



## **Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety, Security & Wellbeing February 25, 2022 - Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Bob Chapman, Fred Eismont, Cindy Malachowski, Todd Wilson, Noel Coppins, Kelly Brown, Stephanie Skopyk, Kelly Murphy, Dr. Peter Stoett, Steve Conaby, Hanna Mohammed, Kiersten Allore-Engel

**Staff:** Paul Ralph, Tracy Adams, Kevin Alexander, Haik Beglarov, Shannon McFadyen, Hailey Wright

**Regrets:** Sandra Black, Dave Saliba, Matt Bowles, Brenda Jeffs

**Meeting Location:** Cisco Webex Meeting

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

### **1. Welcome**

Chair Chapman welcomed and thanked all Task Force members for joining.

### **2. Review and Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from January 28, 2022 were reviewed and no changes were made.

### **3. Feedback on the Downtown Patrol**

#### **Haik Beglarov, City of Oshawa**

Haik Beglarov gave a brief update on additional security patrols which commenced in the downtown core on November 29 in partnership with Municipal Law Enforcement:

- The patrols span the areas of Park Rd to Gibb St and Ritson Rd to Adelaide Ave;
- Staff were able to connect individuals with necessary services as well as support downtown businesses and residents;
- From November 29, 2021 to February 18, 2022, there have been a total of 2,080 incident reports, of which:
  - 220 were categorized as criminal in nature but were addressed with City By-laws;
  - 74 were reported to DRPS for assistance;
  - 1,525 were categorized as Trespass to Property;
  - 243 were categorized as garbage, littering;

- 220 were categorized as medical, intoxication, drugs;
- 61 were categorized as mischief, graffiti and vandalism.

### **Kevin Alexander, City of Oshawa**

Kevin Alexander added without the additional resources received for these downtown patrols, a number of these incidents would have gone on unaddressed.

### **Chair Bob Chapman**

There are individuals who will not accept assistance, either because of drug addiction or mental health issues.

The Region has agreed to once again to partner with the City this year to assist funding the cleanup program that is being implemented by the City's Operations team.

Chair Chapman announced that the Region of Durham through the approval of the 2022 budget has added a second Primary Care Outreach team consisting of an advanced paramedic and a counsellor. The second team will start July 2022 to provide for evening and weekend hours across the region. Chair Chapman also noted the following initiatives:

- The Downtown Oshawa Business Alliance is working with the City's Economic Development Department to offer workforce training; and
- The City's Community Services staff are working on the return of City-run events.

### **Mayor Carter**

Mayor Carter advised that the Downtown Patrols are undertaking enforcement work as well as connecting individuals with appropriate services.

### **Cindy Malachowski, Lord Simcoe Place**

Cindy Malachowski outlined how the Oshawa Downtown Business Alliance is exploring unique ways in which downtown businesses can work together in providing individuals with structure, support and work experience. There are a number of businesses who are willing to participate in the program. The partnership with CMHA Durham is through their recovery college, which would offer life skills development in addition to work placement.

## **4. Update on Region's actions**

### **Chair Bob Chapman**

The Region has purchased the 100-year-old Ritson Road school with a plan to allow for mixed affordable housing. The Region is currently looking for a developer to partner with in order to commence the planning process.

In addition, Durham Region's Health and Social Services Committee are investigating spots throughout the region for additional micro home units to be located.

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies ("ALPHA") is advocating for the Minister of Health and the Provincial Government to make the opioid crisis a public health emergency crisis and are asking government officials to address this crisis in the same manner as COVID-19.

### **Mayor Carter**

Overviewed Durham Region Information Report #2022-INFO-10 "Patterns of Medication and Healthcare Use Among People Who Died of Opioid-Related Toxicity During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ontario. The report reinforces the need for expanded access to a broad suite of programs designed to support individuals who use drugs. In 2021, there were approximately 998 suspected calls, which is approximately a 38 per cent increase from 725 calls in 2020, and an even larger increase from 591 in 2019 (pre-pandemic). In 2021, preliminary data show there were approximately 73 deaths from January to July.

