



## STAFF REPORT

**Title:** Crime Prevention and Reduction Initiatives

**Meeting Date:** June 23, 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.

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.

To collect a larger perspective on the subject on crime, the City along with Cold Lake RCMP hosted a public Town Hall meeting Wednesday February 26, 2020 at the Lakeland Inn. The Town Hall meeting present statistical information as well as discuss several issues related to crime impacting the community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, businesses have reached out to City raising concerns on the significant increases in human feces, public urinating, and increased forcefulness in panhandling and the number of panhandlers.

We also understand that the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce will be approach the City of Cold Lake with their concerns.

The purpose of the report is to present the recommendation rising from June 16, 2020 Corporate Priorities Committee Meeting.

### **Background:**

A number of initiatives have been recently been launched:

1. The Lakeland Crime Reduction Taskforce (lead by the Municipal District of Bonnyville) will be standing up with three (3) additional members tasked specifically with crime reduction initiatives (and not chasing radio calls).



2. The City of Cold Lake's Police Dog (PDS) Initiative.
3. The City has increased funding for an additional regular member of the Cold Lake Detachment of the RCMP.
4. The City has initiated the installation of surveillance cameras in high profile intersections coming in/one of the community.
5. The City has funded the light enhancements to the downtown mainstreet as part of the LED replacement program.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies aim is to deter an offender's decision to precede with a criminal act, foster a sense of community cohesion with business owners and residents, reduce crime, and minimize the fear of crime.

CPTED acknowledges that our environment directly affects our behavior, whether or not we are aware of it, as we consistently respond to what is around us. These responses help us navigate safely in our communities.

Four principles of CPTED are:

- **Natural Access Control restricts access.**  
Natural access control relies on doors, fences, shrubs, and other physical elements to keep unauthorised persons out of a particular place if they do not have a legitimate reason for being there. In its most elementary form, access control can be achieved in individual dwellings or commercial establishments by the use of adequate locks, doors and window barriers.
- **Natural Surveillance**  
Natural surveillance can be achieved by a number of techniques. The flow of activities can be channelled to put more people (observers) near a potential crime area. Windows, lighting and the removal of obstructions can be placed to improve sight lines from within buildings.
- **Territorial Reinforcement**  
People naturally protect a territory that they feel is their own, and have a certain respect for the territory of others. Clear boundaries between public and private areas achieved by using physical elements such as fences, pavement treatment, art, signs, good maintenance and landscaping are ways to express ownership.
- **Maintenance and Management**  
Maintenance and management need to be considered at the design stage, as the selection of materials and finishes will impact on the types of maintenance



regimes that can be sustained over time. For example, plant material should be selected for its size at maturity to avoid blocking of sight lines.

The City is able to develop brochures on crime prevention through environmental design. There could also be some merit in the development policy framework for new development.

There has also be some previous and recent discussion regarding the development of a Public Washroom in the downtown area. As Council knows, there are benefits and challenges to this type of initiatives of which should be further discussed.

During the 2020 Budget Deliberations, Council parked \$90,000 for other crime initiatives as for further discussions. Some of the initiatives included:

1. The RCMP has requested for two (2) additional regular members of the RCMP. Based on the statistics provided to City Council, there has been a trend relating to increase crime activity in Cold Lake.
2. The RCMP has requested for the City to establish a “Crime Analyst” service. A Crime Analyst help identify patterns and gather helpful data that can be used to help allocate police resources and assets.
3. Community Peace Officer Business Liaison. The City could increase the compliment of the CPO’s to have to officer with a heightened priority to the commercial businesses. Alternatively, the City could reallocate the CPO resources from the Cold Lake Energy Centre to a commercial business liaison.
4. The City could establish incentive/rebate programs for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design strategies as well as the installation of security cameras, locks and/or other measures which foster crime prevention.
5. Development of public washrooms in the community.

**Alternatives:**

Council may consider the following options:

1. Support the recommendation rising from the June 16, 2020 Corporate Priority Committee meeting recommending that Council forward the Crime Prevention and Reduction Initiatives to the next Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meeting for further discussion and recommendation.
2. Amend the recommendation rising from the June 16, 2020 Corporate Priority Committee meeting recommending that Council forward the Crime Prevention and Reduction Initiatives to the next Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meeting for further discussion and recommendation.
3. Accept this report titled Crime Prevention for and Reduction Initiatives as information.



**Recommended Action:**

That Council pass a motion requesting that the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) provide a recommendation on a Crime Prevention and Reduction Initiative through environmental design incentive program for businesses in the City of Cold Lake.

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

No

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer