



Calgary

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

April 10, 2025

Hon. Mickey Amery
Minister of Justice
424 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Amery,

Re: Calgary Community Court

On March 21, 2025, I had the opportunity to meet with Minister Ellis, accompanied by Calgary Chief of Police Mark Neufeld, Amtul Siddiqui (Chair, Calgary Police Commission), Scott Boyd (Superintendent, Calgary Police Service) and Iain Bushell (Director, Emergency Management & Community Safety, City of Calgary). The discussion was wide ranging as we exchanged information regarding several joint initiatives between Calgary Police Service and City of Calgary Peace officers currently underway.

One of the success stories we shared with Minister Ellis is the formation of Calgary Community Court. As the result of its significant positive impact, we are looking to expand from monthly to weekly, and we would appreciate your support in identifying the necessary resources and investments to enhance this valuable program.

This City of Calgary initiative, in partnership with Calgary Legal Guidance, provides an alternative option for individuals who have received a bylaw violation ticket. They can attend the Calgary Community Court, receive services and follow prescribed actions as an alternative to paying a fine. Benefits include improvements in public safety and quality of life for individuals and community, as well as reduced demand on the traditional justice system and improved relationships between vulnerable Calgarians, peace officers and CPS members. This solution is helping to address social disorder problems by connecting offenders with resources to eliminate offending behaviour. Calgary Police Commission reports that 90% of social disorder calls are non-criminal in nature and the Calgary Community Court addresses this 90% of the time. So far, over 200 individuals have participated with 35 having moved through to completion.

This initiative has been so successful that we have heard reports of unhoused persons asking peace officers for a ticket so they can attend. The Calgary Community Court has seen a 500% increase in participation since the initial day and the program is only nine months old. Given this success, the Calgary Community Court is looking to expand from monthly to weekly and we see this as a significant step forward in connecting citizens with the supports they need.

My office will reach out as a follow up to this letter to book a meeting with you and your team to provide further details about this program and the vital service it is providing to Calgarians.

Sincerely,



Jyoti Gondek
Mayor, The City of Calgary

CC: Minister Ellis, Office of the Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Services
Yonathan Sumamo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Premier and Minister of
Public Safety and Emergency Services
Curtis Zablocki, Assistant Deputy Minister, Director of Law Enforcement,
Ministry 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
Scott Boyd, Superintendent, Community Policing South Division, Calgary Police
Service