None