



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	September 17, 2024
SUBJECT:	Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: Gender Based Safety Audit (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Brenda Bax Acting Director, Children's, and Community Services Division, Healthy and Safe Communities
SIGNATURE:	<i>BBax</i>

The purpose of this communication update is to provide the Mayor and Council with information on the progress of the Gender-Based Safety Audit initiative as part of Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan approved by Council in September 2023.

The YWCA Hamilton is leading this initiative working closely with City staff. This initiative is one of many ways the City is enhancing community-driven solutions to safety and well-being, with the aim of ensuring all residents feeling safe, having a sense of belonging, and can meet their needs through use of public spaces and amenities within the community. The initiative is currently in the invitation and data collection phases and has reached one hundred communities across the city.

Building on the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan's priority areas, and as reported to Council as part of the CSWB annual update in May 2024, (HSC24015) the Gender Based Safety Audit is prioritizing connection with communities who face a number of systemic and institutional barriers to inclusion in social life. This isolation compounds their lack of safety. As such the audit is engaging women, girls, and gender diverse people from a range of communities including:

- Community groups and more formal organizations
- Cultural groups
- Faith groups
- Indigenous communities
- Newcomers and refugees
- People who are unhoused or precariously housed

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe, and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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**SUBJECT: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan: Gender Based Safety Audit
(City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

- People who use drugs
- Preschool children
- Youth

Communities are sharing their ideas, feedback, and questions through various methods such as onsite tours of physical spaces, through focused conversations in local gatherings, and/or in creative art projects, such as storytelling circles and photos. Communities will be participating in the project through late Fall 2024.

The YWCA is working closely with City departments to enhance efforts. To date, the departments and divisions identified and engaged to support the project include:

- Healthy and Safe Communities - Children's and Community Services, Housing Services, Recreation
- Planning and Economic Development – Tourism and Culture, Economic Development
- Public Works – Parks, Transit

YWCA will be hosting a community event on November 4th, 2024, to bring communities, decision-makers, leaders, and others together to discuss and learn more about the collective efforts to support a safe and healthy Hamilton.

YWCA will submit a full report, including identified themes, recommendations, and community actions from the audit to Emergency and Community Services Committee in January 2025.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Brenda Bax, Acting Director, Children's, and Community Services Division, at Brenda.Bax@hamilton.ca or by telephone at 905-973-4463.

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