

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCILLORS  
**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SAFETY  
**SUBJECT:** **2025 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN**  
**PURPOSE:** To seek Council approval of the updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the 2025 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan be approved; and

**THAT** staff be authorized to undertake work, as outlined in the report titled “2025 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan” dated May 27, 2025.

## **1.0 POLICY SECTION**

The updated Burnaby Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (Plan), along with the new Youth and Family First Strategy, aligns with several Council-adopted policies and strategies: the Burnaby Strategic Plan (2022), the Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), and the current Burnaby Community Safety Plan (2020).

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

In June 2020, Council approved the first Burnaby Community Safety Plan, which outlined directions and key focus areas to assist with the prioritization of work and resources to advance safety in the City. The Plan provided a strategic framework and aligned safety activities under the vision of a safe community for all.

Over the intervening five years, our community has experienced significant changes and emerging pressures on perceived feelings of safety. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, evolving access to essential health resources, increasing inclusion needs, and the rising impact of international conflicts on residents have reshaped the safety landscape in our city. Through extensive consultations with various groups and individuals we have gained a deep understanding of how these and other pressures have influenced people's perceptions of safety here. The new refreshed Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is responsive to these differing experiences of safety.

The Community Safety department leveraged Federal funding through the Building Safer Communities Fund Gang and Gun Violence Prevention Grant to develop this new 2025-2030 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Staff undertook extensive consultation work to inform the new Plan, refreshing and renewing the City's commitment to create a safer community for all.

### **3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 2025-2030 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is rooted in feedback about personal experiences of safety from the community and other key safety partners. Fundamental themes emerged through these engagements, providing the foundational priority framework for the new Plan. These resultant five Plan priorities will guide 17 strategic actions, which in turn inform the 60 work initiatives for the first year of this Plan as well as subsequent annual updates.

#### **3.1 Community Safety and Connection**

Building increased trust and collaboration with service providers and neighbours alike emerged as an important area of focus for the Plan. New initiatives in the Plan will see city departments leveraging data effectively to guide outreach and engagement efforts.

#### **3.2 Emergency and Climate Resilience**

Increasing community resilience and reducing risk to emergencies was an important focus for many community members. The Plan will guide work in this area particularly around enhanced emergency and climate preparedness.

#### **3.3 Safer Public Spaces**

Ensuring our public spaces continue to be secure, well-maintained and inclusive was an imperative for many in our community. Many linked our parks and city facilities as vital to building on positive community connections and well-being.

#### **3.4 Responsive and Inclusive Services**

The importance of equitable, proactive support and essential services was highlighted throughout the engagement. Many expressed compassion for those struggling in our community and supportive of work to connect them with basic resources. The Plan details continuous efforts to improve well-being which is essential for enhancing collective safety.

#### **3.5 Youth and Family First Strategy**

The inclusion of this strategy in the Plan will ensure a long-term approach to supporting youth and families with the resources and opportunities they need to thrive, sustaining youth crime reduction. This strategy will help provide a strong foundation for youth well-being, building youth resilience to the crime lifestyle and ultimately improving community safety for years to come.

### **4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The development of the renewed 2025 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan commenced in early 2024, including deep and wide consultation with more than 1,600 community members as well as internal and external safety partners across the city. Emphasis was placed on getting a range of diverse perspectives and experiences not frequently captured through traditional engagement methods including youth, victims of crime, unhoused residents, and newcomer groups:

- 19 pop-up engagements at strategic locations including busy transit hubs, community centres and shopping districts allowed us to connect with more than 450 people in person.
- Six focus groups with youth, small business representatives, and older adults.
- One newcomer-serving organization conducted informational interviews with their colleagues and clients on our behalf.
- Staff teams attended outreach locations to hear firsthand experiences of those experiencing homelessness.
- Meetings with key City and community leaders, community organizations, members of the Public Safety and Community Safety Advisory Committees, and staff from a range of city departments.
- Promotion of an online survey solicited over 600 detailed responses from the public and was supported in eight different languages.
- Three open house style “Community Solutions Forums” were held across the city.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Initiatives and work undertaken on the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan are covered through existing departmental budgets and approval processes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Critchley, General Manager Community Safety

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – 2025 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

## **REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was prepared by Dawn Virginillo, Manager of Crime Reduction and Intervention, and reviewed by Ratan Grewal, Deputy General Manager Finance.