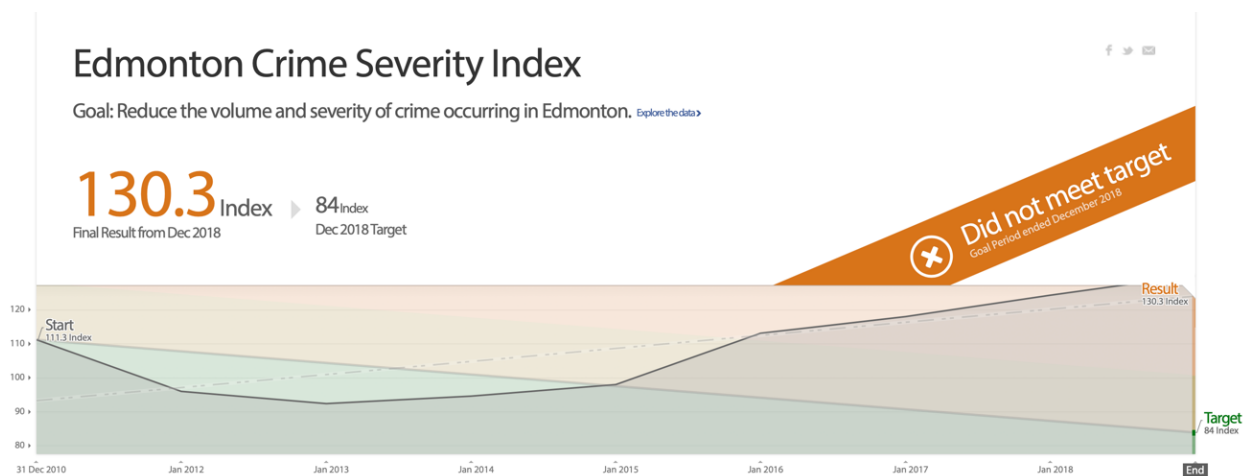


## CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY

Edmonton is experiencing a consistent increase in the level of violence as well as the instances of gun violence. In fact, based on the City's own Dashboard, the City's Crime Severity Index has been rising steadily since 2013, despite the City's stated goal of REDUCING the Crime Severity Index over the same period. The City has failed its citizens in achieving its own stated strategic objectives.

Council, as a governing body, has the ability to set Policy Direction and allocate Resources to achieve those policies. They also have an obligation – and accountability – to be providing oversight as to how those resources are spent. Similar to the Vision Zero Goal where Council has set a policy direction to reduce/eliminate motor vehicle fatalities, the City can set a meaningful objective to create a safer community by reducing the instances of crime.



### 1. Commit to a reduction in personal, property & violent crime in Edmonton

City Council needs to first and foremost recognize that Crime and Safety are Quality-of-Life issues. It is more than a 'Policing' issue and requires horizontal and vertical partnerships.

- a. ACTION: Set Strategic Targets and reporting frameworks for immediate Crime Reduction
- b. ACTION: Expect and instruct the Edmonton Police Commission to support Council's Strategic Targets and request specifics of how the Police Service will respond to those Intentions in the Annual Policing plan, with metrics accompanied by quarterly performance reporting.
- c. ACTION: Implement permanent local responsibility centres (as satellite offices of the central information and triage safety centre) to coordinate crime prevention and community safety initiatives with other local priorities and services.

### 2. Immediate Multi – Pronged approach to address street crime

- a. ACTION: Frequent interactive Community Policing presence on the streets where we need it most
- b. ACTION: Review & revise the Public Places Bylaw<sup>1</sup> to empower enforcement where necessary without criminalizing poverty
- c. ACTION: Engage Community Leagues directly in issue identification and resolution & resource them accordingly
- d. ACTION: Partner with local groups to address social disorder and social issues. Ensure that any City funds are tied directly to measurable outcomes that create real impact, and review the progress of the funded initiatives annually. Funding terms automatically expire after three years, requiring an intentional renewal by City.

### **3. Longer Term Prevention & Intervention Strategy**

- a. ACTION: Investment in community driven programs & partnerships to address early interventions & reduce waiting times to zero
- b. ACTION: Create a centralized hub of information and triage for regular and open communication between police, fire, to get the right people in the right place at the right time for the right reason
- c. ACTION: Create accessible avenues for houseless youth to get identification & services, including housing and school registration
- d. ACTION: Provide free transit to those in need & stop fining individuals who cannot afford to pay (which results in warrants, jail and systemic criminalization of poverty)
- e. ACTION: Actively support de-centralized Harm Reduction initiatives connected to wrap around services
- f. ACTION: Partner with Youth engagement and employment organizations for at risk youth
- g. ACTION: Create a committee of at-risk and houseless youth, ages 18 – 25 to offer pro-active advice and practical direction on engagement to make a meaningful difference and to get our youth off the streets
- h. ACTION: Create a focused Civic Employment Stream for at-risk youth to offer meaningful employment opportunities.
- i. ACTION: Plan to eliminate the current 'Homeless Shelter' approach in favour of smaller, wrap-around, 24-7-365 centres that are culturally focused & de-centralized.
- j. ACTION: Review the whole of funds invested in responding to social safety issues and houselessness, with a view to refocusing these investments into areas that generate real results and lessen the reliance on short term shelters.
- k. ACTION: Provide more public washrooms in our Destination Zone from 124<sup>th</sup> Street through Chinatown to discourage public defecation & urination

### **4. Standards for City Funded housing projects**

- a. ACTION: Ensuring that each and every housing project supported with civic resources is held to delivering the highest standard of care for its residents, including annual public audits and mandatory safety measures
- b. ACTION: Ensure that each and every housing project supported with civic resources is properly equipped to provide appropriate supports to its residents and has adequate on-site security provisions given the particular local circumstances.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/Bylaws/C14614.pdf?cb=1631671901>