

To the members of CPSC,

I am writing in regards to Item 4.2 of the agenda for CPSC April 13, 2026 – options for a contract extension with 519Pursuit. In particular, I would like to note the importance of considering Option 1, full funding, given the availability of funds within the Social Services Reserve Fund, the anticipated level of need for outreach through the period of requested funding, and the alignment with the encampment outreach component of the Whole of Community Response.

- 1) In regards to funding, the report notes funds within the Social Services Reserve Fund after existing commitments of \$2.5M. The Option 1 commitment would be \$0.34M. Therefore, there are currently available resources to meet this funding request.
- 2) In regards to anticipated service needs, per the Homeless Individuals dashboard, there are at least 12 active encampments. I have noted in particular the significant growth of tents within Evergreen Park that has appeared to triple in number since reductions at Watson Park. The number of unique individuals in the dashboard by-name-list has grown from 2100 this time last year to 2300. 519Pursuit has also noted that encampment outreach needs grow significantly with improved weather. Overall, we can anticipate that outreach needs will continue to grow for the foreseeable future.
- 3) In terms of strategic alignment, it is noted that 1 of 3 components of the Whole of Community Response is encampment outreach. This is noted as a vital, relationship-based approach to engagement into services of those with the most complex health and social needs. To be most effective, all 3 aspects of the Response need to be active and connected. Given the significant role that 519Pursuit plays in this component, and the expertise they have developed, it is strategic to continue to fund this component.

Thank you for your consideration. I give permission for this communication to be included in public agendas and minutes of Committee and Council.

Abe Oudshoorn, RN, PhD (he/him)