



**Calgary**

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

February 19, 2025

Honourable Mike Ellis, M.L.A  
Deputy Premier of Alberta  
404 Legislature Building  
Edmonton Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Ellis,

**Re: Response to request AR 30726 Community Peace Officer alignment to combat fentanyl trafficking, illicit drug use, and social disorder**

Thank you for your letter dated February 14 2025, regarding the critical issue of illegal fentanyl trafficking and consumption in Alberta and your request to align or unify operational command of community peace officers (CPOs) within the Calgary Police Service (CPS).

We acknowledge the complexity and severity of drug issues and agree that ensuring a strong integration of CPO operations with the police service enhances collaboration and coordination. While CPOs have limited authorities compared to police officers, we have developed a unified approach which has led to a greater impact on this critical issue.

As outlined below, the City of Calgary's resources are already aligned and in motion as per your request. This letter serves to acknowledge our support of the collective initiative. We also recognize that there is more that can be done to address these public safety issues. The City of Calgary, together with our partners in CPS, request a meeting with you to discuss legislative barriers that are preventing further opportunities for integration and collaboration as it relates to public safety.

Because we share your deep concern about the devastating impact of fentanyl and other illicit drugs on the lives of Albertans and the broader community, the City of Calgary is committed to supporting federal and provincial efforts to address this public safety and public health crisis. We recognize the importance of municipal alignment and support between CPS and our CPOs in

achieving success in public safety. The 278 uniformed peace officers in the City of Calgary continue to partner closely with the CPS to optimize our impact on public safety.

Examples of the CPS and peace officer resources and operational command systems which are already in place include:

- In 2023, we began opening Community Hubs (Stephen Avenue, Chinook Mall and East Village) where CPS and CPOs have ongoing operational touch points, allowing them to share timely information and coordinate responses.
- In late 2023, we launched the Public Transit Safety Strategy which has a tiered response model with CPS, allowing CPOs to patrol transit and proactively address social disorder and CPS to respond to high priority crime. This strategy also incorporated security guards patrolling designated sites, and has resulted in a 15 per cent reduction in disorder events and a 42 per cent reduction in crime. On the Calgary transit system, overdoses have decreased by 70 per cent in 2024 when compared to 2023.
- Since 2023, our weekly Joint Management Team comprised of CPS and CPO leadership providing regular engagement on public safety issues, identifying resources and planning integrated responses.
- In 2024, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CPS that enhances interoperability with all CPOs and provides opportunities to increase coordination.
- Effective today, we are launching an integrated Major Operation under CPS Command where CPS Community Engagement Response Teams partner with CPOs for an integrated response to crime and social disorder within hot spots in the downtown core and the city. Teams are being deployed and directed in accordance with a CPS Operational Plan that encompasses a broader strategy to address crime and social disorder.
- We continue to coordinate closely via the Public Safety Working Group, the Community Engagement Response Teams, Downtown Safety Leadership Table, and have launched Action Table Calgary which enables a coordinated response to high systems users.
- We have implemented mutual aid talk groups, shared Computer Aided Dispatch systems, CPS and City co-led training, and policy development to ensure ongoing coordination in operations and project implementation.
- We are continuing to improve on our coordination and interoperability including implementation of a dedicated peace officer dispatch desk withing Calgary 911 as well as other operational enhancements.

Thank you for your interest and commitment to the safety and well-being of Albertans. We look forward to continued collaboration and success in addressing this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Jyoti Gondek  
Mayor, The City of Calgary

Cc: Curtis Zablocki, Assistant Deputy Minister, Director of Law Enforcement, Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services  
Yonathan Sumamo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services  
David Duckworth, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Calgary  
Iain Bushell, Director, Emergency Management & Community Safety, City of Calgary  
Mark Neufeld, Chief Constable, Calgary Police Service  
Amtul Siddiqui, Chair, Calgary Police Commission  
Tyler Gandam, President, Alberta Municipalities