

**MINUTES
CITY OF IQALUIT
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING #01
APRIL 3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT

Councillor Amber Aglukark, Chair

Deputy Mayor Kimberly Smith

Sergeant Robert Daley, RCMP – Member at Large

Sherri Robertson, YWCA-Agvik – Member at Large

Jessica Young, Government of Nunavut Department of Justice – Member at Large

ABSENT

Councillor Samuel Tilley, Vice Chair

Steve England, Chief Administrative Officer

Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) – Member at Large

Stephanie Bernard, Nunavut Black History Society – Member at Large

Kevin Eaton, Uquutaq Society – Member at Large

Maya Jelali, Government of Nunavut Family Services – Member at Large

PRESENT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Rod Mugford, Senior Executive Director of Operations and Protective Services – City

Staff Resource

Brianna Longworth, City Clerk

Katrina Sarmiento, Deputy City Clerk

Valerie Greene, Executive Assistant

Sol Tagak, Acting Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Services – City Staff Resource

Steven Allen, Chief Enforcement Officer – City Staff Resource

Breton McNeil, Director of Recreation – City Staff Resource

Geoffrey Byrne, Economic Development Officer – City Staff Resource

Jeanie Eseeemailee, Senior Interpreter/Translator

Councillor Aglukark opened the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion PSC 25-01

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith

Seconded by: Sherri Robertson

Adoption of agenda as presented.

Unanimously Carried

1. MINUTES

a) Public Safety Committee Meeting #02 Minutes dated October 3, 2024

Motion PSC 25-02

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Sherri Robertson

Public Safety Committee Meeting #02 Minutes dated October 3, 2024.

Unanimously Carried

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

3. DELEGATIONS

None

4. DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Beer and Wine Store Safety Measures/Sales Control Strategy – Verbal

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments regarding the Iqaluit Beer and Wine Store safety measures and sales control strategy:

- Community concern relating to public safety and alcohol related issues
- Since opening in 2017, reports of increased incidents of public intoxication, theft, and assaults in the vicinity
- Security personnel deployment
 - August 2023, security guard was stationed in the parking lot to deter criminal activities
 - Presence of security had a positive impact, which led to a reduction of incidents
 - Additional measures are needed to deter criminal activity
 - Additional security presence is needed during opening hours throughout the year
- Increased police patrols
 - Rise in public intoxication during the summer months
 - RCMP have carried out patrols around the store
 - Zero tolerance approach

- Seizing open alcohol
 - Proactively address public intoxication
 - Requires further implementation and consistency throughout the year
- Public awareness campaigns
 - City has launched initiatives emphasizing zero tolerance for public drinking in City-owned facilities
 - Needs to be consistent throughout the year
 - Additional public education and signage – not just City-owned facilities
 - Consideration of purchase limits
 - Purchase limit has not decreased since the beer and wine store opened
 - Purchase limit should be reduced by half
 - Will potentially align with purchase limits in other communities
- Challenges still exist
 - At a May 2024 Council meeting, a temporary alcohol ban was suggested.
- Enhance community safety
 - Comprehensive action plan should be developed
 - Empower Municipal Enforcement officers to collaborate with the RCMP to ensure consistent enforcement of laws
- Community support program
 - Investing in addiction and trauma recovery services
 - Address underlying issues contributing to public intoxication and related crimes
- Public education initiatives
 - Raise awareness regarding the harmful effects of alcohol
 - Promote responsible consumption
- Combining enforcement, support and education will help to build a safer environment for the community

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments:

- Alcohol is an issue in the community
- Expressed concern relating to restricting access and lowering the daily purchase limits
- Public intoxication and drug use is not just an issue since the beer and wine store opened
- Nationally, there is a mental health crisis that has resulted in a significant amount of alcohol and drug abuse.
- Not productive to focus on access to alcohol from the beer and wine store
 - Rankin Inlet reduced the purchase limits, which did not reduce the amount of alcohol
 - Increase in the number of trips to purchase alcohol
 - Individuals are selling their daily limits to purchase alcohol
 - Increase in alcohol permits

- Noted that the City only has power to enact a two-week ban three times a year on alcohol
 - Includes the beer and wine store and all restaurants
 - Alcohol in residents' homes would be illegal
- Treatment facility opening will make a difference in the community
- Public awareness campaign would be beneficial
- Improve mental health
 - Recreational programs and access to spaces
 - Will help treat underlying issues instead of the symptoms

Sergeant Robert Daley made the following comments:

