

DATE: August 28, 2019

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Rob van Adrichem, Director of External Relations

SUBJECT: Talktober 2019

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive for information the report dated August 28, 2019 from the Director of External Relations on the activities and schedule planned for Talktober 2019.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to outline the activities that will comprise Talktober 2019 in order that Council can plan to participate in the events and recognize how the activities will both support the City's requirement to engage with residents and multiple constituencies and to communicate about Prince George's circumstances regarding civic infrastructure.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The focused series of public engagement opportunities, which have come to be known collectively as Talktober, is a manifestation of Council's priority to re-connect with citizens and partners. In 2019, Talktober will be focused on infrastructure needs and investment.

BACKGROUND:

Talktober began in 2015 as a series of community engagement sessions that involved displays from City staff and a "question and answer" session moderated by the Mayor. Topics included roads and transportation, social and economic development, parks and amenities, and other civic facilities and infrastructure. The public information sessions have been supplemented by an online budget survey to gauge budget priorities of residents. These results have been provided at the start of Council's annual budget deliberations.

TALKTOBER 2019:

Building on the messages, priorities, and statistics outlined in the 2018 Annual Report, staff have prepared a plan for Talktober 2019 that will provide context and information about the City's infrastructure. This will include the historical development of the community both in regards to physical size and population, the various types of civic infrastructure and how they are funded, and comparisons with similar communities.

Information sessions will be held at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre:

- October 1 and 2 at the Prince George Conference and Civic Centre, Room 103 from noon to 8:00pm.
- Each event will include presentations followed by a question and answer session facilitated by the Mayor.

The City will be providing information on its website and social media channels to complement the public events at the Civic Centre. The online budget consultation will also occur through the entire month.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Talktober 2019 will involve two public engagement sessions and related communications throughout October focused largely on civic infrastructure. The sessions will involve presentations and displays, and will provide residents with opportunities to engage in a dialogue with the Mayor, members of Council, and staff. Talktober 2019 will also feature an online budget consultation to collect feedback from residents that will be used to inform Council's 2020 budget deliberations.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Rob van Adrichem, Director of External Relations



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: September 9, 2019