

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 20, 2019
FROM:	G. KOTSIFAS, P. ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE SERVICES & CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL
SUBJECT:	UNSANCTIONED AND UNSAFE STREET PARTIES

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Development and Compliance Services and Chief Building Official, in concurrence of the City Manager, the report on Unsanctioned and Unsafe Street Parties **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes, noting that policy and implementation teams have been created to address public safety.

BACKGROUND

In September 2018, approximately 20,000 people engaged in an unsanctioned street party in the near campus-neighbourhood just south of Western University ("University") on Broughdale Avenue and surrounding streets. This event was not sanctioned by either the University or the City of London ("City"). Multiple agencies and first responders were engaged in a coordinated response to this unsanctioned event. All agencies involved in this event scheduled additional staff resources. London Police Service contracted officers with York Regional Police to ensure public safety. There is significant risk to the attendees, first responders and on ground agency personnel. In fact, the whole community is impacted as streets are closed, and the amount of first responder dedication to the event impacts community wide emergency call response.

The timeline of the area impacted is between 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the day of the unsanctioned street party. Public and private area clean-up activities last for several days after the event. During the 2018 event, 57 persons were hospitalized (28 persons were transported to hospitals between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. alone). Hospitals reported receiving patients related to the event both the day prior and many days after. London Police Service issued 134 Provincial Offence Notices. London Fire Department issued 30 Fire Code violations. Municipal Law Enforcement issued 6 noise violations. The cost of first responders related to this event exceeded \$200,000. The public and private costs related to the "after party" debris and property damage are extensive.

During the initial event debrief, all agencies agreed that the magnitude of this unsanctioned event cannot continue, as the potential of life altering injuries or death is very probable. The recent trend of "brewfing" (drinking on rooftops) has resulted in structural collapse in other municipalities where similar events occur. Due to the volume of people obstructing prompt emergency vehicle response, patients are normally removed from the location of the injury occurrence by using a "gurney to waiting vehicle" protocol.

In order to move forward towards solutions for anticipated future unsanctioned events, a phased plan is being implemented that involves a number of first responder agencies, City departments and Western University. Two key teams have been formed.

Policy Team

This group will focus on policy matters related to legislation, by-laws and internal policies. Members of this team will make recommendations for amendments to policy or legislative matters if necessary. Some of the issues to be addressed by the Policy Team include:

- The Student Code of Conduct
- The Public Nuisance By-law
- On-Campus Events (location, timing)

This group will include representatives from the City, London Police Service, Western University Administration, and Student Union who specialize in policy matters, and on-campus student programming. If any changes to City By-laws are proposed, Civic Administration will present them to the Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) by April 2019.

Steering and Implementation Committee


This group will focus on operational protocol matters which will also involve communications with the general public and student population (including University, College and local School Boards). This group will include representatives from all first responder agencies including hospital services as well as additional City departments, including Corporate Security and Emergency Management, Fire Prevention and Communications.

Public Consultation

In an effort to obtain public feedback on proposed solutions being developed by the Policy Team, a community consultation meeting will be held in February/March 2019. Any policy or by-law changes proposed by Civic Administration will be scheduled for April 2019.

CONCLUSION

The intent of this report is for information purposes. All agencies involved in public safety, health care, education, and student life are very concerned about the unintended consequences of unsanctioned street parties. Any changes to by-laws resulting from this review will allow for a process of public participation. There will be a coordinated communications plan, which will focus on sharing emergency management information, as well as the anticipated consequences of non-compliance.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
	
O. KATOLYK, MLEO (c) CHIEF MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	GEORGE KOTSIFAS, P. ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & AND COMPLIANCE SERVICES & CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL
RECOMMENDED BY:	
MARTIN P. HAYWARD, CPA, CGA CITY MANAGER, CITY OF LONDON	