On September 22, 2020, the Advisory Committee for Hamilton’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan reconvened after having to cancel their meeting in April 2020 to focus on COVID-19 response efforts within their organizations.

It was acknowledged that since the Advisory Committee’s first meeting in January 2020, that things in the community have changed. Current social movements and voices from the community have spoken on the need for different approaches to address community safety.

It was determined by the Advisory Committee that there is a need for:

- A communication plan to inform the public of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and what it is trying to achieve.
- Broader public consultation to identify what safety looks like to different members of the community. The outcomes of the engagement will be used to inform targeted actions to meet the specific safety needs of different communities.
- Engagement with service providers not represented on the Advisory Committee.
- Timely and visible actions that can be implemented and evaluated.
- Monthly Advisory Committee meetings to support this work.

Launch of Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Engagement

To begin to address these needs communication and a first phase of engagement on the initiative will be launched on November 9, 2020. The Advisory Committee will leverage the City’s new Engage Hamilton platform (https://engage.hamilton.ca/community-safety-and-well-being-plan). This site will help to inform the public of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and what it is trying to
achieve through background information, FAQs, documents, links and contact information. The Engage Hamilton site will also provide an opportunity to begin conversations with the community by posing a couple of simple engagement questions.

The City will also host a project site (https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/priority-projects/hamiltons-community-safety-and-well-being-plan) with further background, and promote the initiative and engagement opportunities with a media release, and social media campaign.

All organizations represented by Advisory Committee members will support the promotion of the Community Safety and Well-Being information through their own networks. Results from these initial questions will be brought back to the Advisory Committee at the November meeting along with a more detailed plan for engagement moving forward.

Should you require further information on the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, please contact Jenn Hohol, Senior Project Manager at ext. 7857 or via email at Jennifer.Hohol@hamilton.ca.