

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT 24  
APRIL 13, 2022**

**161**

**COMITÉ DES SERVICES  
COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE  
PROTECTION RAPPORT 24  
LE 13 AVRIL 2022**

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES 24  
COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MARCH 31, 2022**

**EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE  
DU PROCÈS-VERBAL 24  
COMITÉ DES SERVICES  
COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE  
PROTECTION  
LE 31 MARS 2022**

8. Respite Services Sustainability Plan

ACS2022-RCF-GEN-0004

CITY WIDE

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#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend that Council:**

- 1. Approve the Respite Services Sustainability Plan as described in this report and as follows:**
  - a. Provide the General Manager, Community and Social Services with the delegated authority to maintain the Human Needs Command Centre as well as the municipally operated Respite and Physical Distancing Centres, which includes day programming like services, as described in this report; and**
  - b. Direct staff to conduct a review of the single adult community shelter requirements and develop a longer-term plan; and**
  - c. Approve the creation of a service hub located at 370 Catherine Street within the Employment and Social Services office and report back on the day programming like services plans and needs for the Vanier and Centretown geographic areas by Q1, 2023.**
- 2. Provide the Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer the delegated authority to draw on the Tax Stabilization Reserve to fund any shortfalls not covered by anticipated additional funding from the Social Services Relief Fund or other mitigation strategies to cover the cost of services as described in this report.**

The item was CARRIED by the following motion

**MOTION**

Moved by: Councillor M. Fleury

**WHEREAS the Respite Services Sustainability Plan provides a plan for City owned recreation spaces to transition out of respite use and back into recreation use.**

**WHEREAS a need was identified to return Tom Brown Arena to recreational use.**

**WHEREAS since March 2020 the Routhier Community Centre has been used for COVID-19 pandemic response use, including being used as an Isolation Centre, leaving the Lowertown community its key community hub.**

**WHEREAS Lowertown is one of the lowest income communities in Ottawa and among the communities with the least recreation spaces in Ottawa.**

**WHEREAS Community and Social Services Department (CSSD) have begun working with Ottawa Public Health to transition the Isolation Centre out of Routhier Community Centre.**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff update the ward Councillor on the transition timeline for Routhier Community Centre, on an ongoing basis.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Recreation Cultural and Facilities Services (RCFS), alongside CSSD's transition timeline, plan for the return of on-site programming at Routhier Community Centre, as soon as possible, but no later than September 2022.**

The following delegate spoke before the Committee in support of and provided comments on the report recommendations:

- Dawn Lyons - Director of Family & Community Health and Harm Reduction at Somerset West Community Health Centre

Dawn spoke in support of this report and of stories of homeless persons gathering at these respite centres for food, bed and a warm place to stay. Dawn also spoke about the impact of the opioid crisis and how the lack of funding in affordable housing directly affects homeless persons.

Dawn was thanked for their delegation, and received questions from Councillors C. McKenney and T. Kavanagh.

Donna Gray, GM – CSSD, and Christopher Tuck, Director – Employment and Social Services, presented an overview of the report recommendations and answered questions from the Committee.

A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Donna and Christopher were thanked for their presentation, and received questions from Councillors C. McKenney, M. Fleury, T. Kavanagh, and K. Egli.

Questions included:

M. Fleury:

1. Will there be a lessons learned?

Answer: D. Gray: Yes, over the course of the summer.

2. What can we do to build long-term resiliency?

Answer: D. Gray: We have to focus on getting to “preventative measures”.

Answer: S. Sayah: Issues are about space and overcrowding. Staff are working with the sector to continue providing these services.

T. Kavanagh:

1. How are we serving the population of women fleeing violence?

Answer: D. Gray: Housing services have strong relationships with the community and will continue to strengthen these.

2. How are we addressing persons with animals?

Answer: C. Tuck: Centres are extremely flexible, and will continue to offer support to those with pets.

K. Egli:

1. Are provisions in place should COVID restrictions affect this plan before September?

Answer: D. Gray: Staff will continue using guidance from OPH and will come back to Council if needed.

The Community and Social Services Department accepted the following DIRECTION from Councillor M. Fleury:

**As recommendation #1-B outlines a long-term plan for single adult community shelter requirements and given that By-law 2008-341 limits the maximum number of permitted shelters in Ward 12 to four, that Staff be directed to provide the Ward Councillor an update prior to July 1 2022 on the transition plan for the closure of the Nicholas Physical Distancing Centre, with a focus on the transition to permanent housing for these clients.**

The Community and Social Services Department accepted the following DIRECTION from Councillor M. Fleury:

**In response to Staff's recommendation to developing a service hub for the Vanier area in consultations with internal and external stakeholders (Recommendation #1-C), that Staff provide further details to the Ward 12 and 13 Councillors on the community consultation and governance structures that will be used to inform these service plans and future hubs. These details should include, but are not limited to:**

- Internal stakeholders that will be consulted**
- External stakeholders that will be consulted**
- The inclusion of community health partners (Ottawa Public Health, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Vanier Community Service Centre, Rideau Rockcliffe Resource Centre, etc.)**
- The governance structure(s) that will be put in place for the operation of a future hub**