November 13, 2026

Edmonton City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City of Edmonton
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2R7

To Mayor Knack and City Council:

Re: 7.1 Community Safety and Well-Being Framework - Community and Public Services Committee on November 16, 2026

The Edmonton Downtown Business Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the future of the Community Safety and Well-Being Framework.

Vulnerable people are struggling with homelessness, mental health challenges, addiction, violence, and social disorder in downtown public spaces. These challenges require compassionate and coordinated action. They also have real impacts on businesses, employees, residents, customers, visitors, service providers, and community organizations. This is why safety remains the leading priority for EDBA members.

EDBA supports a more focused framework that aligns funding, partnerships, and measurable outcomes with Council's safety priority.

EDBA recommends Option 1(b): concentrate the Community Safety and Well-Being Framework, associated funding, and performance measures on the three aligned Council outcomes of safety in public spaces, violence prevention and community safety, and action on housing.

Our rationale is straightforward:

- Each of these outcomes is a substantial area of work in its own right. Focusing on three outcomes would provide greater intentionality, accountability, and clarity.
- Problem properties and roadway safety remain important. However, both have established City processes, operational responsibilities, and plans through which improvements can continue.
- Anti-racism, reconciliation, and inclusion should be reflected as City-wide values. They should guide how every strategy, service, partnership, and investment is designed and delivered rather than operate as separate pillars within this framework.
- Aligning seed funding and performance measures with the three selected outcomes would provide clearer accountability for results.

These priorities are costly and complex. The City should not attempt to fund or deliver them alone.

Municipal funding can establish the local capacity needed to move this work forward. It can demonstrate the City's commitment, develop partnerships, define service pathways, and leverage cost-shared investments from other governments and partners.

Progress will require the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, the City of Edmonton, Indigenous governments and partners, health and justice systems, community agencies, BIAs, and the private sector to work together.

There is an opportunity to build on the Government of Alberta's recovery-focused work and the Government of Canada's new commitment to end homelessness within 10 years. Within Edmonton, the City can play a leading role in convening partners and strengthening pathways:

- Into and out of health care.
- Into and out of corrections.
- Into and out of housing and community services.
- Through treatment, recovery, and reintegration.
- Between policing, bylaw enforcement, emergency response, outreach, and health and social services.

This work is especially important as Edmonton prepares for a significant expansion of housing and supportive housing. Housing is essential, but housing alone will not create a functioning system. Health, recovery, safety, and service pathways must be developed alongside it.

Long-term plans will take time to implement. We must also address what is happening on our streets and in our public spaces today.

Day spaces, crisis diversion, outreach, and de-escalation services remain critical. EDBA's Downtown Core Patrol is one example. It helps prevent situations from escalating, connects vulnerable people with services, and supports businesses and the broader downtown community.

Stewardship also matters. Public spaces require visible care, active management, maintenance, and responsive services. These actions do not replace long-term solutions. They help ensure that streets, parks, transit areas, and other public spaces are safe, welcoming, and usable by everyone.

EDBA does not support Option 2 as the current Blueprint for Violence Prevention is too narrow for the purpose of this framework. Gender-based violence and youth violence and vulnerability are important areas of work that should continue. However, the Blueprint's current priorities do not sufficiently address safety in downtown public spaces or the daily impacts experienced by vulnerable people, businesses, employees, residents, and visitors.

Option 1(b) provides the clearest opportunity to focus resources, build partnerships, and achieve measurable results. It can advance long-term systems change while supporting tangible improvements in downtown public spaces today.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James L. Robinson
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c.c. Braede Harris, Director of Operations