- Consider a hybrid approach to reduce alcohol sales
- Beer and wine stores in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet had a significant reduction in reporting
 - More data is needed
- Reducing limits will not reduce public drinking

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments:

- Suggested that Administration contact
 - Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis to collect data on alcohol sales relating to the reduced daily limits in Rankin Inlet
 - RCMP to provide additional data regarding policing

Jessica Young made the following comments:

- Crime has increased in the city
- No correlation between the increase in public consumption, intoxication and rise in crime and the beer and wine store opening
- Broader focus should be considered when discussing public consumption and intoxication and rise in crime, and not solely relate the issues to the beer and wine store

Sherri Robertson made the following comments:

- May 2024 community meeting
 - Comment made regarding a two week ban on alcohol and there was an immediate drop in violence
 - Elders provided input and promises were made and never kept by Council
- Spoke about the message being sent to children when they witness public drinking and intoxication
- In the 1990s, a list was published on the violent crimes that were committed while under the influence of alcohol
- Consequence when someone commits a violent crime while under the influence of alcohol

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments:

- Intoxication, loitering and littering around the beer and wine store has a negative impact on the community
- Having discussions will hopefully prompt further discussions to address issues

Deputy Mayor Smith inquired as to whether the City had the ability to add a tax on each bottle of beer and alcohol that was sold, which could then go directly into public education and health campaign, and mental health programming.

Rod Mugford, Senior Executive Director of Operations and Protective Services, advised that the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* does not allow the City to add a tax.

b) Loitering Around Grocery Stores – Verbal

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments regarding loitering around grocery stores:

- Creates public safety concerns
- Loitering
 - Increase in crime – theft and shoplifting
 - Aggressive behaviour
 - Verbal and physical confrontation
 - Customers and store personnel do not feel safe
 - Some loiterers are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
 - Deters customers
 - Creates a negative impact on the city's image
- Suggested possible solutions:
 - Increase security
 - Visible security guard and/or cameras
 - Collaboration with local law enforcement
 - Regular patrols to deter loitering
 - Community engagement and support programs
 - Stores create a space that deters loitering
 - Combination of enforcement, social services and community-based solutions

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments:

- People have no place to go
- Loitering to get warm
- Public safety concern, but up to businesses to police loitering
- RCMP should be called if someone is visibly intoxicated or conducting illegal acts or creating problems

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments:

- Two types of loitering
 - No place to go
 - Public intoxication and disorderly verbal and physical behaviour

Sherri Robertson made the following comments:

- Some of the concerns fall under Nunavut Justice
- Last summer, there was a period of time where there was not a lot of loitering in front of the grocery store.
- Some people who are loitering have a home and may be looking for social interaction
- Suggested a safe consumption place

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments:

- Lack of spaces and activities for youth and adults

c) Loose Dogs/Animal Control – Concerns for Public Safety/Violent Dogs – Verbal

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments regarding loose dogs/animal control and concerns for public safety/violent dogs:

- Stray and uncontrolled dogs are a public safety risk
- Pedestrians, children and elders are being chased and attacked or feeling unsafe
- Pets have been injured from unprovoked attacks
- Loose and aggressive dogs create dangerous situations
- Be proactive to prevent more serious incidents
 - Lack of effective enforcement - limited due to lack of resources
- Animal welfare – some dogs are suffering
- Suggested possible solutions:
 - Stronger animal enforcement by-laws
 - Community education programs
 - Improved animal control resources
 - Public reporting system
 - Spay and neuter initiatives
- Address issue, not only about safety, but improving the overall well-being of the community and the animals within the community

Steven Allen, Chief Enforcement Officer, made the following comments:

- There is no dedicated animal enforcement officer.
 - Position was combined with regular enforcement officer
 - All enforcement officers' duties include animal control
- Municipal enforcement is not at full complement
 - Currently, there are three regular enforcement officers.
 - Attempting to fill vacant positions
- Education initiatives:
 - Last year, an officer went door-to-door handing out pamphlets and registering dogs on site, if owner agreed.
- Public reporting – website has a space to report a complaint or compliment
- Nunavut Animal Rescue in Apex is offering spay and neuter clinics twice a year

Deputy Mayor Smith asked for the number of dogs that were taken into custody that repeatedly have to be captured.

Steven Allen, Chief Enforcement Officer, advised that approximately 40 percent were repeated captures.