Mayor Carter also presented the Region's Report Card for the Built for Zero Program noting the program continues to identify unhoused individuals, living rough or unsheltered; sharing of the 214 individuals who have been permanently housed, 131 of them were unsheltered for more than 6 months demonstrating success in the program.

Mayor Carter shared his request to the Regional Chair to set aside funds for the Micro Home Project and requested every Mayor of each Municipality in Durham to commit to at least 20 micro home units in their communities. Micro homes are more affordable than non-profit housing and quicker to build which is why they are part of this strategy.

## **5. Update on City's Actions**

### **Hailey Wright, City of Oshawa**

Provided information on the My Main Street Ambassador program, noting the Ambassador will be working closely with the City's Downtown Manager and briefly highlighted the following:

- The program complements existing service downtown;
- Through FedDev Ontario, 10 grants will be available (five new and five existing businesses);
- Collected data will assist in identifying where future improvements can be made.

### **Haik Beglarov, City of Oshawa**

Gave a brief outline of other initiatives that staff are working on for the Downtown core including:

- 21 emergency stations have been installed and tested in Mary St Garage;

- Additional CCTV cameras located in the downtown in partnership with D.R.P.S.; and
- Municipal Law Enforcement arranged for outreach workers from social service agencies (Back Door Mission, CAREA and Cornerstone) to be paired with the dedicated Downtown Patrol Municipal Law Enforcement Officers for one hour each morning, effective February 14, 2022, to assist in connecting unsheltered individuals with appropriate supports and services. The various agencies are considering expanding this collaboration in the coming weeks and months.

## **6. Other business as brought up by Task Force Members**

### **Cindy Malachowski, Lord Simcoe Place.**

Is excited to hear about My Main Street program and is grateful for all resources that are offered to downtown businesses and to see different initiatives and supports coming to the downtown.

### **Kelly Brown, Region of Durham - Primary Care Outreach Program**

Is also excited to see all new initiatives that are developing, continues to collaborate with other support groups and is seeing less individuals "falling through the cracks" as a result of that collaboration. She is very hopeful with all the initiatives that have come from this Task Force and it is very good to see all support groups working together.

### **Stephanie Skopyk, Mission United/CMHA Durham**

Is encouraged by the conversations taking place at this Task Force, is very pleased by the collaborations between support groups and is starting to see positive impacts. She provided a brief update on the Addiction Program and the overnight shelter program that started last month, and announced that Mission United has partnered with Durham Region Health and Social Services and are looking for pretreatment beds closer to Durham as well as looking at ways to offer palliative care services. The biggest highlight is that Mission United is seeing fewer overdoses.

### **Noel Coppins, RE/MAX Jazz**

Praised the work at Back Door Mission after hearing firsthand how they operated and thanked all Task Force Members for the work that is being done.

### **Steve Conaby, Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce**

Thanked Mayor Carter and Chair Chapman for pushing through initiatives discussed on this Task Force, and is pleased to real change. The community is excited to see City events return to downtown.

### **Dr. Peter Stoett, Ontario Tech University**

The Community Values Committee is looking at conducting a widespread survey which would look at people's attitudes of the downtown. Dr Stoett expressed his interest in developing the urban development program at the University in partnership with the City.

### **Kiersten Allore-Engel, Region of Durham**

Gave an update on the Region's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan including:

- An upcoming GTHA Safety and Wellbeing Symposium focusing on how to share best practices, how to involve community partners and planning of interactive networking workshops;
- Overviewed the implementation steps of the Region's Plan indicating the need to ensure there is no duplication of work being done;
- Providing community awareness about the services offered in Durham Region;

### **Mayor Dan Carter**

It is wonderful to see the PCOP program has expanded and seeing other communities benefit from it. We have tried to be on the leading edge when it comes to outreach, supported services, housing, health, mental and addiction services and we can be proud of the accomplishments made. Kudos were given to the work being done at Downtown Oshawa Business Alliance and a special thank you to Ontario Tech for the work on the Opiate Forum that was held this week. Lastly, Mayor Carter thanked all Task Force Members for their time and ideas and noted that because of these efforts, huge strides are being made and we are making a difference in the community.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022.