



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Request for Increased Security - January 14, 2020 Delegation

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2020

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**Executive Summary:**

Ms. Eleanor Evans and numerous business owners attended the January 14, 2020 regular meeting of Council as a delegation.

Ms. Evans brought forth concerns of the safety and security of Cold Lake citizens, businesses and properties, and the cost of the criminal activity affecting such, and requested an increase in security to curb the ongoing criminal activity which is having a very frightening impact on the City.

At the time of agenda preparation and prior to the start of the Council meeting, the following businesses were slated to attend as a testament to the severity of the situation:

- A & W - Phil
- Airway Motel - Shawn Motijevit/Joanne Schurman
- Alberta Treasury Bank - Ryan
- Best Western/Holiday Inn - Mark Lee
- Bliss Lingerie - Eleanor Evans
- Bordeleau Cabinetry - Bruce Bordeleau
- Boston Pizza - Lynn
- Broad Street Properties
- CANA - Nicolas/Irene
- CIBC Bank - Rob Brassard
- Citizens on Patrol - Renee Lillico
- Cold Lake Ford - Mark Milliken
- Cold Lake Mosque
- Collision Towing
- Communications Cold Lake - Michelle
- Continental Cabs - Kevin
- Co-operators Insurance - Dixon Neihaus
- Corks and Caps - Sharine Leiper



- D.D. Construction - Dean
- Extra Foods - Lorraine
- Furniture Galaxy - Murray Murphy
- Hamels - Greg Hamel
- Husky Gas - Paul Lee
- J.D. collision - Joel
- Kia Motors - Don Milliken
- Kings Court - Karlene Cozun
- Lakeland Connect - Michael
- Lakeland Credit Union - Susan
- Lakeland Inn/El Lobo Motel - Andre de Beer
- Mach 1 Sports - Ed/Laurie
- Muse Fashions - Candace
- O2's - Brett Mckernan
- O.K. Tire - Nikki/Derek
- Polished Pumpkin - Jamie Bateman
- Reality Executive - Bev Howarth
- Red Rooster - Betty Vieira
- Riders Connection - Tony Welsh
- Royal Bank
- Royal LePage - Joanne
- Royal Travel - Connie Cripps
- Smart Electric - John Smart
- Sobeys Food - Scott & Rhonda Squires/Brad McDonald
- Sobeys Liquor - Judy
- Sugar Wings - Cynde Hardwich
- T&T Optical - Michelle Fehr
- TD Bank - Terry Melnyck
- TNT Fashions - Gaye Harrie
- The Brick - Paula
- The Pour House - Rob
- Value Drug Mart - Bob Mattice
- Value Drug Mart - Ron Mattice
- Value Master Homes - Grant/Cheryl



Ms. Evans advised that up until now, many businesses have been reacting to criminal activity, at a huge expense, by installing cameras, alarm systems, lights, barriers, gates, bars, fences, etc. and bearing the increasing cost of insurance. The safety and security of Cold Lake citizens needs to become a number one priority, and there have been enough studies done by communities facing similar situations that have shown the following steps to be effective by reallocating or using City emergency funds to:

- hire security - more "boots on the ground",
- provide nightly patrols - twenty-four (24) hours a day,
- focus on "hot" spots,
- implement neighbourhood Watch Programs,
- establish a community awareness campaign with a phone number to report suspicious activity,
- have schools promote a sense of pride in community (teach our children community responsibility),
- get to know your neighbours and let them know if you are impacted by crime,
- use local media to focus attention and report crime, as well as inform the public about the steps the City is taking to remedy the situation,
- have the City and the Chamber of Commerce diligently lobby the Provincial Government for increased penalties for criminals,
- and schedule a town hall meeting before January 30, 2020 including the RCMP and Council to address private citizen's concerns.

Ms. Evans noted that local resources should be used and provided suggestions that possibly retired military personnel could be used for patrols, vagrancy tickets could be issued, contact Cold Lake Communications regarding the installation of lights and cameras (our local IT citizens have a lot of skills that could be used).

Ms. Evans stated that herself and the other businesses in attendance understand that the City is facing a financial shortfall; therefore, it is imperative that priorities be re-adjusted to reflect the urgent need for more safety in the City of Cold Lake as crime has increased by 44% in one (1) year, and now Cold Lake is in the top twenty (20) for crime in Canada.

Ms. Evans stressed that time is of the essence; it is critical that actions are taken immediately, and businesses want "boots on the ground" by February 15, 2020.



Extensive discussion and questions ensued from Council at this time.

It was noted that the RCMP will be holding a Rural Crime Town Hall Meeting at the Ardmore Hall on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be a panel consisting of representatives from the MLA's office, Municipality of Bonnyville leadership, RCMP, MD Public Safety, and the Crown Prosecutor's office. The representatives from these groups will provide a brief presentation followed by a general question and answer session with members of the public in attendance.

Ms. Marsha Hayward, an attendee in the gallery, advised of a particular criminal activity event that took place at Crane Lake in 2005 and what the neighbouring residents did to make their community a more secure, safe place to live (i.e. created a Facebook page, learned to become more descriptive, learned to take more photos, etc.). Ms. Hayward encouraged everyone present to attend the Rural Crime Town Hall Meeting in Ardmore, and to participate in the discussion about crime and policing in rural Alberta.

Deputy Mayor Vining thanked Ms. Evans for her presentation and also thanked the many business owners seated in the gallery for their attendance, advising that Council would consider the request at the next regular meeting of Council being January 28, 2020.

Initial administrative follow-up:

In consultation with the RCMP, February 26, 2020 has been already been tentatively scheduled for a community meeting relating to policing. This schedule is subject to the scheduling and availability of important guests. Administration is scheduled to meet Monday January 27, 2020 to confirm dates and topics.

**Background:**

**Alternatives:**

**Recommended Action:**

That Council pass a motion to refer the issue to their February 18, 2020 Corporate Priorities Committee meeting.



**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer