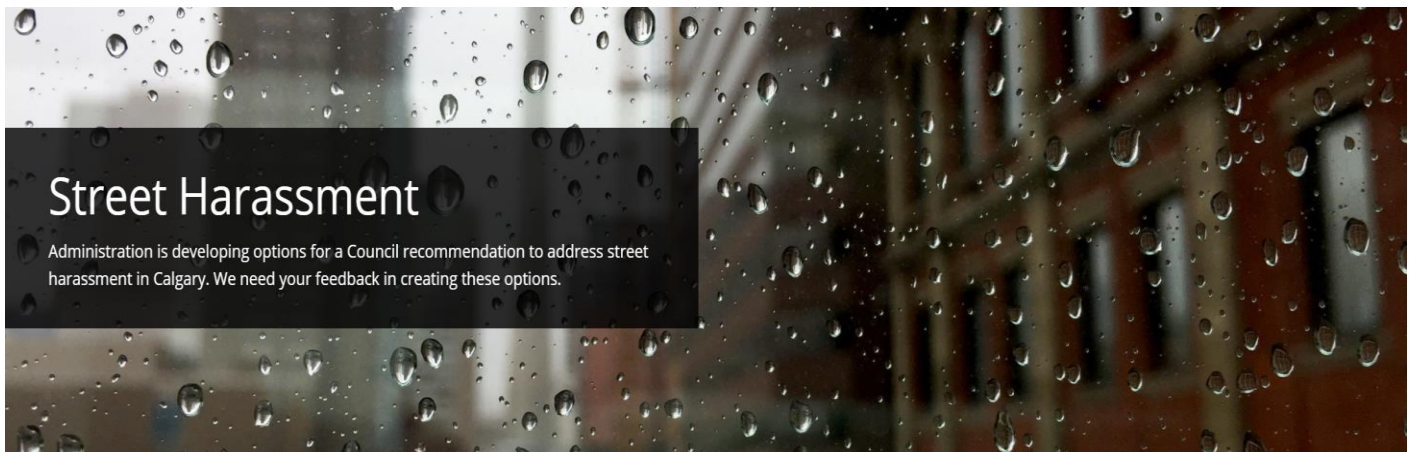


Street Harassment Notice of Motion

What we heard report
December 2021



Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Table of contents

Project overview.....	1
Engagement scope and overview.....	1
What we asked.....	2
What we heard.....	3
Next steps.....	6
Summary of Input.....	8
Internal City of Calgary Staff.....	8
External Organizations.....	14
External Clients or Members.....	21
Verbatim Comments.....	29

Project overview

In December 2020, Council passed a notice of motion directing Administration to research, engage, and provide a recommendation report on whether a bylaw can be created to address street harassment.

In the notice of motion street harassment is defined as: “unwelcome comments, gestures, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place because of their actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation, and that are disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting.”

As part of the recommendation report for the notice of motion City Administration collected input on the definition, existing gaps, potential actions, and impacts. This report is a summary of what we heard during that engagement.

Engagement scope and overview

The engagement asked for feedback, by means of a survey, about:

- Definition: opinion on the definition used in the notice of motion.
- Existing gaps: what are the gaps in addressing street harassment.
- Potential actions: what are the actions The City can take to address this issue.

Administration had the engagement strategy approved by the Gender Equity Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Committee – a subcommittee of Social Wellbeing Advisory Committee. The GEDI Committee also provided feedback through the engagement survey. The engagement survey was shared directly with Community Peace Officers, Calgary Police Officers, organizations that support victims of street harassment, the Anti Racism Program, and Indigenous Relations Officer. Organizations were encouraged to forward the survey to clients who are willing to share their experience. The Anti Racism Program and Indigenous Relations Office was requested to provide input while creating the survey. They were also requested to participate in

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

the engagement and send the survey to the Anti-racism Action Committee and Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee.

Two separate portal pages with three surveys were used to gather feedback. The next table summarizes the two pages.

Portal audience	Details	Outreach
Organization and members	These were organizations and groups who work with and support populations impacted by street harassment. These organizations forwarded the survey link to their clients or members who have first-hand knowledge or lived experience with street harassment.	Over 60 organizations were contacted by email with links to the survey, and the option for a 1:1 conversation. Follow up emails were sent, and the three committees were used for additional sharing. For a list of organizations who responded, please see the Verbatim Responses section.
Internal staff	City of Calgary staff who have first-hand knowledge in working with the existing bylaws and laws to better understand the needs, challenges, and issues.	Sent to Community Peace Officers who work directly on bylaw enforcement, Calgary Police Officers as well as social workers and the 8 Block project team.

What we asked

Street Harassment: internal City of Calgary staff

1. What part of the working definition should be kept in any future revisions?
2. What is missing, should be changed or requires further clarification in the working definition? Why?
3. From an enforcement perspective, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?
4. What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply.
5. Please elaborate on why you feel these action(s) would work to address the gaps.
6. Is there anything else you'd like us to know regarding addressing street harassment?

Street Harassment: external organizations

1. Name of Organization (optional)
2. What populations do you work with?
3. What part(s) of the working definition should be kept in any future revisions? Why?
4. What is missing, should be changed or requires further clarification in the working definition? Why?
5. What are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?
6. What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply.
7. Please elaborate on why you think these would work.
8. Is there anything else you'd like The City to know about addressing street harassment?

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Street Harassment: clients or members of external organizations

1. What population do you identify with?
2. In your opinion, does this [definition] accurately describe street harassment? Why or why not?
3. In your opinion, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary
4. What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply.
5. Please elaborate on why you think these would work.
6. Is there anything else you'd like The City to know about addressing street harassment?

What we heard

The engagement was open for input from July to September 6, 2021. It was reopened for a week in November to include the feedback of Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee members, who were unable to participate in the initial engagement due to a technical issue.

- In total, the internal portal page was visited 210 times and 31 surveys were received from staff.
- In total, the external portal page was visited 463 times and 101 surveys were received.

This report is a summary and doesn't capture all the nuance of personal impacts shared by participant. It is important that all [Verbatim Responses](#) starting on page 29 be reviewed for a full understanding of the issues, impacts and challenges raised by participants. For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, see the [Summary of Input](#) section.

What we heard: top three themes by group

The next tables are a summary of the main themes we heard from each group of participants.

Question Internal Staff	Main themes
What is missing, should be changed or requires further clarification in the working definition? Why?	• Not inclusive • Additional terminology • Not enforceable • Further clarification
From an enforcement perspective, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary? (internal question)	• Ability to enforce • More bylaws/laws needed • Subjective experience
What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply	• Public education • Updates to existing bylaws • Awareness campaigns
Please elaborate on why you think these action(s) would work to address the gaps.	• Increased awareness • Behaviour won't change without enforcement • Multi faceted • Mental health & addictions

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Question	External Organizations - theme	External Clients theme
In your opinion, does this [working definition] accurately describe street harassment? Why or why not?	• Additional terminology • Needs elaboration • Further clarification	• Additional terminology • Needs elaboration • Further clarification
In your opinion, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?	• Accountability • Education & Awareness • Reporting • Societal Norms / Social services	• Enforcement • Education & Awareness • Societal Norms
What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply.	• Awareness Campaigns • Public education • Building support through community partnerships	• Creation of a new bylaw specific to street harassment • Public Education • Awareness campaign • Building support through community partnerships • Building support through advocacy groups
Please elaborate on why you think these action(s) would work to address the gaps.	• Public awareness • Addressing the issues/causes • Knowledge is power	• Education helps awareness and creates better behaviour • Consequences / Accountability deterrents • Builds a strong community

What we heard: Details for Internal City of Calgary Staff

When asked about the working definition, most thought it required revisions or none of it should be kept, citing the following: it was not inclusive, non-enforceable (or not an enforcement issue), subjective, and additional terminology or elaboration was needed.

The largest gap for addressing street harassment was the ability to enforce and that more bylaws (laws) or authority was needed to intervene.

Awareness campaigns, public education and staff training ranked high along with updates to existing City of Calgary bylaws.

One-on-one conversations also noted the working definition was not inclusive and would be difficult to enforce. There was consideration of how mental health, addictions and homelessness are contributing factors, and there are alternate ways to address these issues. It was thought that having a bylaw might be a good way to track repeat offenders or provide extra support in a court of law. Education and awareness were also mentioned as potential needs and solutions to addressing street harassment.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section. For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

What we heard: Details for External Organizations

Many respondents wanted to keep all the working definition, but felt it was incomplete and wanted further clarification or elaboration (with some terminology removed and other terminology added in place). The definition was subjective, non-inclusive, and lacking in relevant verbiage.

Gaps in addressing street harassment was identified as: a lack of social services, the ability to report as well as the consequences of reporting. More education and the creation of safe spaces for all were desired.

Actions to help address street harassment would create more empathy, shift public opinion, and increase knowledge for everyone. Most respondents in this group wanted initiatives to address the root causes of harassment (e.g. mental health and addictions, societal norms, etc.) and not necessarily more enforcement.

For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section. For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

What we heard: Details for External Clients or Members

Most respondents in this group did not find the working definition of Street Harassment to be accurate or thought parts of it were accurate but required further clarification, elaboration, and added terminology.

Many shared that the gaps in addressing street harassment lay within enforcement, including but not limited to the reporting process, the legal system, and the Calgary Police Service. Other top themes were related to education/awareness, as well as societal norms that encourage, accept, or produce street harassment.

The majority believe education helps to build awareness and encourages better behaviour. As well, there is a strong sentiment that consequences and more accountability would help in addressing street harassment.

They identified a need for safe spaces and a city free from fear. There is concern most people who experience street harassment won't complete this survey (or have access to it) or are not in contact with any of the partner organizations. The feedback from this group supports the knowledge that people with lived experience are often traumatized and feel they have no safe place to go – either to avoid it, find assistance, or report it.

For a detailed summary of the input that was provided, please see the [Summary of Input](#) section. For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

What we heard: Lived experience

This report is a summary and doesn't capture the nuance of personal impacts shared by participants. It is important that all comments be reviewed for a full understanding of the issues, impacts and challenges raised by participants. Below are a few verbatim examples of the experience and impacts shared through the engagement. Read the lived experience [Verbatim Responses](#) section in full.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Street harassment often includes a neighbor giving undue unwelcome attention to a woman who does not want to be the focus of that attention. E.g. Calling out to her over the fence, constant observation as she comes and goes from her home or staring as she is bringing in groceries, doing yard work or as she walks to collect her mail. As a widow, I have experienced this kind of harassment for years. The police have not been able to help despite numerous complaints. (810-814)

The most recent experience of street harassment I faced was walking with my very tall male partner. Two individuals, who were intoxicated and drinking in public, and living rough, cat-called me.

I understood that it was not about me or my body at all, but rather an attempt to get under the skin of my partner and demonstrate that they still held some power. I understood that these men were entirely disenfranchised, that they were afforded so little power and opportunity in our society that for them, they needed to claim it where they could.

New bylaws, bylaw enforcement, awareness campaigns will not change their circumstances. It will not change their status, or their ability to have control in their own lives.

That's why I believe that by addressing the root causes of poverty, mental health and addictions, intergenerational trauma caused by genocide, is an important step forward for reducing street harassment (both by reducing incidents of it by having fewer perpetrators, but more importantly because these same people are also extremely marginalized and face way more street harassment by others than I ever will.

Addressing sexual harassment and abuse in schooling and in sports will also go a long way in reducing street harassment against women and the 2SLGBTQ* community by normalizing from young ages that those behaviours are not acceptable... because right now they are encouraged. (1012-1026)

It happens constantly and is extremely debilitating. I'm working to move out of Calgary because I've been harassed so much here more than any other city I've ever lived in and I don't feel safe here anymore. I got harassed almost always mid-day, fully clothed and conservatively dressed, surrounded by people around public transit, and even just for wearing a mask along with the city mandate. I'm exhausted sticking up for myself and if I don't have the ability to attack harassers back, I've internalized a sort of danger that I can't intimidate them back, and thus just need to accept the harassment here. Which I am sick to death of accepting - it's made me agoraphobic and even with counselling every time it happens again, I'm retraumatized. I'm resigned that I need to leave Alberta now in order to escape the regular and relentless street harassment here, and in Fort McMurray when I lived there (1174-1182)

Next steps

The what we heard report has been shared with the project team for use in their decision making and development of recommendation to the Community Development Committee on February 9, 2022. For information on how to attend or watch Council and committee meeting visit www.calgary.ca/council

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

This report will also be shared with all contacted organizations and committees. Including: The Gender Equity Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, the Anti-racism Program and Anti-racism Action Committee, the Indigenous Relations Officer, and the Calgary Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

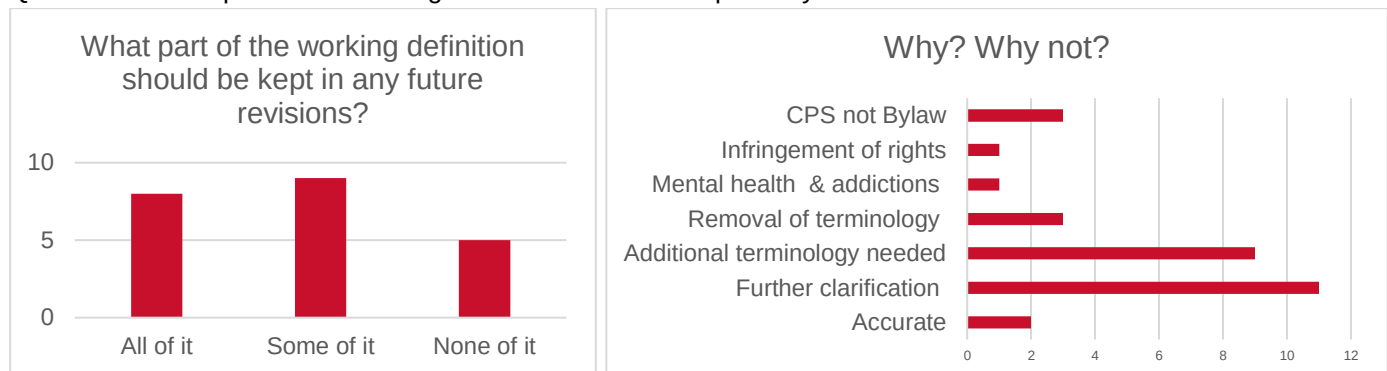
Summary of Input

These charts are a visual summary of what we heard. Please note that engagement surveys can be visited and responded to multiple times by the same person. Therefore, these charts show trends and proportions of those who participated. The scales are left in the graphs, but the focus should be on the proportion, not on the number of participants.

Each chart is followed by a table with themes and verbatim comments to provide detail to the theme. The verbatim comments are italicized. They are followed by bracket, with a reference number in the verbatim section that has the whole comment (if only part of a comment was used).

Internal City of Calgary Staff

Question 1: What part of the working definition should be kept in any future revisions?



Theme	Feedback
Further clarification needed	<i>I would completely rework the definition to "A single or repeated incident forced on a stranger in a public place of objectionable or unwelcome conduct, comment, bullying or action intended to intimidate, offend, degrade or humiliate a particular person or group." This makes it more general while still encompassing a sexual harassment component. (46-49)</i> <i>How do you explain "forced on a stranger". What is the degree of force? Verbal, physical, group? perhaps changing it to experienced by a person from another person. (51-52)</i>
Removal of terminology	<i>"stranger" eliminates the possibility that the victim and offender may be known to each other. this offence would not apply if the offender and victim are known to each other.(17-18)</i>
CPS not Bylaw	<i>In the context of this being a bylaw it is a horrible idea, the lines should not be blurred between bylaw vs criminal offence - so with that in mind certainly "actions" should be removed from the definition as any "actions" taken against someone should clearly be in the jurisdiction of CPS, as well as anything pertaining to hate crimes (sexual orientation, gender expression, gender, sex) sooo basically in the context of a bylaw should be limited to unwanted comments/gestures of a nature that does not include any kind of hate</i>

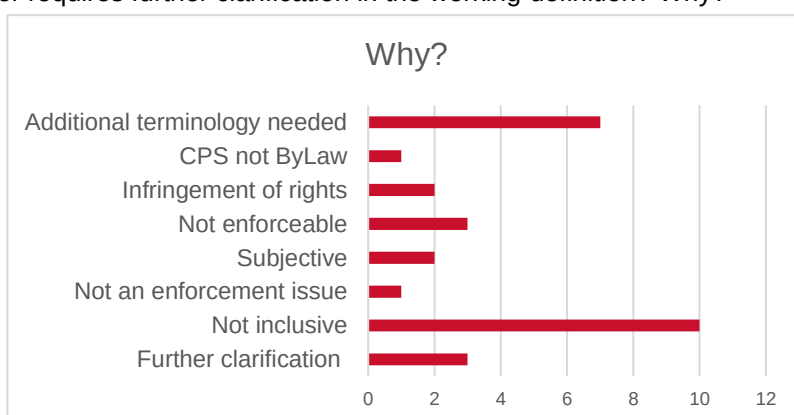
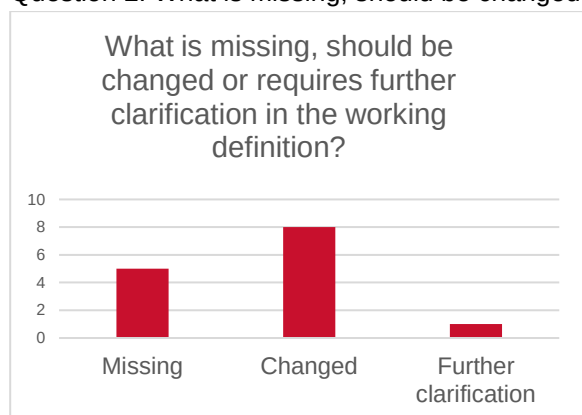
Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	<i>crime/sexual harassment. This should be left for Police.... If bylaw investigates a complaint that is later determined to be a criminal offence and the complaint is not handled properly the opportunity to pursue the criminal offence could be lost. (56 – 63)</i>
Accurate	<i>All parts of this working definition are applicable to street harassment. (19)</i>
Infringement of rights	<i>None. This will infringe on people's constitutional right to freedom of expression. (34)</i>
Mental health & addictions	<i>[...] Addressing public vagrancy issues and alcohol and drug use bylaws and criminality may help address the issues of "perceived" street harassment. (32-33)</i>

Question 2: What is missing, should be changed or requires further clarification in the working definition? Why?



Theme	Feedback
Not inclusive Not enforceable Subjective Infringement of rights	<i>My belief is this definition is incredibly broad and subjective to the point of being unenforceable, particularly with respect to comments. There are too many blurred lines between this and criminal harassment, except it now brings in additional criteria that is also protected by charter rights for freedom of expression. (98-100)</i>
Not inclusive	<i>Should include all unwelcomed comments to any person. (101)</i> <i>Age, body composition, religion, political view, occupation, ethnicity. (108)</i>
Additional terminology needed	<i>Missing - comments, gestures, and actions related to body size or are sexually explicit in nature. Add in harassing and threatening: disrespectful, demeaning, harassing, alarming, threatening... (115-116)</i>
Infringement of rights	<i>[...] It is a human right to have freedom of speech even if it is offensive. Based on this definition all TV, movies and social media should be cancelled as to ensure no one is insulted. This is not an offence that can be dealt with on a criminal level unless the elements of a crime are met or a civilian's safety is at risk. Being insulted is not a criminal offence the only way to ensure better understanding is through education and patience (86-90)</i>

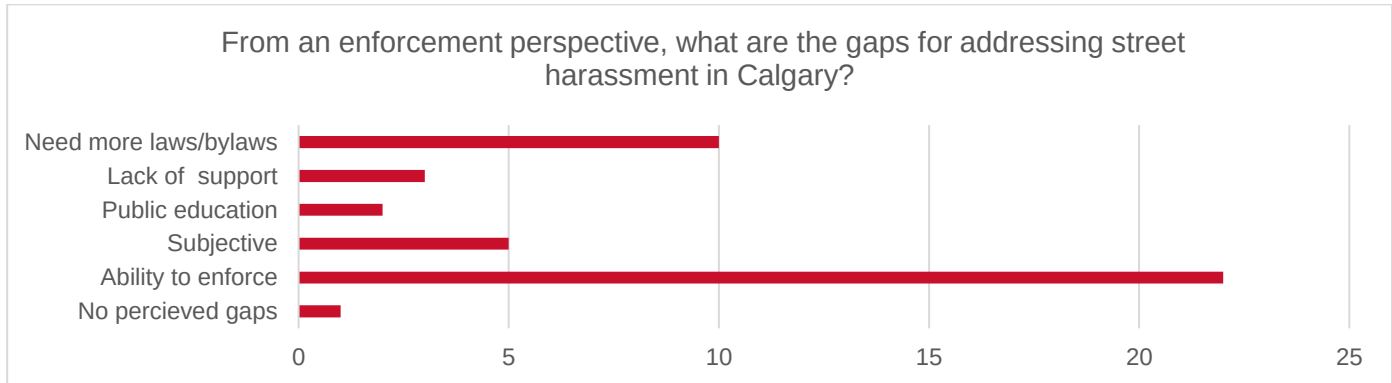
Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

Theme	Feedback
Not an enforcement issue	<i>Comments and gestures are freedom of speech, even if rude and should be removed. This will be impossible to enforce and a waste of resources. (113-114)</i>

Question 3: From an enforcement perspective, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?



Theme	Feedback
Ability to enforce	<i>Beyond the standard of harassment found in the Criminal Code, there is no lawful authority to address demeaning comments or behaviors made in public. Therefore, from an enforcement perspective, it puts peace officers in a difficult situation when there are complaints made against a person who is committing "street harassment" where the actions do not substantiate a criminal offence. (130-133)</i> <i>This type of behavior can't be enforced out of existence. You could create a public order bylaw, but then the question comes down to how to enforce it. Without a witness, evidence or personally viewing the behavior the ability to enforce is very difficult (157-160)</i> <i>take it from being subjective to objective. i would suggest using a similar bylaw to the disorderly behaviour section from the transit bylaw however replace "on transit property" to in a public place. (168-169)</i>
Need more bylaws	<i>I believe that creating bylaws which focus on vagrancy such as loitering, impairment by drug and alcohol, clothing and deportment standards, swearing in public and causing a disturbance to name a few would all help to reduce disturbances and peoples attitudes to speak their mind in this difficult time of social media.(144-145)</i>
Subjective	<i>take it from being subjective to objective. i would suggest using a similar bylaw to the disorderly behaviour section from the transit bylaw however replace "on transit property" to in a public place (166-167)</i>
Lack of support	<i>lack of support from city council & political in nature (136)</i> <i>The support of the Court process (137)</i>
Public Education	<i>Knowledge of the laws/bylaws by the average street user [...] (126)</i>

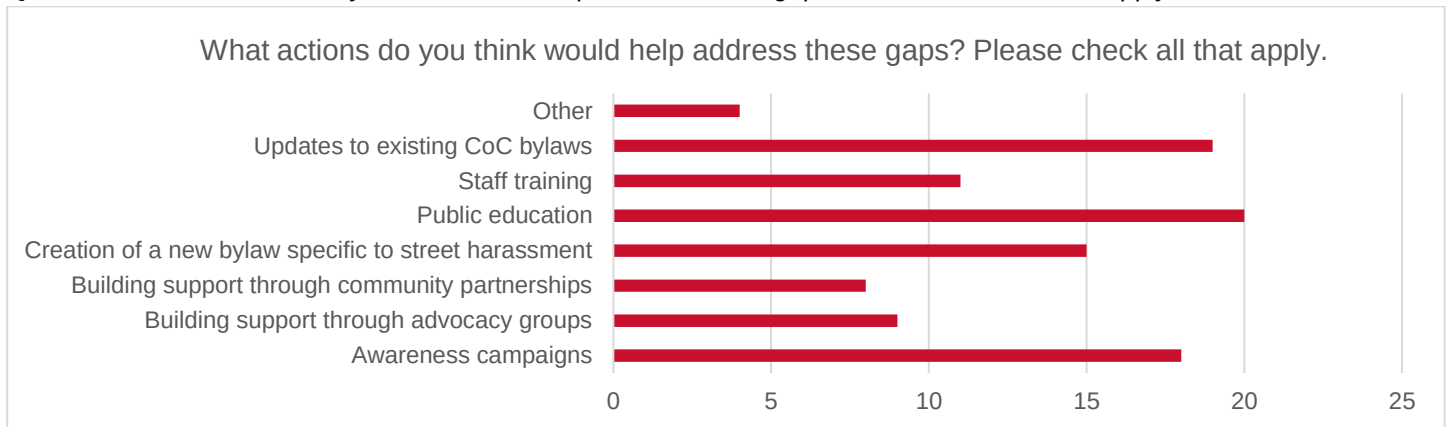
Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

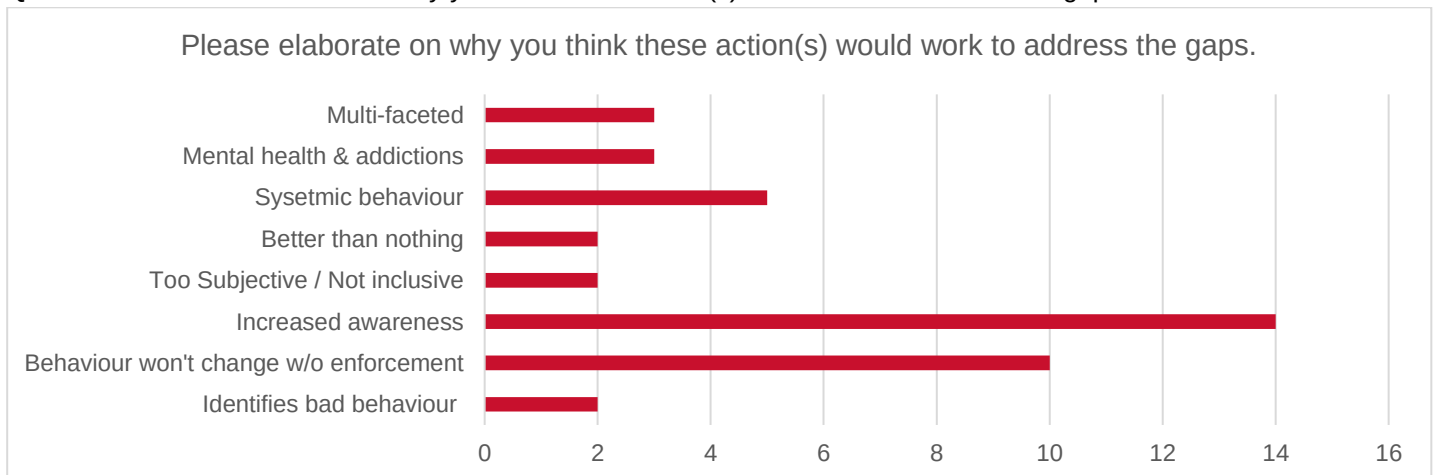
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
Other	<i>Number of officers, Online reporting capability, Training for officers, mental health training for officers. Officers will need to be in pairs, ability to identify and respond to offenders. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (170-172)</i>

Question 4: What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply.



