

# Council Member Motion

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Meeting Date      Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
From                Councillor Justice  
Subject             **Bylaw deliverables in Business Plans**

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## Background

As opioid-related overdose deaths increase, Municipal Bylaw enforcement officers now play a new and crucial role in overseeing public spaces impacted by drug-related problems. Their expanded duties involve referring individuals to social services, collaborating with healthcare professionals, and coordinating with harm reduction efforts like needle exchange programs and safe consumption sites. They also receive training to recognize opioid overdose signs and administer naloxone to save lives during such incidents, contributing to a comprehensive local approach to mitigating the opioid crisis.

This important work performed by bylaw officers is not reflected in the Bylaw Projected Business Plan

In October of this year, the Council, responding to increasing issues with homelessness, street disorder, and the opioid crisis, instructed staff to implement seven Safer Corridor Improvement Strategies. One of these strategies is to:

Strengthen all bylaws that support enforcing safety for the community and prepare an open drug use bylaw that minimizes public exposure to open drug use in parks and adjacent to school properties, while continuing to *provide support aimed at saving lives of some of the most vulnerable people who use drugs.*

The highlighted words describe the new work done on a daily basis by Bylaw officers and should be added to the list of Bylaw Projected Business Plan Deliverables

## Recommendation

THAT Council provide direction to staff to adjust the Bylaw Projected Business Plan Deliverables by adding the bullet point "To provide support aimed at saving lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our community who use drugs," reflecting this critical role Bylaw officers already play in the community and using the wording Council endorsed in the Safer Corridor Improvement Strategies Attachment: