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CANADA

December 1, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

For several months now SPPC has been receiving monthly “Progress Update- Health & Homelessness Whole of Community System Response”. We appreciate staff’s commitment to delivering these Council directed updates, however it is becoming clear to us that the frequency of these is not particularly helpful to council nor respectful of the tremendous amount of staff workload in this area currently. Time taken to compile these reports is pulling staff away from the work itself.

We noted during the Cold Weather Response plan the comments from many councillors that the plan felt rushed or last minute, yet staff have had to spend hours of time each month to compile update reports to us. Our preference is to allow staff to focus more on the work and spend less time on generating general update reports, noting that any items for decision, such as the Encampment Table’s work, still has to come forward to Council with a full report for debate and direction regardless of the frequency of general updates.

We also think it is important to acknowledge these reports also require additional staff time from the clerk’s office among other service areas of the corporation.

In addition to those factors, it is also important to acknowledge that since the monthly reporting was directed, the Mayor and Budget Chair have both been added to Accountability Table, with the Deputy Mayor serving as an alternate to either, to ensure Council has representation in the process prior to it coming before committee.

Therefore, we are seeking your support for the following motion:

That Civic Administration be directed to adjust the frequency of the overall comprehensive “Progress Update- Health & Homelessness Whole of Community System Response” to twice annually.

It being noted that Council, via SPPC, will continue to receive reports on matters for it’s decision-making related to the Whole of Community System Response as necessary.

Sincerely,

Shawn Lewis
Deputy Mayor
Ward 2 Councillor

Skylar Franke
Ward 11 Councillor