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments:

- Suggested that Council review the Animal Control By-law and consider:
 - Length of time animal is kept in custody
 - How to deal with repeat loose dogs

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments:

- Group of stray dogs that are aggressive and attacking people

d) Youth Restorative Justice Program – Verbal

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments regarding the Youth Restorative Justice Program:

- Restorative Justice Diversion Program
 - For those who committed a crime and those affected by the crime to work together through the Community Justice Committee
 - Aimed to repair harm caused by the criminal behaviour and restore harmony in the community
 - An alternative within the justice system
- Community Justice Committee represents all ages
- Suggested possible solutions:
 - A more trauma informed youth restorative justice program is needed to effectively address the unique challenges faced by Inuit youth.
 - Historical and ongoing trauma from intergenerational trauma
 - Cultural relative healing
 - Breaking the cycle of harm
 - Trauma informed restorative justice program should include:
 - Land-based, healing and traditional practices
 - Elders, hunters and knowledge keepers
 - Mental health and substance use support
 - Education and skill development
 - Create wrap around services – housing, mentorship and social support
 - Address root causes – poverty, food insecurity and lack of recreational opportunities
 - Program could aim to establish an alternative justice model that is culturally relevant, community based and designed to meet the unique needs of Inuit youth
 - Framework would address youth offences with goal of healing, reconciliation and integration in society

- Working collaboratively with victims' families and community members, the initiative will help build stronger and healthier relationships.
- Speaking up about the issues and potential ways to help the next generation will open the doors for discussion to build a strong foundation and communicate with youth
- There are troubled youth and young adults that do not have a way back into society.

Sherri Robertson made the following comments:

- Need someone to lead and form a group to help those in need
 - Simple start could be walking an elder to the store
- Trauma experienced by children sends a message
 - Takes a community to teach children there is a different way of life

Jessica Young made the following comments:

- Advised that Nunavut has a Community Justice Diversion Program and every community has a Community Justice Committee that is community led
- Challenge of the program
 - Only certain types of crimes are eligible for referral to the committee
 - Iqaluit has an active committee
- Restorative Justice Diversion Program
 - Determine what the existing committee does and if there are any challenges on how it is run and operated
 - Public education – become part of the committee to impact both youth and adults
 - Support and improve the program
 - Determine if a youth diversion program is needed for youth who are repeat offenders that are not crime related

Councillor Aglukark made the following comments:

- Building the foundation for the next generation
- Opportunity to build bridges between youth and elders
- Knowledge keepers are lost each year
- Evaluate the existing program
 - Create awareness that the program exists and what it offers

Sergeant Robert Daley made the following comments:

- RCMP working on a Hub Model
- Appears the suggestion is for a youth centre approach where various agencies are working together and proactively approaching youth who are in crisis
- Public safety initiatives were discussed at prior meetings and the committee should re-engage that discussion.

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments:

- Important to remember that the issues are large scale and not just in Iqaluit

- City can divert youth through recreation
 - Equitable access
 - Additional recreational programming
 - More programming and services in general
 - Free programming
 - Providing space
- **e) Add Additional Public Safety Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. – Verbal**

Councillor Aglukark commented on the importance of having more than two meetings a year to discuss safety concerns. She suggested holding a meeting prior to summer on June 12, 2025.

Deputy Mayor Smith made the following comments:

- Not sure an additional meeting would help
- Suggested that a town hall meeting be held to allow people an opportunity to express their public safety concerns

Sherri Robertson made the following comments:

- Community gathering to allow people to present ideas and suggestions
- Some individuals may be willing to volunteer and contribute to addressing concerns

Jessica Young made the following comments:

- Community Safety Liaison Pilot Program is being implemented by the City
 - Two officers will be hired as the community safety representatives
 - Hosting education weeks for various events
 - Utilize programs that exist
- Suggested holding a positive event for people to meet community safety members
 - Identifying all frontline safety people
 - Municipal enforcement
 - RCMP
 - Public Health
 - Builds awareness
 - Who they are and what is available in the community
 - Community Safety Liaison Program
 - Community Safety Awareness Week
 - Creates a better understanding of what is available in the community

Councillor Aglukark noted that no additional meeting would be held.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion PSC 25-03

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Smith
Seconded by: Sergeant Robert Daley

Committee adjourns at 4:22 p.m.

Unanimously Carried




Councillor Amber Aglukark
Chair


Rod Mugford, Senior Executive Director of
Operations and Protective Services – City
Staff Resource
Steven Allen, Chief Enforcement Officer – City
Staff Resource

Approved by the Public Safety Committee on the 22nd day of January 2026.