

Date: October 2, 2024

To: **Standing Committee on Public Safety**

Name and title: Eric Depenau, Director, Administrative Services

Subject: The Downtown Safety Hub and Coordination of Outreach Services

Attachment(s):

1. Media Release: Safety Hub Established – 2021
2. Select Committee on a Clean, Safe and Inclusive Community – January 2021 Report

#### Recommendation(s):

That the Standing Committee on Public Safety RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report titled “The Downtown Safety Hub and Coordination of Outreach Services” from the Director of Administrative Services, dated October 2, 2024.

#### Purpose:

To provide background information and a space for conversation. A report related to the title is included in the committee’s work plan.

#### Background:

In 2021, to address persistent and multi-faceted social issues like homelessness, substance use, and mental illness, the City of Prince George, in collaboration with its partners, launched the Community Safety Hub to enhance and support multi-jurisdictional service coordination. This was a recommendation arising from the Select Committee on a Clean, Safe and Inclusive Community – January 2021 Report.

As originally contemplated, the space is available as a flexible work and meeting space for City Bylaw Services, Northern Health, BC Housing, RCMP including the Downtown Safety Unit, the Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Downtown Prince George, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and more. Agencies make use of this space to differing levels. This is an area where staff are working to better understand and strengthen the usage.

Currently, the most routine meeting occurring from this space is the Prince Geore SPIRIT Table which brings together various organizations to help support responses for vulnerable people with particularly complex and challenging needs.

Bylaw also uses this space as an extension of their City Hall office to conduct work. Emergency Management staff (2 members) have recently relocated to the space to make use of some of the

upstairs office space as the seasonal emergency trailers are now closed for the season. This usage is helpful as it provides a consistent presence at the Hub during regular hours.

**Summary and conclusion:**

The Safety Hub is available as a space for partner agencies to make use of. Several groups, such as the SPIRIT Table, make use of the space currently. Staff, both Emergency Management and Bylaw, use the space in their routine business. These uses are in line with the original intent of the space. Administration is working to understand how the space can further support partner agencies to advance coordination as this appears to be an area that could be further strengthened.

**Respectfully submitted:**

Eric Depenau, Director, Administrative Services

**Approved:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024 /10/ 15