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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2022 Apr 13

**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY  
SAFETY

**SUBJECT:** BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND

**PURPOSE:** To provide information regarding funding opportunities from the Building Safer Communities Fund.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** The Public Safety Committee recommend Council receive this report for information.
2. **THAT** The Public Safety Committee recommend Council support staff submitting funding requests to the Building Safer Communities Fund.

## REPORT

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Public Safety Canada (PSC) has identified the City of Burnaby as being eligible to apply for up to approximately \$2.9 million in funding to enhance community safety. The funding will be available over the next four years as part of the *Building Safer Communities Fund* (BSCF) with the goal to directly fund identified communities to develop custom community driven initiatives to address gun and gang activities.

### 2.0 POLICY SECTION

#### Goal

- A Safe Community
  - Crime prevention and reduction – Ensure citizens and businesses feel safe in our community
  - Emergency preparedness – Enhance plans, procedures and services so that we are better prepared to respond to emergencies and are able to maintain City services
  - Emergency services – Provide responsive emergency services
  - Transportation safety – Make City streets, pathways, trails and sidewalks safer

- Community amenity safety – Maintain a high level of safety in City buildings and facilities for the public and City staff

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

PSC works towards creating a safe and resilient Canada through the *Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence* initiative and in particular, through the BSCF. The BSCF supports community-based prevention and intervention strategies to tackle gun and gang activities.

#### **3.1 BSCF Objectives**

The three principal objectives of the BSCF are:

- a) Support municipalities and Indigenous communities to develop community-based intervention strategies and initiatives to tackle gun and gang activities.
- b) Increase the knowledge of the nature, scope and challenges of the identified recipients to tackle gun and gang activities.
- c) Support recipients to develop a plan to sustain successful prevention and intervention activities upon completion of the five year program.

Staff have been contacted by PSC and advised that Burnaby was selected as being an eligible community to apply for grant funding over the next four years to a maximum of approximately \$2.9 million. PSC indicated that both the selection and level of funding were determined by the nature and frequency of gun and gang related activities which have occurred in Burnaby. Other identified municipalities in the Lower Mainland include Vancouver, Surrey and Richmond.

#### **3.2 BSCF Eligible Activities**

Eligible activities for 100% funding approval must support the BSCF objectives and examples include:

- Public awareness and education;
- Collaboration and integration of horizontal initiatives related to gun and gang violence;
- Development of a strategy on gun and gang violence;
- Development and delivery of prevention initiatives addressing risk factors associated with gun and gang violence, including but not limited to mentoring, counselling, skills development and recreational opportunities, and;
- Any other prevention and intervention initiatives as developed in consultation with the program authority.

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### **3.3 BSCF Ineligible Expenditures**

Funding from BSCF cannot be used for any costs already supported through existing police service agreements. In addition, BSCF funds cannot be used for funding ongoing core activities which includes police Advisor salaries.

### **3.4 BSCF Timelines**

PSC has advised there is no hard deadline for submissions to the BSCF program and is seeking to sign contribution agreements with selected municipalities as soon as possible. The program is available until 2026 March 31 with approved submissions receiving funding at any time during the four year period.

## **4.0 CITY BSCF FUNDING REQUESTS AND REPORTING**

Community Safety staff have commenced discussions with PSC and will work in earnest with key City departments and programs including the RCMP, Planning and Development, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services and Engineering to develop eligible submissions for BSCF funding and implement initiatives to enhance safety in our community.

PSC has indicated that due to Burnaby having a Community Safety Plan already in place, our community is “way ahead” of other communities in having a framework in place to strategically and rapidly take advantage of the significant BSCF funding.

Should staff receive support to proceed, subsequent reporting will occur to the Public Safety Committee and Council on the actions taken relative to BSCF as a component of the regular reporting process on the overall Community Safety Plan.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Public Safety Committee recommend Council to receive this report for information and support staff submitting BSCF funding requests.



Dave Critchley  
General Manager Community Safety

Copied to:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Acting Chief Financial Officer
- General Manager Planning and Development
- General Manager Engineering
- General Manager Parks Recreation and Cultural Services
- General Manager Corporate Services
- Officer in Charge – Burnaby RCMP
- Fire Chief – Burnaby Fire Department