



RPT 21-58

TITLE: Back Alley Safety Update

DATE: February 4, 2021

TO: City Council

PUBLIC: X

INCAMERA:

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received as information and filed.

TOPIC & PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to City Council on the implementation of the Alley Access Bylaw and on the related motion sensor light community safety initiative, which is currently in development.

PROPOSED APPROACH AND RATIONALE:

Alley Access Bylaw

City Council approved Bylaw No. 8 of 2020, the Alley Access Bylaw, in June 2020. The purpose of the Alley Access Bylaw is to restrict access to all alleys located throughout the city between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am.

Since this bylaw was implemented, City Police have continued to monitor and patrol alleys and can report that though they received approximately 36 reports of "Bylaw Offences", which is what violations of the Alley Access Bylaw would be considered, upon review none of the offences reported were specific to the Alley Access Bylaw. The majority of the "Bylaw Offence" calls received pertained to other municipal bylaws and were in relation to issues such as garbage, noise violations, barking dogs or dogs at large.

City Police have indicated that the Alley Access Bylaw is a useful tool for their members, as it can be used to help manage public complaints and issues. However, they have not noted any changes or increases in enforcement related to this bylaw, nor has there been any increase in pro-active enforcement related to this bylaw. The day-to-day calls that are received do not show an increase in calls for back alley issues either, and the calls that are received are typically for suspicious or criminal activity. For example, a member detained an individual in a back alley at 2:30 am with a bicycle and a large bag as they were observed to be checking vehicle door handles. Though this was a violation of the Alley Access Bylaw, it was also

probable criminal behavior and that provided the member the authority to detain the individual and conduct an investigation that resulted in criminal charges.

Motion Sensor Light Community Safety Initiative

City Administration is in the process of making the requested changes to the motion sensor light community safety initiative (available to all residents and work with a local retailer to provide the lights) and have initiated conversations with a local retailer to determine if they are interested in participating in this program. Once Administration has secured a local retailer, further information will be presented to City Council for consideration.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Public Notice pursuant to Public Notice Bylaw No. 24 of 2015 is not required.

Written by: Kristina Karpluk, Planning Manager

Approved by: Director of Planning and Development Services & City Manager