



The Honourable
Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor of Edmonton

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July 5, 2022

Reference No.: 439451923

The Honourable Tyler Shandro
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
204 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
ministryofjustice@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Josephine Pon
Minister of Seniors and Housing
404 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
sh.minister@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Jason Luan
Minister of Community and Social Services
227 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
css.minister@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Jason Copping
Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
health.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister Shandro, Minister Pon, Minister Luan and Minister Copping:

The City of Edmonton continues to work towards improving community safety and well-being for Edmontonians, and to address many of the challenges in our Downtown and Chinatown. In follow-up to many productive meetings to discuss our safety plans, and your commitment to exploring future partnership opportunities to address our shared interests, I wish to share an initiative the City is exploring in collaboration with the Edmonton Police Service.

In May and June 2022, I had a series of conversations with the Chinatown community following the tragic losses of two community members, Hung Trang and Ban Phuc Hoang. Chinatown community members expressed a strong desire for an increased multi-disciplinary public safety presence, ideally with a physical location. In response to this request, City Administration and the Edmonton Police Service prepared a business case to meet this need at a cost that was mindful of the City's limited financial capacity. This is a key initiative highlighted in the Downtown Core and Transit System Safety Plan provided to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General in June 2022.

The Healthy Streets Operations Centre business plan was presented to Council for consideration on July 4, 2022. If approved, this \$18 million initiative (commencing in 2023 and over 4 years) would create a joint space and establish multi-year funding to resource additional



dedicated police, peace officers, fire rescue prevention officers, and community safety liaison personnel to work closer together and be deployed in real time to address violent crime, property crime, social disorder and ensure timely mitigation of identified vacant unsecure properties in the Chinatown area.

Following receipt of City Administration's report, our City Council unanimously approved a motion to postpone a decision on any potential municipal funding support until the August 15, 2022 City Council meeting. This postponement allows time for me to speak with you and request assistance from your government towards the implementation of the Healthy Streets Operations Centre. I believe that the creation of this Centre will play a significant role in addressing our shared priorities of addressing public safety while providing community-based policing and first responders to our vulnerable populations.

On behalf of the City of Edmonton, I am requesting that the province provide \$18 million over the next four years to resource the Healthy Streets Operations Centre. I am also requesting that you consider how the Centre can be supported with Government of Alberta programming or other investments discussed in the Downtown Core and Transit System Safety Plan to provide the comprehensive response needed by the Chinatown community.

We all agree that Edmontonians deserve to live in safe communities. Our constituents expect us to work together to address the serious problems facing our community including addressing the interconnected challenges of homelessness, mental health, and addictions. We have heard these expectations also echoed by businesses in the Downtown and Chinatown as well as the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to your ongoing support in these areas.

Edmonton City Council and I are deeply committed to a safe and equitable community for all Edmontonians. Our response to the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General's follow-up questions on our Public Safety Plan will be provided. We welcome an opportunity to meet with your officials in the coming weeks to discuss the Healthy Streets Operations Centre and explore what supports the province can offer.

Yours truly,



Amarjeet Sohi
Mayor

- c. The Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Labour and Immigration
- The Honourable Jason Nixon, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
- Members of City Council
- Andre Corbould, City Manager

