

Aug. 29, 2019

Kari Gares,
Councillor
City of Vernon, 3400 30th St.

Councillor Gares

On behalf of the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank you for attending our regular board of directors meeting Aug. 28, and providing your perspective on matters of importance to our members and the community.

As part of the discussion, information was provided about City Council's interest in contracting with private security to augment the resources provided by the RCMP and city bylaw staff. While clarity around the cost of private security to taxpayers is required, the Chamber believes private security would provide additional eyes and ears, particularly overnight. We understand that private security would not be able to enforce Criminal Code or bylaw offences, but they would play a significant role in reporting incidents to the RCMP in a time-sensitive manner. The Chamber also believes there is the ability for the private security contractor to communicate and cooperate with private property owners.

It should be pointed out that the Chamber was a lead in the 2018 Activate Safety Task Force and one of the recommendations from the task force was for the city to fund, on an annual basis, private security for an after-hours patrol.

While we understand that Council's current interest is towards a private security contractor in the downtown core, the Chamber must emphasize that the issues of safety and security are not unique to downtown and are occurring in other business areas within Vernon.

Once again, thank you for attending the board of directors meeting and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dione Chambers, General Manager
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce