

**DATE:** June 19, 2023

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

**SUBJECT:** Building Safer Communities Fund Grant Update

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Background staff report dated May 16, 2022 (authorizing the City to apply for the BSCF Grant)

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

THAT Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the June 19, 2023, report titled “Building Safer Communities Fund Grant Update” from the Director of Public Safety.

**PURPOSE:**

This report is presented to update Council on the City’s Building Safer Communities Fund Grant application and program.

**BACKGROUND:**

On May 16, 2022 Council approved Administration to submit an application for the Building Safer Communities Fund Grant for \$1.8M over 4 years, ending March 31, 2026. This is a federal program funded by the Government of Canada.

The City was successful in obtaining the grant and has subsequently created and implemented a program, called STRIVE (Strength Through Resilience and Independence via Empowerment) with a Contribution Agreement authorized by both parties for the duration of the grant.

Junior STRIVE is an in-school educational engagement program for youth in identified elementary schools from high-crime neighborhoods that aims to provide awareness and education on gang-life, gun violence, drug and alcohol awareness, restorative justice principles, and online safety. It is from this program that the STRIVE program cohort of 15-20 youth will be selected from and will continue together through grades 8-12, with a new cohort being selected every Grade 8 year for the duration of the federal grant.

Working with community contributors and partners across multiple sectors, STRIVE, is an after-school community-based program that aims to strengthen and empower youth through team building, recreational activities, community mentorship, experiential learning, and culturally focused activities. The program is designed to build self-confidence, self-esteem, to enhance academic performance, and expose youth to post-secondary opportunities.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This grant may augment Council's priority of Public Safety

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Building Safer Communities Fund Grant is funded by Public Safety Canada and is used to hire a Community Policing Coordinator and external consultants to assist in creating, implementing, evaluating, and leading this program.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The City of Prince George is one of the few Municipalities across the country that has received this grant and has a program created, implemented and contribution agreements authorized. A sustainability plan is being developed to ensure that this program will continue beyond the expiration of the grant.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

**PREPARED BY:** [Devon Cooper, CPA, CGA Manager of Police Support Services]

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2023/07/10