



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 4, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (HSC19032(a)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Jenn Hohol (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7857
SUBMITTED BY: SIGNATURE:	Paul Johnson General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

In December 2019, the Emergency and Community Services Committee was notified of new legislative requirements for municipalities to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (Report HSC19032). The aim of the plan is to ensure all residents in the community feel safe, have a sense of belonging and can meet their needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. The plan must be developed using the provincial government's Community Safety and Well-Being Framework¹ which identifies four key areas of planning: incident response, risk intervention, prevention and social development, that work together to make communities safer and healthier.

The development of Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is overseen by an advisory committee which both meets legislative requirements and brings together

¹ <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/MCSCSSSOPanningFramework.html>

various sectors' perspectives to provide strategic advice and direction to the City of Hamilton on the development of the plan.

To date, the organizations listed below have confirmed representation on the Advisory Committee to support the development of Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan:

- Banyan Community Services
- Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership
- City of Hamilton (Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development; Public Health Services)
- Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Hamilton Police Services
- Hamilton Police Services Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- McMaster Institute for Health Equity
- McMaster University
- Mohawk College
- St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
- Woman Abuse Working Group

In January 2020, the advisory committee assessed risk factor data to identify local priorities for further investigation and focused opportunities for collaboration. The local priorities that were identified include:

- Hate incidents
- Violence
- Mental health and stigmatization
- Substance use
- Homelessness and access to affordable housing
- Access to income

In review of neighbouring municipalities approaches to planning for their communities, Hamilton's advisory committee is very aligned in their identified priorities.

Advisory committee members then worked to identify actions their organizations were taking within each of the local priority areas and began to identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration. With the emergence of COVID-19, work on the plan was put on hold from March to August 2020. During this period City staff supporting the development of the plan were redeployed and advisory committee members were called to focus on the COVID-19 response in their organizations. In consideration of the large role municipalities have played in responding to COVID-19, the Ministry of the Attorney General extended the deadline for completion of the Community Safety and Well-Being

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Plans from January 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021. The advisory committee has adjusted their planning approach and timelines to meet this new deadline.

In September 2020, the advisory committee reconvened and committed to monthly meetings to support completion of the plan. A focus for the advisory committee has been on informing the community of the plan and what it is trying to achieve through:

- Launch of the Hamilton Community Safety and Well-Being Plan webpage on the City's website (www.hamilton.ca/safetyandwellbeing);
- Launch of the Hamilton Community Safety and Well-Being Plan webpage on the City's public engagement platform, Engage Hamilton (<https://engage.hamilton.ca/community-safety-and-well-being-plan>); and,
- Creation, sharing and discussion of education materials by advisory committee members on Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan within their organizations and partner networks.

Next Steps – Community Engagement

Community safety and well-being cannot be addressed in isolation by any one institution, organization, sector, or individual; it requires collective action. Collective community wisdom is needed to better understand individual safety and well-being risks, and to come up with creative solutions and ideas to tackle complex issues facing Hamilton. As part of a community engagement approach to inform development of the plan, several methods for gathering feedback have and will continue to be employed.

An invitation to the community to share their thoughts and perspectives about safety and well-being in Hamilton is available through the City's public engagement platform, Engage Hamilton (<https://engage.hamilton.ca/community-safety-and-well-being-plan>). Feedback on two key questions is being collected here, including: what a safe community looks like to each person; and, what can be done in your own community to achieve a better feeling of safety. This channel has been available from November 2020 and will continue to be open for feedback until March 1, 2021.

A Community Engagement Toolkit was developed to support advisory committee members in championing conversations on the local priorities and collecting feedback from their organizations, partner networks and clients.

To elicit broader feedback, the City will also hold virtual engagement sessions with service providers and members of the community throughout the month of February 2021. The City will engage a facilitator to support these community conversations on the local priorities. Opportunities to participate in the virtual engagement sessions will be shared through the City's website and social media channels. The advisory committee will also help to identify interested parties and share opportunities for engagement across their organizations and partner networks. The results of these engagement

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

SUBJECT: Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (HSC19032(a)) (City Wide) - Page 4 of 4

sessions will be used to inform outcomes of the local priority areas desired by the community and actions that can be taken by the advisory committee to achieve these results.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

None