

Report to/Rapport au :

Community and Protective Services Committee
Comité des services communautaires et de protection

and Council / et au Conseil

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RIDEAU-VANIER (12)

Ref N°: ACS2013-CMR-CPS-0002

SUBJECT: CREATION OF THE SANDY HILL TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE

**OBJET : CRÉATION DU COMITÉ MIXTE UNIVERSITÉ-COMMUNAUTÉ DE
LA CÔTE-DE-SABLE**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Community and Protective Services Committee and Council receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection et Conseil municipal prenne connaissance de ce rapport.

BACKGROUND

Sandy Hill is a diverse neighbourhood that houses a wide cross-section of the population. Families, seniors, students, as well as many new Canadians are proud to call this community home. According to the 2006 census, Sandy Hill is home to approximately 10,900 residents. Of these, the large majority are young adults (aged 20-39 or 46%) or middle aged adults (aged 40-69 or 30%).

Geographically, Sandy Hill is delimited by Rideau Street to the north, Highway 417 to the south, the Rideau Canal to the west, and the Rideau River to the east. It is also directly adjacent to the eastern side of the University of Ottawa's main campus. It has many opportunities for recreation, with five city parks and a community centre. These opportunities add greatly to the appeal of this mature neighbourhood.

The housing market in Sandy Hill is mostly comprised of rental properties. According to the 2006 Ottawa Neighbourhood Study (ONS), renters account for 75% of Sandy Hill's population, while only 24% are home owners. The abundance of rental units can be

attributed to the area's proximity to the University of Ottawa. It is also important to highlight that housing in this neighbourhood is expensive compared to the city's average. The ONS states that 40% of residents in Sandy Hill pay over 30% of their income on shelter (2006), while the city average is 24%.

Ottawa Community Housing, the City's largest affordable housing provider, has also made Sandy Hill the home of one of their largest housing communities. Strathcona Heights is home to a seniors building at 721 Chapel, as well as many 2, 3 and 4-bedroom units, which are ideal for accommodating young families.

Sandy Hill has a very active community association, Action Sandy Hill (ASH). ASH works to engage members of their neighbourhood in community building, knowledge sharing, and advocacy activities.

While it is a diverse and a vibrant neighbourhood, Sandy Hill does face a number of challenges.

DISCUSSION

The following report will provide information on the creation of a new group in Sandy Hill called the Town and Gown Committee

Many cities in Ontario are home to one, and sometimes multiple universities and other post-secondary institutions. In some cities, many of the students attending these institutions are living at home with their parents. However, in some cities students come in large numbers from out of town to study. In the latter case, demand for rental accommodation is inevitably higher.

This demand can be accommodated in part by the construction of on-campus residences, but the remaining students must choose to find housing off-campus. In the case of Sandy Hill, due to its physical proximity to the University of Ottawa, and its rental housing stock, it has become an ideal community for many students to live in while undertaking their education.

While the presence of students in the neighbourhood largely contributes to its vibrancy and its diversity, their high concentration within the community does create challenges. Ward 12 (Rideau-Vanier), which includes Sandy Hill, has the highest call volumes and service requests through the City's 311 and ServiceOttawa service portals. In the first and second quarters of 2012, Ward 12 accounted for 20% of all property standards and noise service requests across the city. These violations are made under the City of Ottawa by-laws 2004-203 (Noise By-law) and 2005-207 (Property Standards By-Law).

	WARD 12						
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Q1&Q2 (2012)
Animals	770	922	1015	1060	934	1099	436
Care of Streets	99	180	227	172	148	158	94

Graffiti			126	420	343	209	213
Noise	1814	2181	2206	2507	2538	2799	1128
Parking	2405	2278	2818	3162	2743	3084	1641
Parks	566	97	98	88	126	107	72
Property Standards	1062	1411	1663	1297	1519	1874	838
Signs	119	64	29	55	76	68	23
Zoning Enforcement	61	98	110	138	137	204	96

Property standards and noise violations have transformed the Sandy Hill neighbourhood. Permanent residents of Sandy Hill, as well as some concerned students, are working to maintain the quality of life in this mature neighbourhood.

It is in this spirit of collaboration that the Sandy Hill Town and Gown Committee was created. Town and Gown Committees (TGCs) exist in many Ontario cities, including London, Kingston and Hamilton. TGCs aim to bring the city and community representatives (town) together with the university and student representatives (gown) to discuss ways to better inform students of their rights and responsibilities. TGCs also provide a forum for proactive problem solving, information sharing, discussions on long term neighbourhood planning, and assist in directing enforcement efforts in the community when necessary.

In the case of Sandy Hill, the TGC is the product of an evolving dialogue between the University, the City, and the community. The original "Good Neighbours Committee" has evolved into a formalized organization that will have the capacity to discuss community concerns and find proactive approaches that will improve the quality of life of Sandy Hill residents.

The Sandy Hill TGC will be composed of the following permanent members:

- City Councillor for Ward 12 (Mathieu Fleury);
- One representative from Action Sandy Hill;
- One senior representative from the University of Ottawa;
- One senior representative of the City of Ottawa's Emergency and Protective Services Department;
- One representative from the Ottawa Police Service;
- One representative from the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa; and
- One representative from the Graduate Students Association of the University of Ottawa.

In addition, two at-large positions will be made available. Both positions will be available to residents of Sandy Hill:

- One community member representative; and
- One landlord representative.

The Sandy Hill TGC will meet a minimum of three times a year, but can also strike working groups to study and resolve specific challenges. The creation of a working group requires an invitation to all TGC members for their individual participation. Members that act as support may be included in the working group at anytime.

The Sandy Hill TGC has a formalized Terms of Reference document, which was tabled and approved at its first meeting. The Terms of Reference document outlines the vision, mandate, and objectives of the committee. The document also highlights the important procedural and governance framework that will guide the committee's work.

The creation of the Sandy Hill TGC represents a very important step forward, as this is the first time that a formal and mutually agreed upon structure has been adopted by all stakeholders (University, City and community). The Sandy Hill TGC will encourage discussion on ways that the various stakeholders can contribute to improving the quality of life for the Sandy Hill community.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

This report was circulated to all members of the Sandy Hill TGC for input, following its tabling at the TGC's inaugural meeting. Residents are also encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions on this new committee by submitting their feedback to committee members.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

Councillor Fleury – “I fully support this new initiative. It is fantastic to be able to get all of these key stakeholders around the table to coordinate resources in a targeted and proactive manner, while also problem solving and recommending policy changes. The positive impacts of this coordination are already being felt on the ground, which is great news.”

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to receiving the information in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts associated with the recommendations in this report

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no technological impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

There are no Term of Council priorities impacts.

DISPOSITION

Following the approval of this report by the Community and Protective Services Committee, it will be brought to the attention of Ottawa City Council for information.