Question 5: Please elaborate on why you think these action(s) would work to address the gaps.



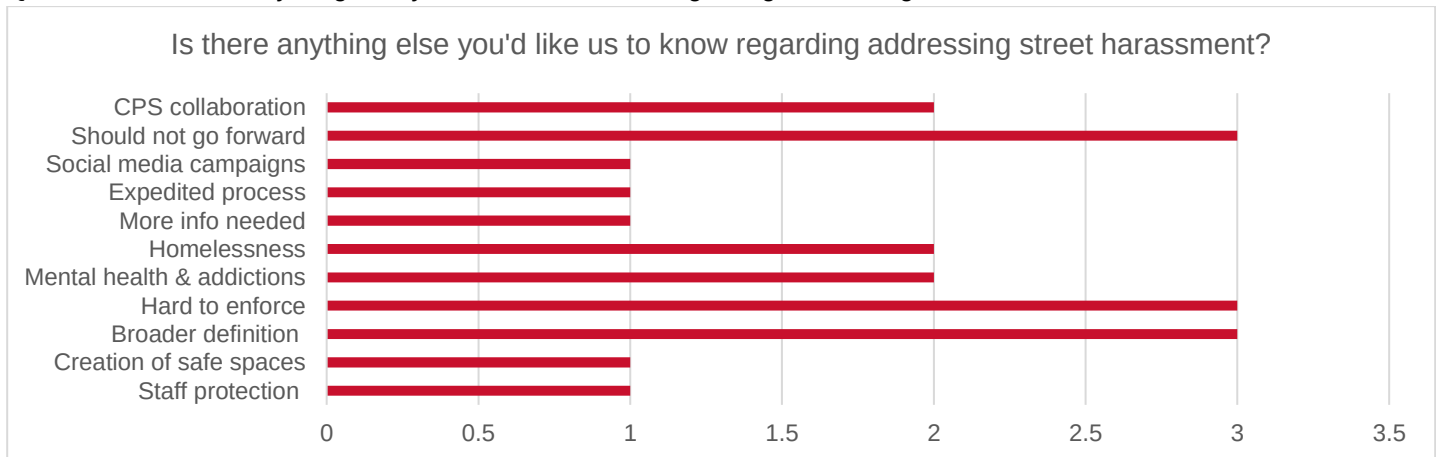
Theme	Feedback
Increased awareness	<i>Citizens are not versed/aware bylaws to support them & currently one does not exist that would be supported for not only a charge, but a conviction. Without province-wide support and engagement, I don't see this being as successful. (205-206)</i> <i>These types of behaviours come from either a power structure set up that benefits the offenders, or is from a fear of the unknown. Bystander intervention helps adults learn their behaviour is unacceptable from other adults, and teaching kids from a</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	<i>young age these beliefs are no longer appropriate helps stop the behaviours from becoming ingrained. (191-194)</i>
Behaviour won't change [...]	<i>Most of this is caused by impaired individuals on the street and homeless, if the vagrancy laws are not harsher there is nothing that can be done to ensure this action can be dealt with. (lines 205-207)</i>
Systemic behaviour	<i>This is a societal/human behaviour issue that can't be addressed through ticketing and law enforcement. This needs to start elsewhere, particularly when it comes to long standing cultural or societal norms in which this behaviour has been acceptable (line 216-217)</i>
Multi-faceted	<i>This is an issue that needs to be approached from multiple different perspectives. Enforcement of a Bylaw would only be one piece of the puzzle. Awareness campaigns could teach those who might harass that it is wrong. Advocacy groups could support those who have been harassed and give them tools to deal with the impacts and prepare for future harassment. (line 249-252)</i>
Mental health and addictions	<i>Any steps wouldn't be productive. The majority of the people who engage in this behavior 't going to be swayed by any of these actions. They have mental health or addiction issues or are homeless so how are tickets or education efforts going to be effective (lines 201- 203)</i>
Too subjective/not inclusive	<i>this appears to be a very narrow focus and an issue that isn't widely spread and is not affecting the general public as a whole. (line 213-214)</i>

Question 6: Is there anything else you'd like us to know regarding addressing street harassment?



Theme	Feedback
Hard to enforce	<i>I believe it is very important that who ever decides on what this bylaw looks like take a good look at the Bylaws and see if they can come up with an enforceable bylaw that covers a more general harassment before we lock into one that is based completely on the offence having a sexual connotation. Having something more general would still encompass sexual harassment without limiting the officers. (278- 281)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	<i>will this by definition be able to be proven - requirements of harassment - typically show a repeated behavior vs a passing bothersome social disorder issue - do they have to be the same ppl over and over? Statements would have to be collected would this be something someone would invest time in - if the person is NFA we can't locate them especially responding after the time of offence. (289-292)</i>
Broader definition	<i>The definition needs to be much broader in terms of the "reasons" or people who are targeted. It could be due to any factor including socio-economic status, age, appearance/clothing, gender... etc. (266-267)</i> <i>please make it clear if this is all inclusive or aimed at just protecting a portion of the community that are specifically vulnerable to Street harassment (which is just as unacceptable). (272-273)</i>
Should not go forward	<i>It should be mentioned that police are already under a great deal of scrutiny in relation to alleged corrupt street checks, particularly for those who are a visible minority or who are homeless. Investigations into street harassment bylaws may antagonize this already fragile relationship. (257-259)</i> <i>this will be a he said she said situation and one that will never be able to be proven in the courts. The vocal minority threatened by comments need to also be educated on who these are coming from and given the tools to be able to deal with the small minority of people using this and understanding the perspective they are coming from whether it be impairment or uneducated thoughts. (268-271)</i>
CPS collaboration	<i>Attempting to connect bylaw with City Police, as the types of people that are committing the offences of street harassment, are also likely perpetrating this in other areas, or becoming increasingly more aggressive, and will need other interventions possibly from police. (254-256)</i>
Homelessness Mental health & addictions	<i>I believe this issue goes hand in hand with mental health and homeless issues in Calgary. Most people I hear that have been harassed in public comes from the homeless population. (274-275)</i>
Creation of safe spaces	<i>The city needs to create spaces where the vulnerable/homeless population can go during the day when they are kicked out of DI in the morning. Places that have washrooms, healthy activities etc. (261-262)</i>
Staff protection	<i>[...] Including comments made toward first responders which significantly harms their mental health. (96-97)</i> <i>Although I haven't come across a situation where two/more citizen's were involved in such a scenario... I, as an officer, have been harassed by members of the public, verbally, in derogatory manners and often times in a manner which would be seen as to incite violence (263-265)</i>
More info needed	<i>i'd really be curious to know the stats on this. did this come from anecdotal information that it's a problem or aside from the few that have been noted/documented, is it increasing? to be fair, this seems, @ least on the surface, like an overreach. (282-284)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

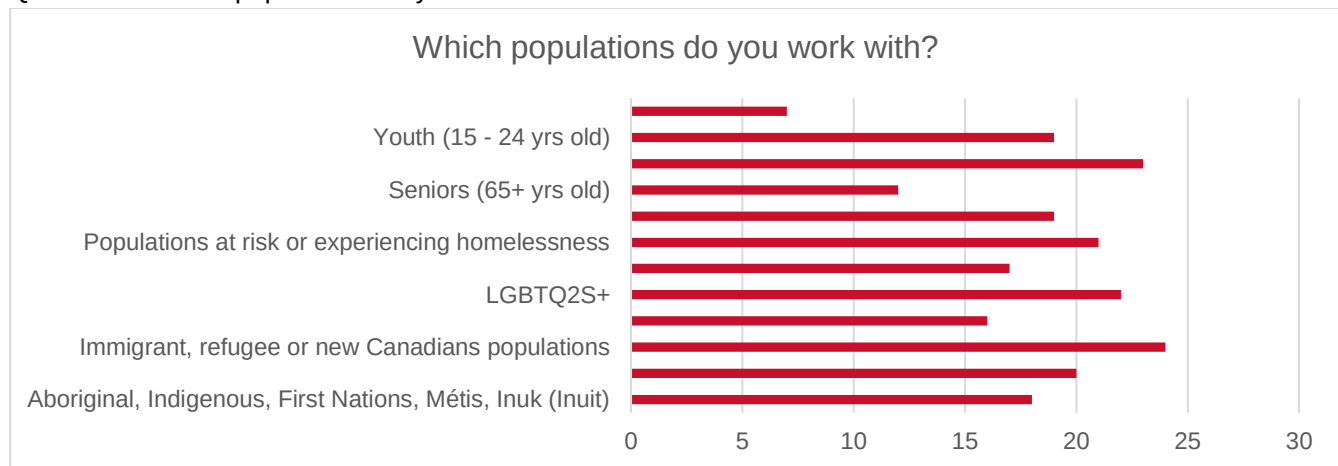
What we heard
December 2021

External Organizations

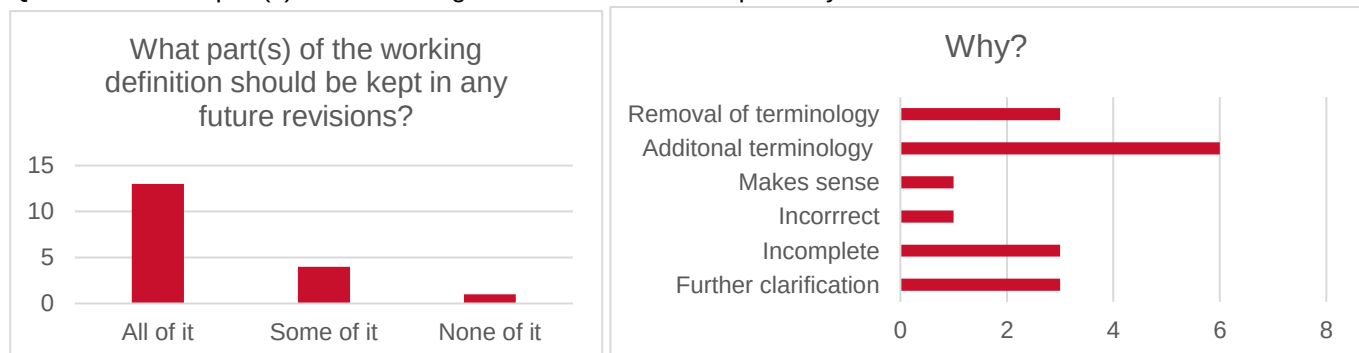
Question 1: Name of organizations

AHS	Carya Society of Calgary
The Alex	Centre for Newcomers
The Alexandra Community Health Centre	CUPS Calgary Society
Brenda Strafford Society for the	Hillhurst United Church
Prevention of Domestic Violence	Kerby Centre
The Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth	Next Step Ministries
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	Safeworks Supervised Consumption
(CCIS)	Services
Calgary Downtown Association	Sagesse
Calgary John Howard Society	Wild Rose United Church
Calgary Queer Arts Society	Woodcliff United Church Affirming
Canadian Mental Health Association	Committee

Question 2: Which populations do you work with?



Question 3 What part(s) of the working definition should be kept in any future revisions?



Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

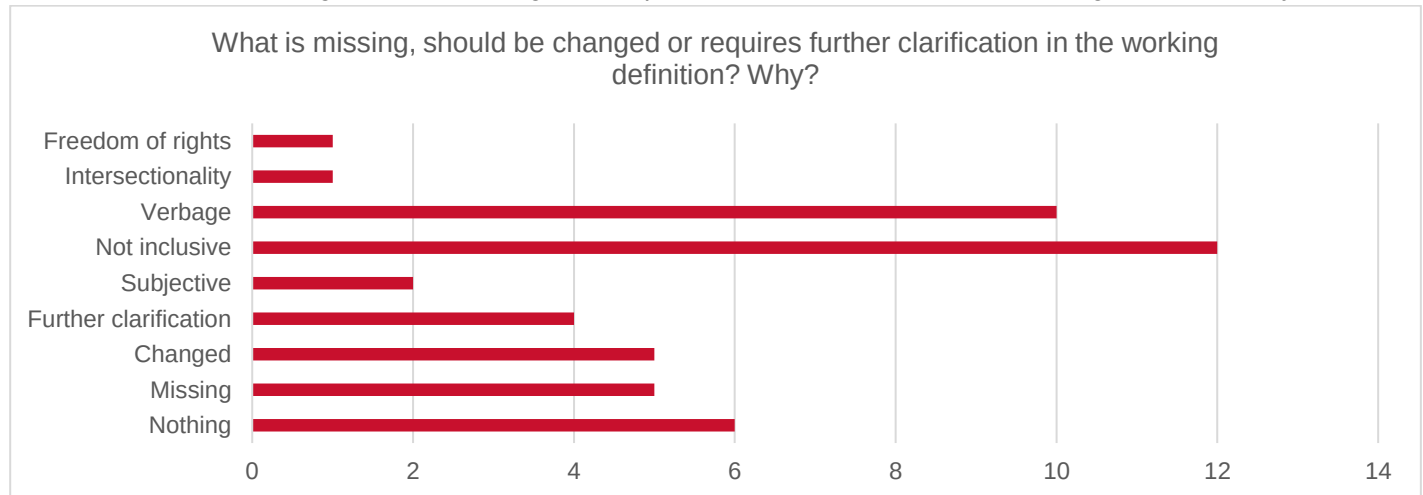
Theme	Feedback
Additional terminology	<i>It might be good to add threatening. The rest of the adjectives are very subjective. (343)</i> <i>All should be kept. Also should have the ADDITION of " because of different ability, skin colour, socioeconomic status, culture" (347-348)</i>
Removal of terminology	<i>Street harassment is often between individuals known to each other either formally within a friend/aquaintance group, or informally such as an individual who walks past a particular street daily and sees the same individual on that walk. With there often being previous interactions between the individuals I recommend the descriptor of "stranger" removed. (335-338)</i>
Incomplete	<i>it may be redundant to in this case distinguish gender expression and gender, because you include 'perceived' which covers the interpretation of gender markers? but at the risk of making this too weak to hold up if charges are challenged, i think it is good to distinguish conceptual gender, and the coded gender signifiers wrapped up in expression. I might also add body type or appearance, as that will further elaborate on, and encapsulate gender expressions, but also include those harassed for their weight, or visible disability. You may also want to include disability, use of mobility aids etc. Have you considered including ethnicity and skin colour, cultural dress. In light of the harassment asian-canadians have been facing in the last year and a half, or individuals wearing cultural or religious garments (hijab, turban, regalia)? Voice, accent, for those with speech impediments, deep or high voices which may challenge gender assumptions, or individuals with ESL? (353-362)</i>
Further clarification	<i>It's unclear what a "public place" means (344)</i> <i>I think this is a horrible definition. It would restrict all forms of free expression. "Unwelcome comments" could mean any comment. So could "alarming" or "insulting". Who gets to decide? Who gets to decide "perceived" or "unwelcome"? This is completely wrong minded, and I am gay. I am not in favour of this at all. Free expression is at the heart/core of being LGBTQ, and when expression is suppressed, then so does being LGBTQ. (370-374)</i>
Other	<i>Experiencing verbal physical or emotional attacks are not part of our civic discourse, we should be able to experience physical and emotional safety within our communities. (345-346)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

Question 4 What is missing, should be changed or requires further clarification in the working definition? Why?



Theme	Feedback
Not inclusive	<i>Comments, gestures and actions that are discriminatory in nature have roots of violence. There needs to be consideration that violence occurs in speech as well as action. People who experience street harassment are likely to have recurring events of harassment that can negatively affect their spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, thus contributing to tangible compounding effects that negatively impact their well-being. Without considering the impacts of harassment, even when it is non-physical, will inevitably exclude the experiences of many survivors. (397-402)</i>
Additional Terminology	<i>It might help to add terms like intimidating or threatening. (412)</i> <i>We need to add race, cultural background, way people dress (423)</i>
Further clarification	<i>The word "alarming" indicates that street harassment can be a frightening experience, but I wonder if there should also be a part about the fact that street harassment impacts the victim's sense of safety in the public sphere. (407-409)</i>
Subjective	<i>[...] What is going to alarm one individual will be different than what is alarming to another individual." (388)</i>
Freedom of Rights	<i>The whole idea of suppressing free expression should be dropped completely. This is completely alarming. Future governments could define "unwelcome" "gesture" or "action" as expressing one's gayness toward a hererosexual person. "Disrespectful" could be defined as not following family values. "Demeaning" could be defined as "anti-heterosexual", "alarming" could be defined as accepting a youth as gay. "Insulting" - really? It is free expression law 101 not to suppress free expression. (418-422)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Question 5: What are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?



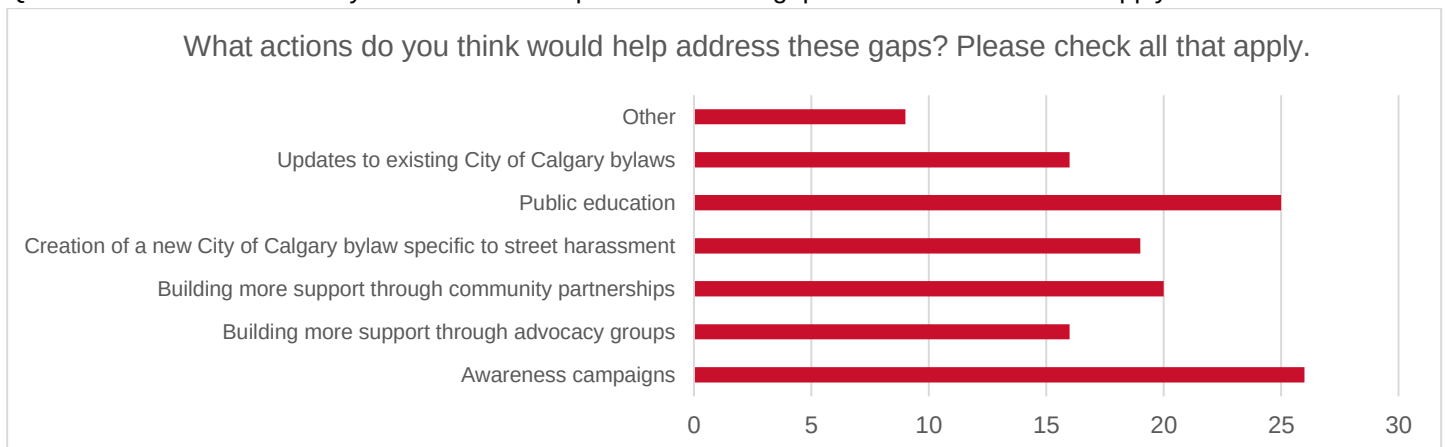
Theme	Feedback
Accountability	<i>No specific punishment or consequences. no monitoring of the streets (442)</i>
Education	<i>Many of my clients (newcomers, refugees) are not aware enough of what harassment is, and because of bad experiences in their home countries, they are not willing to report this kind of violence. (505 – 506)</i> <i>Holding people accountable by having legislation. Educating people. Awareness campaigns (510)</i>
Societal Causes / Social Services	<i>Expanding social work and social community programs for education and support. (436)</i> <i>I don't believe we need to create a by law addressing what some view as street harassment. I do believe we need to look at how we can facilitate and help those who are considered to be a marginalized segment of our population. (449-451)</i>
Reporting	<i>Are there already bylaws in place that are not being enforced? How does one monitor and enforce a street harassment bylaw? Who would an incident be reported to? These incidents are in the moment. How can they effectively be addressed? Addressing street harassment is a societal shift. (437-439)</i> <i>some of the gaps might include: quick response time; no real consequence when incidences are reported; shame and guilt when an individual does report; harassment from family or friends of the accused (440-441)</i> <i>Reporting mechanism, evidence capturing mechanisms (e. g. Street camera), witness protection and encouragement, public campaign/billboard condemning harassment (452-453)</i> <i>"The reality is that many who are harassed on the street because of their marginalized identity may have also been harassed by police, or fear police harassment, so reporting, and calling for help may not be an option. for example many lgbtq+ refugees settling in calgary have been beaten and harassed by police</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

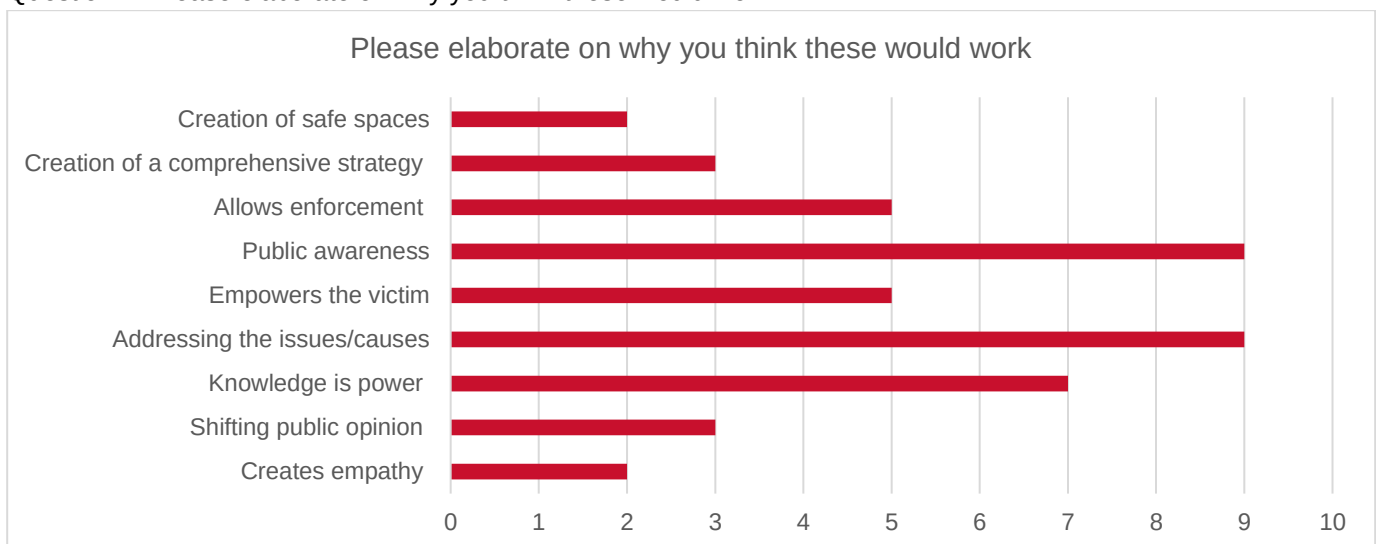
What we heard
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	<i>in their home countries. How can one confidently report an incident of harassment? What is needed, video evidence, witness? would there be a way to report online? If you don't have video evidence, can investigators access public surveillance? (477-482)</i>
Safe spaces	<i>I think that Calgary can do a better job on creating safe and positive walking environments. There are many dark and hidden corners in Calgary where perpetrators can hide and retreat in. Eliminating infrastructure that enables street harassment can assist in creating a better future for all Calgarians. Additionally, walking environments should heavily consider surveillance theory, whereby open spaces without hidden corners eliminates the opportunity for perpetrators to run and hide from their actions. (455-459)</i>

Question 6: What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply.



Question 7: Please elaborate on why you think these would work.



Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

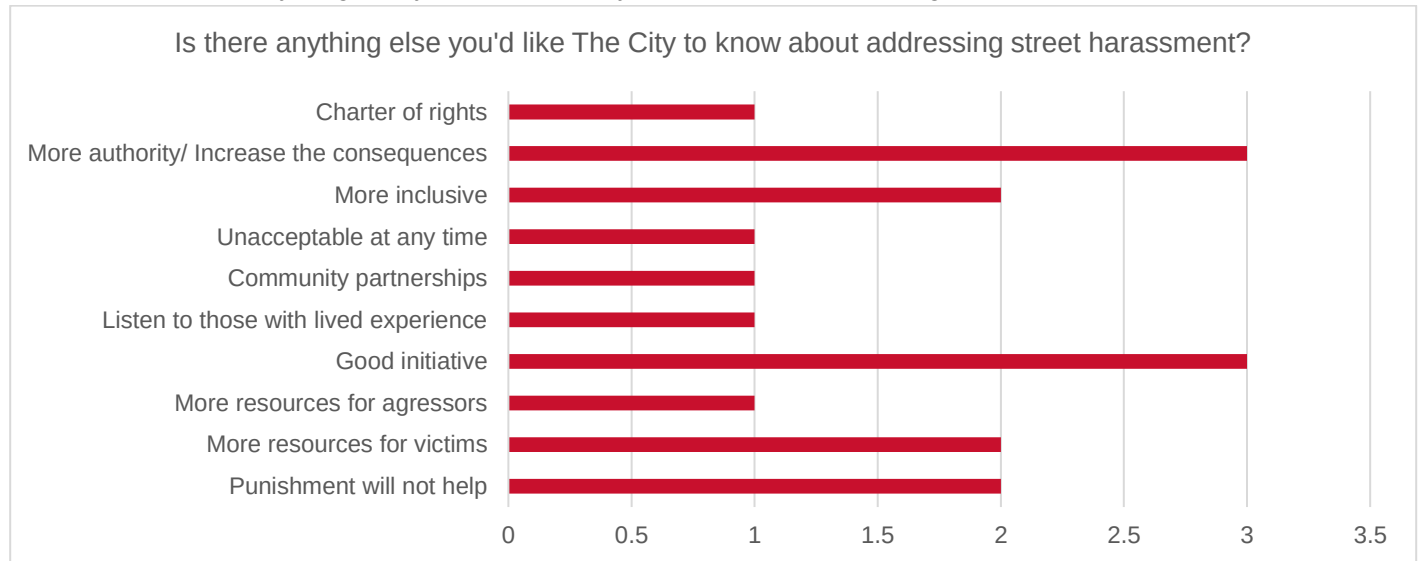
Theme	Feedback
Public awareness	<i>These address lack of public awareness and education surrounding the impact on individuals experiencing harassment as well as resources for both aggressors and victims. (528-529)</i> <i>Educating people to accept one another is very well researched - it works. You do not have to spend a moment on suppressing free expression. Teach people to express acceptance, welcoming, empathy, and loving one another. Replace negative behaviours with positive ones. (579-581)</i> <i>Awareness is a constant effort. Community partners can do the actual work, and updating laws rather than new ones is a good default. (595-596)</i>
Addresses the issues/causes	<i>Research has shown that retributive actions rarely stick and if one wants to change societal behaviours, then you have to shift publics' opinion on what is and is not acceptable. This takes time. Embed an understanding of harassment and its impact into the school curriculum and teach the teachers how to manage harassment on the playground and in the schools. This is where the first hints of harassment of any kind are practiced. (515-519)</i> <i>Again, it has to do with the root problems in our society such as sexism, racism, homophobia, ableism, poverty, lack of adequate education, etc., rather than the harassment itself. We NEED to address the root problems, rather than taking a backwards approach of arresting, fining, etc. (525-527)</i>
Knowledge is power	<i>People should be aware that they do not have to put up with street harassment, and that the city is taking a strong stance against it. People need to know that their complaints will be heard and something will be done when they speak up. (576-577)</i>
Creation of safe spaces	<i>Positive walking environments will benefit all parts of society. I believe this will also help to address street harassment by creating a survivor centered city that strives to protect victims. As stated earlier, surveillance theory is used to create a safer community and has been proven to decrease crime in cities such as London. Walking environments that are open and safe can not only decrease street harassment, but also create a feeling of safety for all Calgarians. This plan could increase overall feelings of happiness and even physical health, as the stress of being harassed can seriously affect all parts of an individual's life." (550-555)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

Question 8: Is there anything else you'd like The City to know about addressing street harassment?



Theme	Feedback
Good initiative	<i>I am grateful for this initiative, though redneck-ery has always been a part of Calgary and Alberta, these last several years it has increased and flourished to unsafe and violent levels with Trumpism, and the divisiveness we are seeing. I think it is vital we take a stand for what behaviours we are not willing to accept or tolerate. It's a necessary step for restoring civility to society. To tackle the real problem of toxic masculinity which has made women and lgbtq+ feel unsafe on our streets for years, having an authority will give victims some confidence and agency, and hopefully dissuade bad behaviour. (626-631)</i>
More authority / increase the consequences.	<i>[...] To tackle the real problem of toxic masculinity which has made women and lgbtq+ feel unsafe on our streets for years, having an authority will give victims some confidence and agency, and hopefully dissuade bad behaviour. (629-631)</i> <i>Increase the consequences. (632)</i> <i>Consequences of harassment. make that clearer (643)</i>
More inclusive	<i>Certain minority groups are more prone to street harassment (608)</i> <i>I'm glad to hear this is being looked at because many people receive hurtful comments and slurs, which I can attest to as a woman and also in working with immigrants and knowing the insults they have to endure. (624-625)</i> <i>Th frontline staff at our organization typically deal with a large amount of street harassment. It most often has been offhand comments and microaggressions about a staff members race. (633-634)</i>

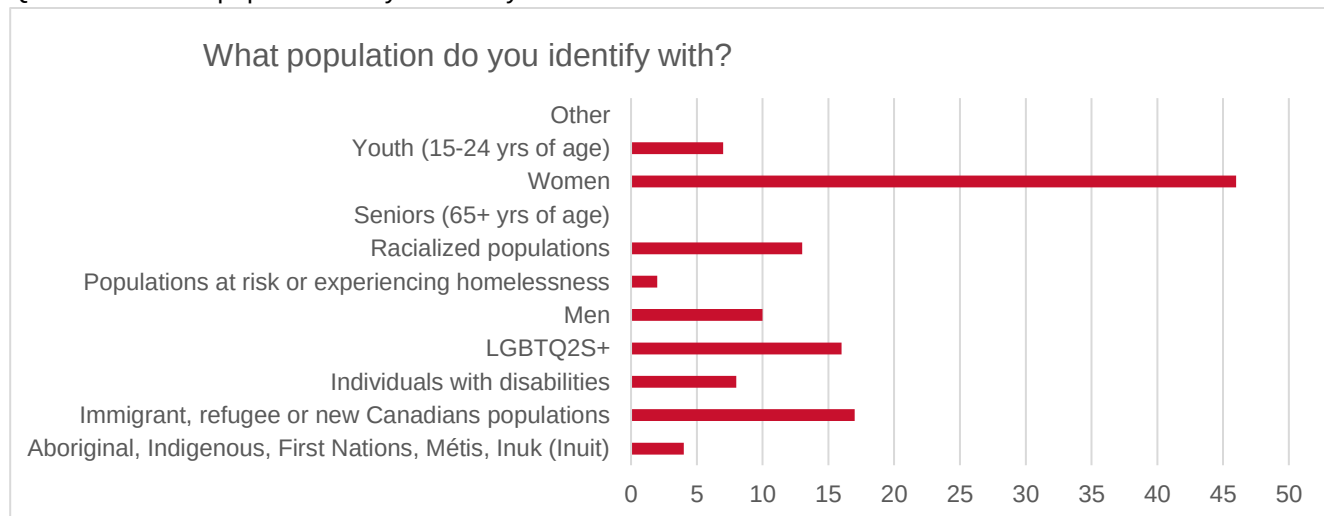
Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	Calgary street should be safe for all Calgarian, All Calgarian should take responsibility to condemn all kind of bad behaviors towards fellow citizens (640-641) <i>Multilanguage materials. (642)</i>
More resources for victims More resources for aggressors	<i>I think that only looking at Street Harassment is myopic. Street Harassment is a product of a bigger systemic problem related to sexism, racism, ageism, etc. Also, the harasser or bully (closely related) has often been the victim. It's a learned behaviour caused by someone's low self esteem and is a coping mechanism. This is much bigger than creating a bylaw and slapping someone on the wrist. (602-605)</i> <i>It is important to address aggressors and victims and offer resources to both. Aggressors often act out due to feeling a lack of control, increased anxiety or feeling helpless and victims often have no appropriate resources to address issues they are being harassed for such as sleeping, grooming, urinating/defecating, being unkempt, being under the influence of substances, living in public etc. They also have few resources for the trauma they have experienced in the past and the resultant ways they experience being harassed currently (610-615)</i>

External Clients or Members

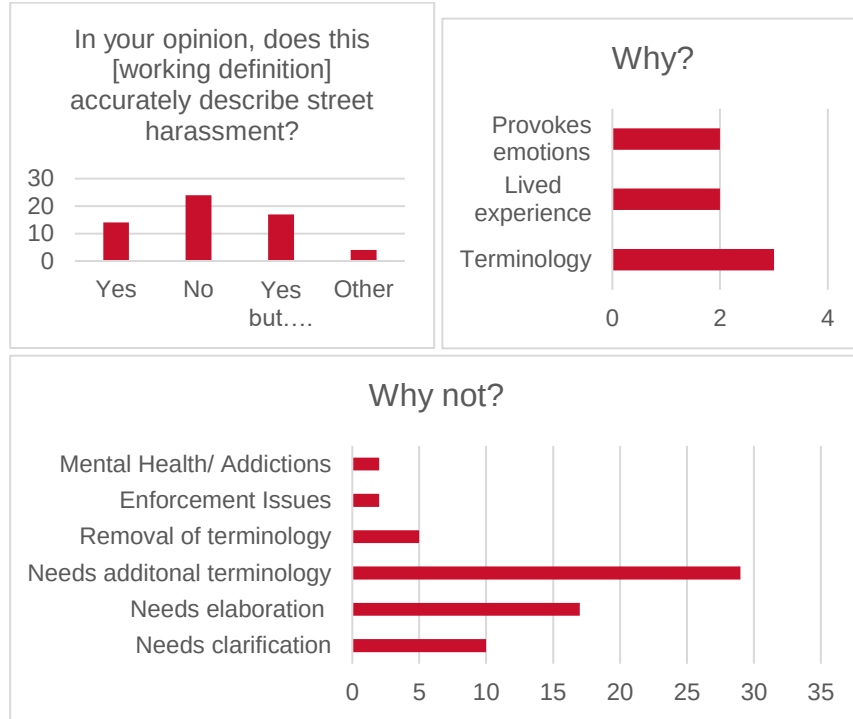
Question 1: what population do you identify with?



Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Question 2: In your opinion, does this [working definition] accurately describe street harassment? Why or why not?



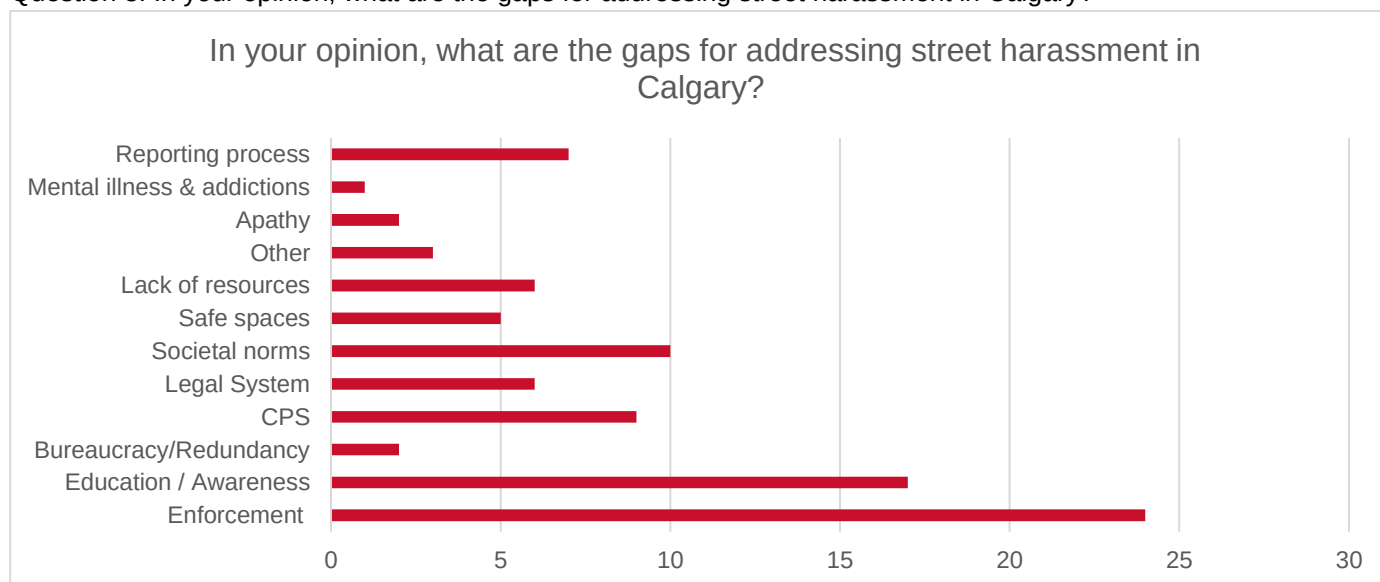
Theme	Feedback
Needs additional terminology	<i>I would add in the word ""threatening"" as often times street harassment does come as a perceived threat (656)</i> <i>include that "discriminates, humiliates or embarrasses a person" and reference attacks against "ageism & culture & race & ableism" categories (683-684)</i> <i>I think street harassment could include more than just sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation. It could include race, ability, and much more. (730-731)</i>
Needs elaboration	<i>In my opinion it does not. Because, it is not identifying the aspects of addiction/metal health. And that the majority of this issue is in the downtown core (657-658)</i> <i>It is a good definition but sometimes harassment is veiled in friendly words that are actually demeaning, so it is not always obvious that it should be unwelcome. Perhaps you need to elaborate more on the demeaning aspect. (672-674)</i> <i>I think focussing on harassment only is shortsighted, the Canada Labour Code no longer separates harassment from violence. As of January 1, 2021, the CLC combined them into one definition of harassment and violence. My feedback is that Calgary should follow suit and adopt the same principles. The definition from the CLC is "harassment and violence means any action, conduct or comment,</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	<i>including of a sexual nature, that can reasonably be expected to cause offense, humiliation, or other physical or psychological injury or illness to an employee, including any prescribed action, conduct or comment (687-692)</i>
Needs clarification	<i>The wording of "stranger" can be changed. It does not necessarily have to be a stranger, it could be anyone. (668)</i> <i>Forced seems a bit extreme use of terminology. This is so General, that if you looked at someone the wrong way, are they going to perceive it as disrespectful, demeaning, alarming and or insulting. I would be able to call the cops on so many people and claim this because of what ""I perceived"". What is the definition of Unwelcoming comments, gestures, and actions? This is Crazy for this to even be purposed." (675-678)</i> <i>It does, as long as the term "forced" is not taken to mean only direct and intentional verbal or physical confrontations, but rather includes everything from those sorts of overt encounters all the way down to unintentional micro-agressions that may be verbal discrimination not intended for the victims ear, or even non-verbal gestures or movements that result in people feeling targeted, unwelcome, and insecure." (770-773)</i> <i>It does not, it is too broad and could be interpreted to mean anything that was said within earshot that one doesn't like. (775-776)</i>

Question 3: In your opinion, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?



Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

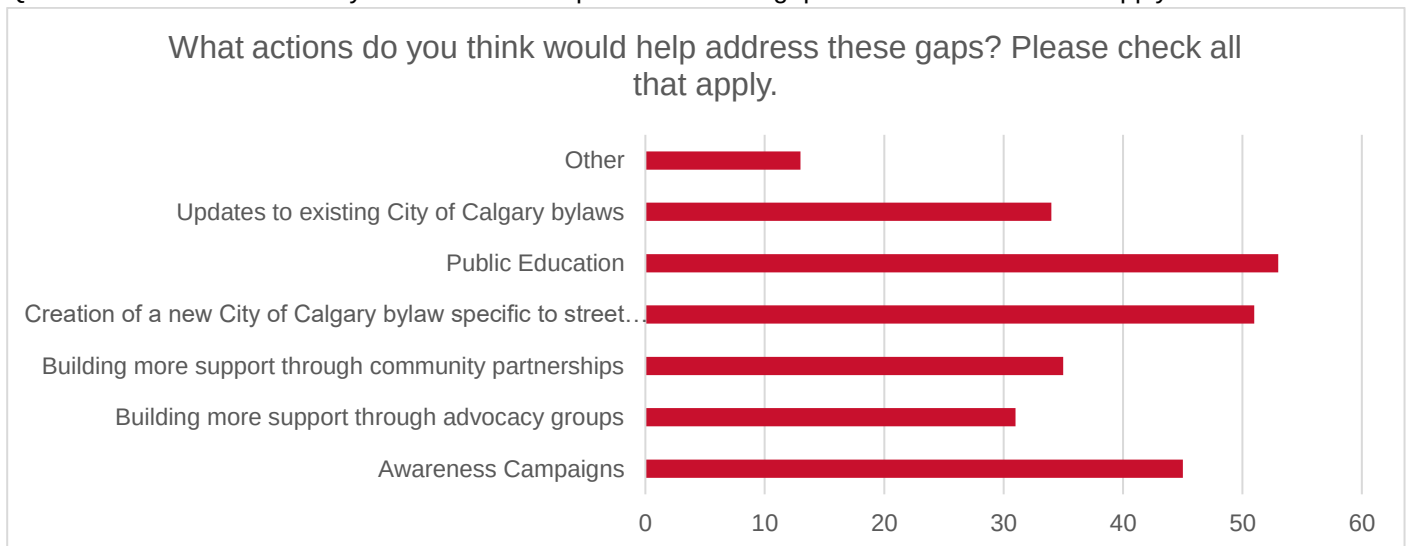
Theme	Feedback
Enforcement	<i>Presence of people in higher traffic/higher incident areas who are equipped to intervene in appropriate, non-violent ways and educate harassers, provide resources, etc. Advertising around personal rights and responsibilities related to street harassment, instituting bylaws to define street harassment and services available for harassers. (787-790)</i> <i>Provincial laws. Actual enforcement to stop it and help everyone feel comfortable. (799)</i>
Education Awareness	<i>Bylaws, ambassadors, purposeful interventions through commercial entities (ie. not in my city), etc. (861)</i> <i>I tend to focus my efforts on education and awareness instead of enforcement. Can a campaign for engagement with Calgarians be started? Messaging around appropriateness of these interactions and the results and impact on those who experience it? (881-883)</i> <i>I'm personally not 100% aware of the laws against street harassment, so actual laws and awareness efforts would be a gap to address. Also, information on what to do if you are harassed. What is the best course of action? Building a safe city will involve educating citizens on what is not acceptable, why and the impact on quality life and Calgary's brand / success as a top liveable city to attract business and talent. (888-891)</i>
Reporting process	<i>No proper protocol on whom to call or refer to, because the police do not take these issues seriously. Who do we rely on to call or refer to in order to address harassment, would be the question. There are also no parameters around what constitutes harassment, that would warrant any action. There are no safety protocols for people being harassed should they choose to come forward with it. (792-795)</i>
Societal norms/systemic issues	<i>The gaps are not in enforcement but in education and other social determinants of health. Harassment is a cultural phenomena and is made acceptable by learned behaviours passed on via school, family, workplaces etc. I would much rather see time and money spent on programs that educate young people, particularly men, and programs in penal settings that help offenders emerge with an understanding of how their actions affected others. Deterrence as a basis for punitive action has limited utility in my opinion. Far better to start at the source than to treat the symptoms. (855-860)</i> <i>Calgary, and Alberta, and Canada, fails more vulnerable residents and citizens. We do not prioritize the health and wellbeing of people, and instead criminalize and ostracize those who are poor, disabled, who have experienced trauma or intergenerational trauma, people with addictions.... and so people who have been failed to be cared for and have not been allowed to be whole by their communities end up in vulnerable, powerless situations which can sometimes result in street harassment. (862-866)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	<i>i very hard to say because you can't control those who are living in poverty and struggling with addictions - I think its the system basically, to access those supports there is too much tape to get through and thats why these people give up. (933-935)</i>
CPS	<i>Lack of laws to protect citizens. For example stalking, aggression towards minority groups. Also a lack of training for Police. I have dealt with all of the above. When I was being stalked I didn't feel like there was much I could do and when I was raped I called the police and they discouraged me from pressing charges or going to court because I didn't have a rape kit(I called the police a week or 2 after. I then felt victimized by the police. They didn't offer me any help or tell me about resources out there either (842-846)</i> <i>The gap is in police resources and education. The legal tools already exist. A new bylaw will be unlikely to withstand a charter challenge re: freedom of expression. (936-937)</i>

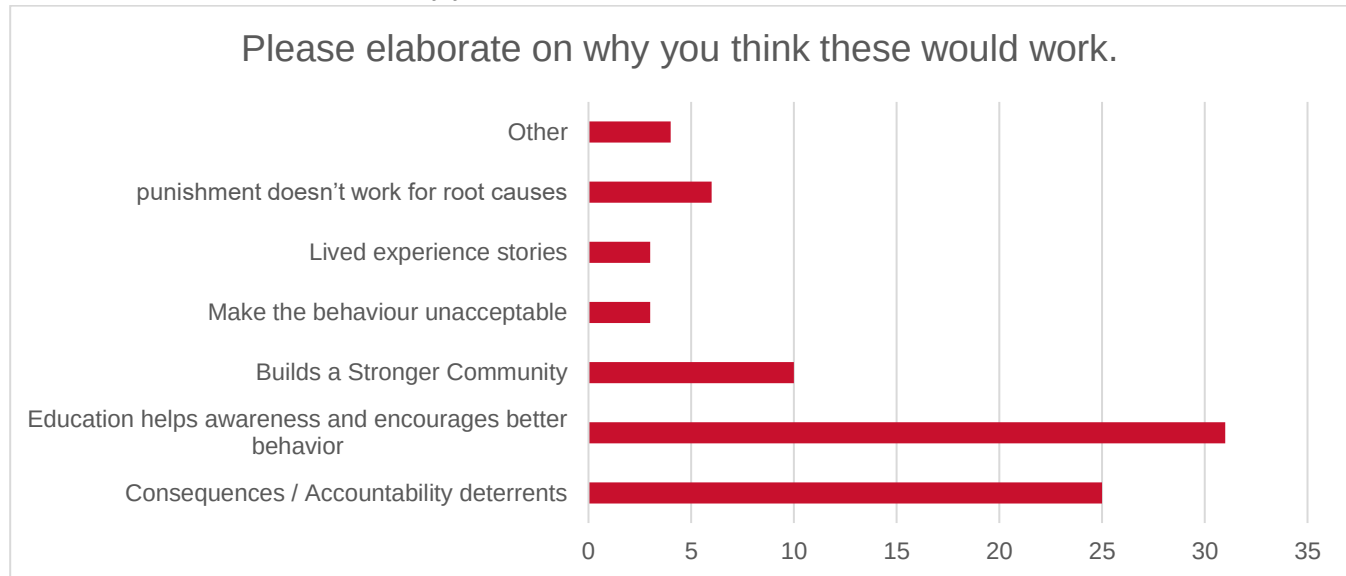
Question 4: What actions do you think would help address these gaps? Please check all that apply.



Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Question 5: Please elaborate on why you think these would work.



Theme	Feedback
Education helps awareness and encourages better behaviour	<i>All of the above would raise awareness of this issue. Unless people are educated to recognize it as harassment, they will not step up and protect others when they see it happening, especially over and over. I think having a stronger community that stands against harassment requires education and awareness. It also requires that there will be consequences for the people that are acting this way. It is all about power over another person and should be recognized as an abuse of power in our society. (949-953)</i> <i>Public education campaigns have worked before for many things and I think they are the only realistic tools available. (1092-1093)</i> <i>There's a reason why these people are there and begging for money or harassing people for things to get what they want to feed their addictions or needs. Creating awareness will help people see why they are there - there is soo much trauma in this world some people just don' know how to cope. We need more people with compassion and empathy. (1209-1212)</i>
Consequences/Accountability deterrents	<i>With a bylaw, more people would know that street harassment is not okay and that there will be consequences, which would deter individuals from street harassing. (967-968)</i> <i>Until awareness campaigns ingrain in offenders that street harassment is wrong, the knowledge that legal and enforceable consequences exist would be a deterrent. (1026-1027)</i>
Builds a stronger community	<i>Education, advocacy, and community partnerships would work as a primary prevention approach - stopping street harassment before it happens. Creating/amending bylaws would target the harassment that</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

Theme	Feedback
	<i>currently exists today, and would hopefully prevent repeat harassment from occurring. (1049-1051)</i> <i>Create a bylaw that makes shouting, swearing and anti social behaviour illegal. This has to be backed up with the law being enforced. We can make Calgary better, we just need to be stronger and more determined.(1056 -1058)</i>
Other	<i>I don't think you're going to create change within the public system on the streets until you create change within all of the industries that you have control to do so. Schools, places of employment (which include a huge sector). If local coffee shops, malls and etc. we're expected to increase their attention around harassment and violence as a whole, that would help educate people on their rights. Sometimes focussing just on what you don't want to have happen is shortsighted, perhaps you also need to focus more on gender based acceptance. You could do this by updating employment legislation as well. This shift is going to take time and buying and the place to start that are in the spaces in which you have authority to do so. (960-966)</i> <i>They probably won't work, but they are the best approaches listed, and are certainly better than doing nothing. The problem is, until the majority of the population (i.e. white settlers) recognize they owe their social status to the disproportionate privilege they still enjoy, it will remain socially acceptable to claim street harassment is merely a minor issue that impacts only a very, very few, so is therefore not something society needs to be overly concerned about. (1083-1087)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Question 6; Is there anything else you'd like The City to know about addressing street harassment?



