



City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: CSBU-2023-053

Date: July 6, 2023

Originator: Brent Kalinowski, Community Safety and Well Being Planner

Business Unit:

Department:

Community Services

Community Development and Growth

Subject: Outreach Security Team Pilot Proposal

Closed Session: yes no

Recommendation

That City Council approve the funding request as described in Report to Council CSBU-2023-053 for an amount of up to \$150,000 for the Outreach Security Team Pilot Proposal; and that Council authorizes the transfer of funds to Community Services-Community Safety Well-being operating budget from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve (99529).

Background

Like most other municipalities, North Bay is experiencing an increase in the incidence social issues impacting the community. These social issues include addictions, mental health, and homelessness and for many of our vulnerable citizens, they are experiencing all three simultaneously.

There are increasing communications surrounding safety, overnight sleeping in doorways, garbage and needle/syringe discards, verbal outbursts, panhandling, and at times, criminality. Although a number of our community resources employ 'Outreach' social support services, those services predominately exist Monday-Friday, 8-4.

There is an opportunity to pro-actively address some of the non-criminal, and at times, disruptive behaviors within the core, while community partners continue to collaborate towards enhanced longer term solutions to address the root causes.

The City has recently augmented and enhanced current private security efforts to provide coverage to include the Beach Volleyball courts, Basketball Courts, Splash Pad areas and the Heritage Train & Carousel, in response to disruptive

behaviors in those areas. Security was scheduled Mon-Fri 4-10pm, Sat/Sun 8-2pm. This increased presence is scheduled for a period of 4 weeks.

It is proposed to continue and further enhance these efforts, by way of a pilot initiative throughout the core. In addition, to address the social issues where needed more appropriately, replace one of the Security personnel with an *Outreach Worker*. Pairing an outreach worker with security personnel would provide the necessary balance of a 'lower tier' authority enforcement/presence and a local social support when and where needed, providing opportunity for connection and supports to local agencies and programs.

The pilot would focus in the City's core, waterfront and associated amenities, weekdays noon to Midnight, and 9-5 Saturdays, augmenting the existing Healthy Community Ambassador Program (HCAP) that operates 8-4 during the week.

The proposed Outreach Security Teams will be expected to document incidents (names and personal information removed), as well as selected measures for review after the pilot period.

Measures will be created to examine the results post pilot for efficacy and future considerations. The overarching expected 'outcome' is to create a safe and welcome space for patrons, visitors, and users of the district amenities, while increasing connection for those that find themselves unhoused and unsupported.

In addition to reviewing incident reports, performance measures would include Police data calls for service (before and after the pilot), positive social connections to resources, and a DIA survey to gauge the qualitative impact.

Where possible, these measures will be monitored on an ongoing basis to adjust service and approach as needed. At the end of the pilot, a full analysis of all measurements will be undertaken and shared and reported.

Financial/Legal Implications

As the proposed Outreach Security Teams Pilot Proposal had not been contemplated during the 2023 budget preparation it is recommended that an amount up to \$150,000 be funded from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve (99529). As of the time of writing the report the reserve is forecasted to have a balance of \$6.6 million.

Corporate Strategic Plan

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government | |

Specific Objectives

- Work with community stakeholders to enhance safety and integration throughout the City.
- Facilitate and assist the community in having access to the broad spectrum of health services.

Options Analysis

Option 1:

That City Council approve the funding request as described in Report to Council CSBU-2023-053 for an amount of up to \$150,000 for the Outreach Security Team Pilot Proposal; and that Council authorizes the transfer of funds to Community Services-Community Safety Well-being operating budget from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve (99529).

This is the recommended option.

Option 2:

That City Council not approve the funding request as described in Report to Council CSBU-2023-053 for an amount of up to \$150,000 for the Outreach Security Team Pilot Proposal; and that Council not authorize the transfer of funds to Community Services-Community Safety Well-being operating budget from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve (99529).

This is not the recommended option.

Recommended Option

That City Council approve the funding request as described in Report to Council CSBU-2023-053 for an amount of up to \$150,000 for the Outreach Security Team Pilot Proposal; and that Council authorizes the transfer of funds to Community Services-Community Safety Well-being operating budget from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve (99529).

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Brent Kalinowski

Title: Community Safety and Well-Being Co-ordinator

I concur with this report and recommendation

Name Ian Kilgour, MCIP, RPP

Title: Director, Community Services

Name Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA
Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name John Severino, P.Eng., MBA
Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:
Brent Kalinowski
Community Safety and Well-Being Co-ordinator