

NOTICE OF MOTION

Dylan Bressey

June 19, 2020

Arlene Karbasheski
City Clerk

To Whom it May Concern;

At an upcoming Council Meeting, I intend to make the following motion:

That Council:

- 1. Affirm that mental health challenges jeopardize the safety of some residents and decrease the viability of our community;*
- 2. Acknowledge that, in Grande Prairie and across Alberta, police are often called to be the sole responders in situations where mental health professionals or other resources should be in place to support or replace police response;*
- 3. Assert that more proactive and preventative approaches to mental health, addictions, and housing would improve our community while decreasing demands on costly police and emergency healthcare resources;*
- 4. Direct the Mayor to write to Premier Kenney and appropriate Ministers expressing the local effectiveness of Police And Crisis Team (PACT), various Supportive Housing projects, and other Provincial/City partnerships and asking to discuss further partnership opportunities to invest in mental health, addictions, and housing support; and,*
- 5. Direct administration to, in its 2021 budget recommendations, contrast any proposed increases to the RCMP budget alongside alternative investments of similar amounts that could be made into mental health care, addictions support, supportive housing, or preventative community development initiatives.*

Please add this Notice of Motion to the agenda of the June 29th Regular Council Meeting.

Enclosed is relevant background information.

Thank you;

Dylan Bressey
Councillor

Enclosures: Background Information

NOTICE OF MOTION- BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The Municipal Government Act 3(c) states that a purpose of municipalities is to “develop and maintain safe and viable communities.”
- Many Grande Prairie residents are joining a nation-wide call to examine the role of police in responding to mental health concerns
- With a young population and many residents far from extended family and other supports, Grande Prairie is a community where mental health concerns are often felt more acutely than elsewhere
- Economic challenges, the Opioid Crisis, COVID-19, and other societal factors are making mental health a bigger concern than it has been in the past
- The City of Grande Prairie has seen large positive impact from its mental health focused approaches to community concerns. Notable successes include the Police and Crisis Support Team, Housing First initiatives, and support for Daytime Shelter space.
- In 2020, Council budgeted \$1,416,261 towards Community Social Development. This represents approximately 1.2% of the City’s 2020 tax base
- In 2020, Council budgeted \$20,599,096 towards RCMP operational costs. This represents approximately 17.2% of the City’s 2020 tax base
- In 2020, the City saw a \$1,895,628 increase to its base RCMP budget. This increase provided for the same level of service as the City received in 2019. Council allocated additional funds to expand the local detachment.
- As the RCMP’s collective bargaining continues, the City is likely to see another significant increase to its annual base contract costs in the next 2-3 years. Additionally, multi-year budgets have allocated additional funds to expand the City detachment.