

SAFE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC PLACES DRAFT BYLAW

Council / Governance Issue

A draft bylaw ensuring public places are safe and inclusive is provided to the Governance and Priorities Committee for review and direction.

Recommendation

That draft Bylaw XX-23 Safe and Inclusive Public Places be amended as discussed and a recommendation forwarded to Council for adoption.

Recommendation Alternatives for Consideration at the September 25, 2023 Council Meeting

- a) That Administration be directed to amend draft Bylaw XX-23 Safe and Inclusive Public Places as discussed and bring back to the October 10, 2023 Regular Council meeting; or
- b) That Bylaw XX-23 Safe and Inclusive Public Places be given first reading and brought back for second at third readings no later than December 31, 2023; or
- c) That Bylaw XX-23 Safe and Inclusive Public Places be given all three readings.

Background and Considerations

In support of the identified value of “Diversity, Equity, Inclusiveness, and Accessibility” in the 2022-2025 Okotoks Strategic Plan, a proposed Safe and Inclusive Public Places Bylaw has been drafted for consideration and discussion.

This Bylaw has been written in alignment with the City of Calgary’s recent Safe and Inclusive Access to Recreation Facilities and Libraries Bylaw. The City of Calgary’s Bylaw applies specifically to its recreation facilities and libraries.

The draft Bylaw seeks to strike a balance between respecting the right to protest and the Town providing safe and inclusive access to public services. The Okotoks Bylaw restricts the distances from municipally owned buildings to 30m and would include all buildings and bookable public spaces (Municipal Centre, Library, Recreation Centre, Town Plaza, etc.). The Bylaw attempts to prohibit the blockage of access to, or use of, Town owned publicly accessible and bookable property through “harassment” or “intimidation” for specified protests based on human rights.

Administration is seeking direction regarding the following:

- 1. Is this type of bylaw desirable?
- 2. If so, does the definition of “publicly accessible property” align with Council’s? Should this definition be more widely defined or made narrower?
- 3. Are the section 3 prohibitions appropriate? What changes are needed?
- 4. Are there other policy changes needed to the bylaw – narrowing or broadening the applications of bylaw provisions?

Current Policy or Bylaw Analysis

CMD-R-4.0 Good Order and Civil Conduct Policy

Municipal Comparisons

City of Calgary Bylaw 17M2023 Safe and Inclusive Access to Recreation Facilities and Libraries

CAO Comments

Committee direction is required.

Attachment(s)

1. Draft Bylaw XX-23 Safe and Inclusive Public Places

Prepared by:
Cathy Duplessis
Legislative & Policy Services Manager
September 9, 2023