

Town Hall Report: Community Safety

June 22, 2023





Thank you

Dear Community Members,

I want to thank the residents and business owners who participated in the City's Public Town Hall on June 15, 2023. It takes courage to stand up and speak before a crowd on experiences that are often personal and painful. As the arena floor filled up, I was overwhelmed by the feeling of frustration, but also the feeling of conviction and determination. You came prepared to fight for your city, your homes, your livelihood, and your safety.

I want to assure you that community safety is council's top priority. We have a vision of a healthier and safer Timmins for everyone, and we know that it will take hard work to get there.

In the days since the town hall, many of you have continued to reach out to me and my council colleagues to demand answers. We will work to communicate the actions already underway, the initiatives that are on-going under the Community Safety and Well-being Plan, and the relentless advocacy work we will continue on your behalf at both the provincial and federal levels.

The solutions that we need to have in place will take time, but we are also working now to provide some relief for business owners through an expanded Community Improvement Plan (CIP).

We are coming up with clear policies and procedures to address encampments on city and private property. We continue to work with youth through Timmins Youth Connect to ensure that our future generation has a voice.

We are also committed to improving our transparency around council participation on community councils and boards.

This is only the beginning. City Council made room in this year's budget to make record investments in road rehabilitation and improvements, because you told us that roads were a priority. Likewise, your feedback from the town hall will help identify and better understand what the community needs now to feel safe and supported.

Over the coming weeks, we will provide the answers and information that was requested on June 15. I am ready to work with you. City Council is ready to work with you. Thank you for working with us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michelle Boileau

Goals

The town hall had two goals:

1. To create an opportunity for dialogue between City officials and community members.
2. Listen to community members' concerns in a respectful and open environment.



Attendees

An estimated 3,600 people participated in the live town hall either in person or watching via Youtube.

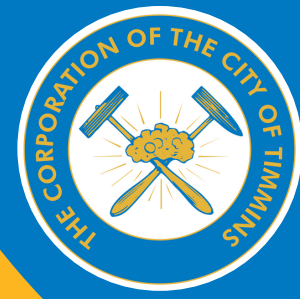
The City of Timmins estimates the number of in-person participants at 1,200. Timmins Police Service estimates this number closer to 2,000.

Since the live stream was published on demand, 11,559 people have watched the full video and the stream has been viewed over 20,000 times.

"The TPS are doing what they can. A couple of weeks ago, they provided tips on how to protect your home. Lock it up. I do lock it up. Now we have to lock the offenders up." ~ Resident



Key Takeaways



The Public Town Hall participants shared similar concerns around crime and the placement of emergency housing in residential neighbourhoods.

Many expressed frustration that support and resources seem readily available for everyone except Timmins' taxpayers. Business owners indicated a need for funding to address necessary security measures and loss of revenue. Residents reported high incidents of crime, including break and enters, home intrusion, theft of property, and trespassing.

What we heard

- ! Review emergency housing and bail bed locations and policies
- ! Increase police presence and improve policing strategies
- ! Reduce drug-related litter
- ! Support security improvements for local business owners
- ! Create more opportunities for and investment in youth.
- ! Increase safety of public spaces
- ! Advocate for federal bail reform
- ! Build trust and transparency with City Council
- ! Invest in upstream violence and crime prevention programs
- ! Increase funding and capacity for the treatment and prevention of substance abuse

"My suggestion for you is to look at other communities who've moved addictive housing out of the community and brought service to them [clients]."

~ Non-Profit Representative

"Enough is enough. I do believe that we contribute immensely to the economic growth of the city. So please, if you are going to find some type of funding, please give it your small businesses who desperately want to stay open."

~ Business Owner

Our Commitment



We recognize the importance of clear and transparent communication. Residents, business owners, and community members deserve to know how Mayor and Council will improve public safety, reduce crime, and mitigate social concerns arising from homelessness, mental health, and addictions.

As a start, we will work to **provide answers and information** for each of the **community priorities** that we have identified during the town hall.

We will **reintroduce our Community Safety and Well-being Plan** (The Plan), and emphasize how the Plan's strategies **work together to support the well-being of Timmins**.

We will show how **Council's 2023-2026 term priorities** are focused on growth, security and prosperity for everyone in Timmins.

The goal has always been to **end homelessness** and develop a system of support to **improve the outcomes of mental health and addictions**.

"Tell me why my little children
with autism are not safe"
~ Resident

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Resources



We recognize that residents and business owners need help now to address crime, theft, drug-related litter, and public safety. If you need support, the following resources are available.

Immediate threat to personal safety / Crime / Theft /

**Call
9-1-1**

Call 9-1-1 immediately if a robbery is in progress, if there is a fire, or risk of injury or harm.

House or vehicle break-in / Stolen property / Trespassing

**Call
TPS
Dispatch**

Call (705) 264-1201 (Timmins Police Dispatch) if your home or vehicle has been broken into and the robbery is NOT in progress, or if someone is trespassing on private property, but there is no risk of personal harm.

Waste in public spaces, laneways, and private property

**Call
Service
Timmins**

Call (705) 264-1331 to report waste in public spaces, laneways, and private property. If the garbage is on City property, we will clean it up. If the garbage is on private property, we will have Enforcement Services follow up.

Drug-related litter / Sharps collection

**Call
Living
Space**

Call (705) 531-7233 (Living Space) to have drug-related litter and needles picked up. Living Space works with partner agencies to facilitate collection based on available staff and team members.