Theme	Feedback
Systemic action	<i>Even with the Me Too movement I don't believe a lot of men understand what it is like to be a woman and deal with harassment on such a regular basis. Our society has taught us that its okay for people to touch you, its not rape if a spouse forces you to have sex, its okay to cat call. We need to be teaching people from childhood all the way until they die boundaries and appropriate behaviour. Such as in all levels of schools, work places, churches everywhere, in order to change societies behaviours (1117 -1121)</i> <i>If your are not willing to put your money where your mouth is, in other words, guaranteeing to actually commit sufficient resources (monetary and other) over the long term, then don't waste our time! (1207-1208)</i>
Make the changes matter	<i>Street harassment is a symptom of several bigger issues like misogyny, racism, homophobia and transphobia, and until substantive, long-term improvements are made on those issues at on a society-wide level, street harassment will continue. So don't give up, but also don't settle for incremental, tokenistic change. (1073-1076)</i>
Inclusive	<i>This is an important and much needed initiative, which fills an important gap in community safety and enforcement. For example, the threshold for a hate crime charge is very high, and human rights complaints would not apply to a situation like street harassment. This bylaw is a great opportunity for the City of Calgary to show leadership and continue its commitment to building a safe, welcoming, inclusive and respectful city for everyone. (1107-1111)</i>

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Theme	Feedback
Education	<i>Make easy access to information in as many languages as possible with Police and Peace officers. (1112)</i> <i>Street harassment emerges out of harmful beliefs about the target populations of said harassment. I firmly believe that prevention- through education and advocacy- is key. (1170-1171)</i> <i>Create signs[SIGNS] at the street to prevent the problem (1077)</i>
Stricter laws / accountability and impacts	<i>The people who face the most street harassment aren't going to be completing this survey, or talking to partner organizations. I hope you're also hearing about street harassment instigated by Calgary Police Service, because that is very real and common. We won't bylaw our way out of this. We have to get back to creating communities that care, uplift and support one another. We can't keep othering each other and limiting opportunities for people through criminalization." (1134-1138)</i> <i>if you make tougher by laws - we don't need more indigenous people in jail - we have to be creative and think outside the box when dealing with street harassments. (1209-1210)</i>
Safety- environment Safety - personal	<i>- Please make developers pay for more of the infrastructure instead of the city so you have money to spend on adequate night lights in established inner city that illuminate more than just a tiny spot below the bulb (1/2 the year it is dark after work and in mornings) and cameras. (1090-1092)</i> <i>I work as a volunteer tutor at the immigration CCIS immigration centre. Many of my clients are young immigrant women. Some of them are so harassed on the bus/LRT system that they have stopped coming to get tutoring help. This greatly impedes their progress to establish their lives in Canada. Bystanders need help in knowing how to respond to aid victims, preferably without engaging with perpetrators. (1113-1116)</i>

Verbatim Comments

Verbatim comments presented here include all feedback, suggestions, comments and messages that were collected online and in-person through the engagement described in this report. All input has been reviewed and provided to Project Teams to be considered in decision making for the project.

Any personal identifying information has been removed from the verbatim comments presented here. Comments or portions of comments that contain profanity, or that are not in compliance with the [City's Respectful Workplace Policy](#) or [Online Tool Moderation Practice](#), have also been removed from participant submissions.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Wherever possible the remainder of the submissions remains. No other edits to the feedback have been made, and the verbatim comments are as received. As a result, some of the content in this verbatim record may still be considered offensive or distasteful to some readers.

Street Harassment: internal City of Calgary staff

Question 1: What part of the working definition should be kept in any future revisions?

This is a fairly comprehensive list for defining gender and sex.

"stranger" eliminates the possibility that the victim and offender may be known to each other. this offence would not apply if the offender and victim are known to each other.

All parts of this working definition are applicable to street harassment.

How are they "Forced on" a person Did someone stop them and hold them down. Remove forced and change to presented or something similar

"forced on a human who is a stranger in a public place"...don't see the need for the sex, gender, etc

"I believe the following should remain, "Unwelcome comments, gestures, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place that are disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting." With the removal of, ""because of their actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation,"".

My belief for this is that, should it remain, this would seem to strongly apply to individuals belonging to the LGBTQ+ community where in fact I would suggest that it would apply to any individual regardless of the above mentioned."

Unwelcome comments, gestures and actions forced on a stranger in a public place

None of this

People need to be aware that they cannot control everyones behaviour and attitude when they go out in public. Addressing public vagrancy issues and alcohol and drug use bylaws and criminality may help address the issues of "perceived" street harassment.

None. This will infringe on people's constitutional right to freedom of expression.

For the purposes of this bylaw, all should be kept.

All

""Unwelcome comments, gestures and actions forced on a stranger in a public place that are disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting""

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 39 if this survey is catering to a portion of the population, then the initial definition stands. If it's all inclusive,
40 make it all inclusive. No one should suffer harassment on the street by a stranger."
- 41 The word alarming is to general.
- 42 Unwelcome comments, gestures, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place because of their actual
43 or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, occupation, age or
44 political opinion and that are disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting." because there are too
45 many that think they can target others.
- 46 I would completely rework the definition to "A single or repeated incident forced on a stranger in a public
47 place of objectionable or unwelcome conduct, comment, bullying or action intended to intimidate, offend,
48 degrade or humiliate a particular person or group." This makes it more general while still encompassing a
49 sexual harassment component.
- 50 Keep all of it.
- 51 How do you explain "forced on a stranger". What is the degree of force? Verbal, physical, group? perhaps
52 changing it to experienced by a person from another person
- 53 I find the entire definition challenging from an enforcement/court perspective. the entire thing is very
54 subjective. additionally, the use of the word "forced" implies an assault when taken in context re actions. this
55 is criminal in nature.
- 56 In the context of this being a bylaw it is a horrible idea, the lines should not be blurred between bylaw vs
57 criminal offence - so with that in mind certainly "actions" should be removed from the definition as any
58 "actions" taken against someone should clearly be in the jurisdiction of CPS, as well as anything pertaining
59 to hate crimes (sexual orientation, gender expression, gender, sex) sooo basically in the context of a bylaw
60 should be limited to unwanted comments/gestures of a nature that does not include any kind of hate
61 crime/sexual harassment. This should be left for Police.... If bylaw investigates a complaint that is later
62 determined to be a criminal offence and the complaint is not handled properly the opportunity to pursue the
63 criminal offence could be lost.
- 64 any forced actions should be kept, comments and gestures will be impossible to enforce by law
65 enforcement
- 66 keep all as very relevant
- 67 "Add something that encompasses all persons in order to fit the definition. Not just BECAUSE of something.
- 68 Should say: Unwelcome comments, gestures, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place that are
69 disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting"
- 70 Seems comprehensive

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Question 2: What is missing, should be changed or requires further clarification in the working definition? Why?

Would there be plans to add words to define race into this as well? There are a large amount of harassment/behaviours that falls below the standard required for a criminal code offense for a hate crime, but still needs to be addressed.

I would add 'intended to be' before the word 'disrespectful' as you would need to prove the person was intentionally trying to be disrespectful and was not just showing their friend the latest fortnite dance which was misinterpreted by the complainant. I would also change 'stranger' to 'person' as these types of actions should not be held to only those who do not know each other or have never met before.

Race and ethnicity should be added to the criteria. This addition is necessary to address systemic racism within our community.

As previously mentioned in step 1.

This definition relates to specific reasons or people the harassment is directed at, but should be broader and include ANYONE receiving unwanted comments gestures or actions which are forced on a stranger. It should not be as narrowly defined.

If the parties know each other and physical contact is used needs to be added- you cannot control what others say and their opinions. It is a human right to have freedom of speech even if it is offensive. Based on this definition all TV, movies and social media should be cancelled as to ensure no one is insulted. This is not an offence that can be dealt with on a criminal level unless the elements of a crime are met or a civilian's safety is at risk. Being insulted is not a criminal offence the only way to ensure better understanding is through education and patience.

this definition is too broad as is what constitutes something that is disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting varies wildly from one individual to another. This definition sounds like it isn't meant to protect society as a whole but only those people who "feel" that they have somehow been attacked based on their sex, gender or perceived gender...

Must be worded in a manner that requires the harassment to be beyond mere comments. The harassment must not be trifling, but rather continuous and repetitive. Including comments made toward first responders which significantly harms their mental health.

My belief is this definition is incredibly broad and subjective to the point of being unenforceable, particularly with respect to comments. There are too many blurred lines between this and criminal harassment, except it now brings in additional criteria that is also protected by charter rights for freedom of expression.

Should include all unwelcomed comments to any person.

See previous comment. If this survey is limited to part of the community, please state that in the title.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

"The definition should be more inclusive and not restricted to sex, gender, and orientation. Many people face unwelcome comments/gestures/actions when its not related to those restrictive categories. The definition should read: ""Unwelcome comments, gestures, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place and that are disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting.""

What about religious beliefs.

Age, body composition, religion, political view, occupation, ethnicity.

As shown in previous slide by over defining the offence it narrows the scope to be only based on perceived sexual harassments.

see previous

See answer from question 1

Comments and gestures are freedom of speech, even if rude and should be removed. This will be impossible to enforce and a waste of resources

"Missing - comments, gestures, and actions related to body size or are sexually explicit in nature. Add in harassing and threatening: disrespectful, demeaning, harassing, alarming, threatening..."

Unwelcome comments, gestures, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place that are disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting

Question 3: From an enforcement perspective, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?

In order to enforce this; we will be limited to actually witnessing the event, or having the victim fill out a witness statement. If they fail to do so then there will never be any charges issued.

Aside from telling a person to stop, with the knowledge that the offender could tell the officer to 'pound sand', currently there is nothing that can be done for this specific set of behaviours

Authorities presented to Peace Officers (CCS) - arrest to establish ID and break cycle of offence needs to be granted

Knowledge of the laws/bylaws by the average street user. Enforcement of this type of offence would be extremely difficult unless you were able to identify the offender(s). And, unless the event was captured by CCTV or witnessed by multiple non-biased witnesses who were all willing to provide a statement and attend court, chances of a successful prosecution in court would be very difficult.

Beyond the standard of harassment found in the Criminal Code, there is no lawful authority to address demeaning comments or behaviors made in public. Therefore, from an enforcement perspective, it puts peace officers in a difficult situation when there are complaints made against a person who is committing "street harassment" where the actions do not substantiate a criminal offence.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 134 How do you enforce this. It is unenforceable
- 135 Need more laws to deal with harassment
- 136 lack of support from city council & political in nature
- 137 The support of the Court process.
- 138 How would the police or bylaw enforce a bylaw which addressed street harassment?
- 139 This is not a criminal offence at this time and laying charges on someone you do not know will be very
140 difficult- Harassment should remain only if it is a repeated offence and both parties know each other.
141 Civilians need to also be accountable for understanding these comments are not directly related to them
142 and only an opinion of an impaired individual 80 percent of the time and one not to take as a personal
143 offence.
- 144 I believe that creating bylaws which focus on vagrancy such as loitering, impairment by drug and alcohol,
145 clothing and deportment standards, swearing in public and causing a disturbance to name a few would all
146 help to reduce disturbances and peoples attitudes to speak their mind in this difficult time of social media.
- 147 There is no protection for first responders. A section specifically written to protect the mental health of first
148 responders is required.
- 149 There aren't really gaps I've seen, as this in my experience isn't a prevalent and obvious issue where I've
150 run into a shortage of tools for handling it.
- 151 Actual legal grounds to arrest, detain or enforce street harassment.
- 152 add to the public behavior bylaw another section that deals with a person being harassed/alarmed or
153 distressed at another person's behavior. the offender can be fined or dealt with for such behavior.
- 154 No bylaw in place for enforcement. Criminal Harassment threshold is too high.
- 155 Having enforceable bylaws.
- 156 Too few offences covered with a penalty fine.
- 157 There are many forms of street harassment that aren't based on sexualities' and if we over define street
158 harassment we are left struggling to enforce other inappropriate behavior that may fall outside of the
159 definition, leaving many people still feeling disrespected, alarmed, demeaned and insulted and no avenue to
160 address the issue.
- 161 There are no bylaws that I am aware of that could be punishable by way of summons. There is only
162 harassment enforcement via the Criminal Code.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

This type of behavior can't be enforced out of existence. You could create a public order bylaw, but then the question comes down to how to enforce it. Without a witness, evidence or personally viewing the behavior the ability to enforce is very difficult

take it from being subjective to objective. i would suggest using a similar bylaw to the disorderly behaviour section from the transit bylaw however replace "on transit property" to in a public place.

I can envision collection of evidence and identification of suspects being a problem/challenge when the basis of the offence is a total stranger yelling something at you.

Number of officers, Online reporting capability, Training for officers, mental health training for officers. Officers will need to be in pairs, ability to identify and respond to offenders. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

who is responsible for taking these reports? (i.e. who do I report this to) and who can enforce? There does not seem to be any type of legislation governing this behaviour

"Short on Police in the streets to respond to the call. By the time they get there, the offender has left and little is known who the offender is. Will be difficult to track down and charge. This should be Police matter and would be treated as a low priority for police. If Bylaw responds there is a safety concern as Peace Officers are not as equipped nor most have partners for officer safety.

In order to charge the offender, Law Enforcement needs a victim and a statement. The person must be willing to attend court to testify against the accused and a lot of people don't wish to do that. We also need to ID the offender. If they drive away and no licence plate is obtained, there is nowhere to go. Currently if a Calgary Peace Officer asks for ID and the person refuses, we cannot arrest them, we have to call CPS and they can just walk away. Making our enforcement useless and a mockery."

the majority of gaps would be our ability and directives given to enforce against NFA people as per directives and POPA guidelines Majority of the concerns downtown are surrounding harassment by those vulnerable populations.

