

Minutes  
Council's Response Committee on Housing and Emergency Shelter (CRCHES)  
Committee Meeting  
April 8, 2025 – 9 am  
Council Committee Meeting Room, City Hall

Attendees: Councillor Gord Klassen, Councillor Trevor Bolin, Councillor Sarah MacDougall, Darrell Blades, Robert Norton, Erin Ferris, Bonnie McCue (recording secretary)

1. Call To Order:

9:00 am

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

The March 12, 2025 CRCHES meeting minutes were provided and will be included on the next Regular Council agenda.

5. Invited Guests/Presentations

Darrell Blades, Deputy CAO; Robert Norton, Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief; Erin Ferris, Public Safety Manager

A discussion was held regarding the planned approach, resources, and challenges facing the Public Safety Department. The Parks and Open Spaces Bylaw will be presented to the Council at an upcoming meeting. A proactive program is being developed, which will feature a tiered response to enforce the bylaw. Effective communication through signage and public information is seen as crucial to the success of this program.

It was noted that residents can easily report issues to Public Safety using the City's app. To increase its usage, there was a discussion about promoting the app's ease of use and potentially re-titling the app.

There is an opportunity to support businesses by implementing a dumpster lock program to reduce public safety risks. This proposal will be sent to the Mayor's Standing Committee for consideration.

The application of the City's Nuisance Bylaw was also discussed. The Fire Chief will follow up by sending letters to inform relevant organizations about the potential implications of the bylaw for businesses.

Councillor Bolin left the meeting.

4. Correspondence

The letter from Katelyn Mack of the Intensive Case Management Team – Specialised Services, was referred to staff for further information. The committee will be updated on the request for clients to access additional shower facilities within City buildings.

6. Updates and Progress Reports:

- A strategy to engage with ministries will be developed. The committee will determine the appropriate “ask” and the method for sharing the vision. A review of supporting ministers’ mandates should be done to identify areas of alignment.
- The effectiveness of meeting in person and following up was emphasized.
- NCLGA may provide an opportunity to meet with ministries.
- UBCM is in Victoria, and some meetings can be scheduled before the event starts.

7. Ongoing Discussion Items

None

8. New Business

None

9. Budget and Resource Planning

None

10. Action Items

- Referral of the business dumpster lock program to the Mayor’s Standing Committee
- Determine if any ministries are attending NLCGA
- Develop a strategy to engage with ministries at UBCM

11. Adjournment

10:30 am