



Chinatown Safety Council Community Updates June 20, 2022

This periodical update aims to keep broader community members and groups in Chinatown informed of recent updates of all activities impacting safety, well-being and vibrancy in the area. To contribute updates to the Chinatown Safety Council please email Brandy Basisty brandy.basisty@reachedmonton.ca

ASSIST COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

- The agency has security guards checking the area on a regular rotation. They run a youth drop-in program 3 times per week from 3:30 to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 to 5 p.m. It's a nuisance and poses safety concerns to find needles, intoxicated individuals, garbage, and human waste.
- They are looking to install automatic gate opener to allow staff to close the parking lot after office hours and minimize access to the space. This will likely reduce foot traffic of non-clients and address some of the safety concerns identified above. These recommendations cost money and the group would like the Council to keep them informed on grant opportunities to apply to implement these recommended safety measures.

CITY OF EDMONTON

- Increased Peace Officer Presence
- Amended Conduct of Transit Passengers Bylaw
- Increased Response to Encampments and Problem Properties
- On April 19, 2022, City Council approved \$850,000 on a one-time basis to extend the Community Property Safety Team pilot for up to 18 months, and \$915,000 on a one-time basis to enhance dedicated resources for problem properties.
- The pilot project involves ordering owners to secure vacant properties, and uses an escalating enforcement model that secures vacant properties against break-ins at homeowners' expense. To date, 23 orders have been sent to private property owners in Alberta Avenue, McCauley and other neighbourhoods and one commercial order has been issued in Chinatown.
- Three properties have been boarded up, and two were demolished, and four have submitted demolition permits. As a result of these efforts, the community fire risk is now significantly lower. The pilot project is scheduled to run until October 2023.
- Funded Business Security

- On May 24, 2022, City Council approved \$300,000 for the purpose of addressing the immediate needs of Chinatown. In consultation with the community, Administration identified that an effective use of these resources is helping fund new private security resources which coordinate with EPS and Peace Officers.
- On June 3, 2022, Administration provided a \$300,000 grant to the Chinatown and Area Business Association to help fund private security resources in and throughout Chinatown.
- See the full details on City of Edmonton's commitment to immediate and long-term actions that address community safety in Chinatown [here](#) (posted on June 9).

HOPE MISSION

- Outreach team spend 2 hours in the morning 2 hours in the evening, Monday to Friday 101 St to 97 St on 105 Ave to check in on folks, asking what they need, trying to collect information from folks in encampments (regarding what the team can support them with, what barriers do you encounter). This is a pilot that comes from an ad hoc task force that started in the fall.
- Not a lot of data known in Chinatown area about folks in the encampments because they become "high risk" and become the domain of EPS.
- Hope Mission just started cleaning up/power washing twice a day in and around Hope Mission property (empty lot across from Hope, Herb Jamieson), would like to do this for other businesses once a week but still need to water hook-ups (hose bibs from Hope property, or access to those businesses' water line). This will be tested/piloted for 2 weeks starting with the All Happy Family Restaurant building (across from Hope).
- Hope Mission is also working with Chinatown BIA on a 2-year project that employs 2 Hope Mission clients/community members to do regular power washing in Chinatown. Unsure of when the funding will be confirmed or received.

YEG AMBASSADORS

- **Economic development** – working with CTC, City Neighbourhood Revitalization, and BIA providing support with events and beautification initiatives. In addition, the team is working with the North Edge Business Association for some economic development work.
- **Safety** - YEG Ambassadors are using the city's drug poisoning dashboard to connect with businesses and share information and resources. They are helping with environmental scanning for factors that affect perception of safety and generating a report to share with the BIA and city. Also, supporting CTC scan vacant lots; advising the city on potential locations for fire hydrant conversions to water bottle filling stations; looking at ways to honour Mary Burlie Park; in talks with George Spady to host a community activation in that park.
- Currently hiring for new team members; hoping to find someone who can speak Cantonese or Mandarin. Interested individuals can apply at REACHEdmonton.ca/reach-jobs