No data. This would be difficult to enforce as the issue usually occurs while people are moving. By the time an Officer has time to attend the individual who was harassing will no longer be there. That being said, if there was Bylaw Officers could proactively patrol on this issue.

Question 5: Please elaborate on why you feel these action(s) would work to address the gaps.

These types of behaviours come from either a power structure set up that benefits the offenders, or is from a fear of the unknown. Bystander intervention helps adults learn their behaviour is unacceptable from other adults, and teaching kids from a young age these beliefs are no longer appropriate helps stop the behaviours from becoming ingrained.

Behavior will not change if there are laws that are not well known and cannot be properly enforced.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Public awareness campaigns are necessary to impart on members of the public what is no longer acceptable behavior. Such public awareness campaigns surrounding impaired driving have been successful in swaying the perception of the issue by the public. Additionally, a bylaw to provide an enforcement option to peace officers to respond to incidents of street harassment. Moreover, such a bylaw would specifically address incidents of street harassment which are not covered by the Criminal Code.

Any steps wouldn't be productive. The majority of the people who engage in this behavior 't going to be swayed by any of these actions. They have mental health or addiction issues or are homeless so how are tickets or education efforts going to be effective

There is nothing currently to enforce this behavior in the bylaws

Citizens are not versed/aware bylaws to support them & currently one does not exist that would be supported for not only a charge, but a conviction. Without province-wide support and engagement, I don't see this being as successful.

Provide awareness and education

Current bylaws only relate to panhandling from a vehicle or outside a bank - it would be worth including unwanted harassment of any kind towards anyone.

Most of this is caused by impaired individuals on the street and homeless, if the vagrancy laws are not harsher there is nothing that can be done to ensure this action can be dealt with.

this appears to be a very narrow focus and an issue that isn't widely spread and is not affecting the general public as a whole.

People must be educated

This is a societal/human behaviour issue that can't be addressed through ticketing and law enforcement. This needs to start elsewhere, particularly when it comes to long standing cultural or societal norms in which this behaviour has been acceptable.

Officers need to be legal placed in order to deal with harassment issues.

this allows a public awareness campaign to educate, then the tools for enforcement to address those that choose not to correct their behavior.

Would provide lawful placement when trying to deal with the issue.

Having more enforceable bylaws would show that CPS are serious about street harassment and care about the safety of citizens.

If there is a penalty and people are penalized it will assist in deterring harassment.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

The first five actions speak for themselves. Staff training regarding new bylaws is always important to ensure people are aware of the existence. There is a distinct problem with many of Calgary's bylaws because the definition is too specific and not broad reaching enough and we often run into problems where we find many things fall into the grey areas because based on the wording there isn't enough for enforcement, yet there is still a significant problem that has no resolution because of it.

There is currently nothing out there as listed before so anything would be better than what little we have.

Regardless of the actions done - you will always have people who will engage in this behavior despite education, bylaws, or community action. This is a issue that has been present since mankind created villages.

education is always beneficial. awareness of an issue, if it's an issue is also good to get the word out. no need to create a new bylaw when there are some in existence and if this passes, can just add to them.

Try to curb the hatred or behavior/thoughts behind the actions.

N/A

more people who know about the impacts and feel they can support someone who is being harassed, the more likely people will feel safer

"Having a ticket is not going to deter the behavior. There needs to be awareness and acceptance. Also, people need a little more thick skin. Just cause someone calls you a name shouldn't make it illegal. It empowers the offender even more. If there was a Bylaw, people would use it for ill intentions and nefariously. It would almost be a way to file a hurt feelings report."

directives to not address the vulnerable population have severely limited enforcement capacity in addressing issues on the street in particular "harassment, panhandling etc in the downtown core" the pandemic allowed this to now become an entrenched and allowed culture and with business opening up again it will cause conflict -

This is an issue that needs to be approached from multiple different perspectives. Enforcement of a Bylaw would only be one piece of the puzzle. Awareness campaigns could teach those who might harass that it is wrong. Advocacy groups could support those who have been harassed and give them tools to deal with the impacts and prepare for future harassment.

Question 6: Is there anything else you'd like us to know regarding addressing street harassment?

Attempting to connect bylaw with City Police, as the types of people that are committing the offences of street harassment, are also likely perpetrating this in other areas, or becoming increasingly more aggressive, and will need other interventions possibly from police.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

It should be mentioned that police are already under a great deal of scrutiny in relation to alleged corrupt street checks, particularly for those who are a visible minority or who are homeless. Investigations into street harassment bylaws may antagonize this already fragile relationship.

no

The city needs to create spaces where the vulnerable/homeless population can go during the day when they are kicked out of DI in the morning. Places that have washrooms, healthy activities etc.

Although I haven't come across a situation where two/more citizen's were involved in such a scenario... I, as an officer, have been harassed by members of the public, verbally, in derogatory manners and often times in a manner which would be seen as to incite violence.

The definition needs to be much broader in terms of the "reasons" or people who are targeted. It could be due to any factor including socio-economic status, age, appearance/clothing, gender... etc.

this will be a he said she said situation and one that will never be able to be proven in the courts. The vocal minority threatened by comments need to also be educated on who these are coming from and given the tools to be able to deal with the small minority of people using this and understanding the perspective they are coming from whether it be impairment or uneducated thoughts.

please make it clear if this is all inclusive or aimed at just protecting a portion of the community that are specifically vulnerable to Street harassment (which is just as unacceptable).

I believe this issue goes hand in hand with mental health and homeless issues in Calgary. Most people I hear that have been harassed in public comes from the homeless population.

No

Expedited process.

I believe it is very important that who ever decides on what this bylaw looks like take a good look at the Bylaws and see if they can come up with an enforceable bylaw that covers a more general harassment before we lock into one that is based completely on the offence having a sexual connotation. Having something more general would still encompass sexual harassment without limiting the officers.

i'd really be curious to know the stats on this. did this come from anecdotal information that it's a problem or aside from the few that have been noted/documented, is it increasing? to be fair, this seems, @ least on the surface, like an overreach.

This should not go forward

recent social media campaigns about what it feels like to experience cat calls are very effective

"No not create a Bylaw. The City has enough Bylaw and some are not even enforceable.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Address is through education, campaigns, ads and support for victims."

will this by definition be able to be proven - requirements of harassment - typically show a repeated behavior vs a passing bothersome social disorder issue - do they have to be the same ppl over and over? Statements would have to be collected would this be something someone would invest time in - if the person is NFA we can't locate them especially responding after the time of offence.

Street Harassment: external organizations

Question 1: Name of Organization (optional)

The Calgary Queer Arts Society
Calgary John Howard Society
Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
Womens center
The Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth
Safeworks Supervised Consumption Services
AHS
Canadian Mental Health Association
SAGESSE
Next Step Ministries
Sagesse
religious not for profit
Woodcliff United Church Affirming Committee
Wild Rose United Church
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)
CCIS
Hillhurst United Church
Kerby Centre
Calgary Queer Arts Society
Calgary Downtown Association
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)
The Alex
Centre for Newcomers
carya Society of Calgary
Carya Society of Calgary
The Alexandra Community Health Centre
CUPS Calgary Society

Question 3: What part(s) of the working definition should be kept in any future revisions? Why?

Everything that is there should be kept.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 325 " - In a public place: This should be kept as it is the only possible place for enforcement
- 326 - Actual or perceived: the unwelcome comments, gestures and actions directed at an individual are received
327 uniquely by that individual. In some it will be a more heightened response than others.
- 328 - Sex and gender should remain as this is part of who should be included"
- 329 the only part I would change would be "stranger" to "individual" as women can and do experience public
330 harassment from other humans that they know. Wording should not be a loop hole for anyone especially in
331 this circumstance.
- 332 There is no mention of race, disabilities or other obvious physical characteristics that would make certain
333 individuals more prone to harassment
- 334 All - this all makes sense and fits the description
- 335 Street harassment is often between individuals known to each other either formally within a
336 friend/aquaintance group, or informally such as an individual who walks past a particular street daily and
337 sees the same individual on that walk. With there often being previous interactions between the individuals I
338 recommend the descriptor of "stranger" removed.
- 339 All
- 340 All of it
- 341 ALL. It represents what we are trying to achieve.
- 342 All of the above should be kept in future revisions due to the varieties of street harassment that can occur.
- 343 It might be good to add threatening. The rest of the adjectives are very subjective.
- 344 It's unclear what a "public place" means
- 345 Experiencing verbal physical or emotional attacks are not part of our civic discourse, we should be able to
346 experience physical and emotional safety within our communities.
- 347 All should be kept. Also should have the ADDITION of " because of different ability, skin colour,
348 socioeconomic status, culture"
- 349 All parts should be kept
- 350 I believe all parts of the working definition should be kept in any future revisions. The definition covers a
351 spectrum of the behaviours, intentions, and motivations that may constitute harassment.
- 352 I think these parts should be kept.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

it may be redundant to in this case distinguish gender expression and gender, because you include 'perceived' which covers the interpretation of gender markers? but at the risk of making this too weak to hold up if charges are challenged, i think it is good to distinguish conceptual gender, and the coded gender signifiers wrapped up in expression. I might also add body type or appearance, as that will further elaborate on, and encapsulate gender expressions, but also include those harassed for their weight, or visible disability. You may also want to include disability, use of mobility aids etc. Have you considered including ethnicity and skin colour, cultural dress. In light of the harassment asian-canadians have been facing in the last year and a half, or individuals wearing cultural or religious garments (hijab, turban, regalia)? Voice, accent, for those with speech impediments, deep or high voices which may challenge gender assumptions, or individuals with ESL?

I am okay with all of the sentence

All of them

I like the term "perceived gender" and "gender expression" as these are more inclusive terms than just gender or sex. I would also consider adding perceived sexual orientation. As a female identifying individual with a masculine gender expression I have been called derogatory terms that assume my sexual orientation. I also noticed that racial identity is not included in this definition. I think racism is a huge issue in Calgary, particularly around street harassment.

I think this is a horrible definition. It would restrict all forms of free expression. "Unwelcome comments" could mean any comment. So could "alarming" or "insulting". Who gets to decide? Who gets to decide "perceived" or "unwelcome"? This is completely wrong minded, and I am gay. I am not in favour of this at all. Free expression is at the heart/core of being LGBTQ, and when expression is suppressed, then so does being LGBTQ.

It could include someone known to the victim

All of them.

Revisions Needed

I think this is a great definition!

I don't like the word "unwelcome". Suggest remove it entirely, and start the sentence with "Comments..."

[test comment removed]

[test comment removed]

Question 4: What is missing, should be changed or requires further clarification in the working definition? Why?

This definition does not address ethnic or cultural aspects.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

- " - Race and religious apparel: This is not gender specific and not included and is very much an issue in Calgary.
- Remove ""forced"" and use ""directed"": Forced implies something akin to assaults' and then it becomes a criminal act.
- What is going to alarm one individual will be different than what is alarming to another individual."
- Please see above comment.
- include mention of race and disability
- I'm not certain that the second portion clarifying "disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting" is necessary as this leaves the opportunity for intent to be considered and intent is not necessarily important, what's important is the perception of the comments being unwelcome.
- Look, Skin color,
- Nothing
- None
- Comments, gestures and actions that are discriminatory in nature have roots of violence. There needs to be consideration that violence occurs in speech as well as action. People who experience street harassment are likely to have recurring events of harassment that can negatively affect their spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, thus contributing to tangible compounding effects that negatively impact their well-being. Without considering the impacts of harassment, even when it is non-physical, will inevitably exclude the experiences of many survivors.
- See previous question about adding threatening
- There is no mention of race, religious orientation, language or culture
- See previous statement. Race, culture, age, ability, skin colour, economic status
- "Stranger" requires clarification. "Threatening" could be added to the list at the end.
- The word "alarming" indicates that street harassment can be a frightening experience, but I wonder if there should also be a part about the fact that street harassment impacts the victim's sense of safety in the public sphere.
- I think racial slurs and comments should be included because they are often part of street harassment.
- I made a note of this in the previous response.
- It might help to add terms like intimidating or threatening.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

413 None

414 I would consider adding perceived sexual orientation. As a female identifying individual with a masculine
415 gender expression I have been called derogatory terms that assume my sexual orientation. I also noticed
416 that racial identity is not included in this definition. I think racism is a huge issue in Calgary, particularly
417 around street harassment, and thus should be included in the definition.

418 The whole idea of suppressing free expression should be dropped completely. This is completely alarming.
419 Future governments could define "unwelcome" "gesture" or "action" as expressing one's gayness toward a
420 heterosexual person. "Disrespectful" could be defined as not following family values. "Demeaning" could be
421 defined as "anti-heterosexual", "alarming" could be defined as accepting a youth as gay. "Insulting" - really?
422 It is free expression law 101 not to suppress free expression.

423 We need to add race , cultural background, way people dress .

424 Street harassment can occur by someone known to the victim; it isn't always necessarily directed to a
425 stranger

426 I sincerely believe the intersectional approach is super important here. My clients were assaulted because
427 of their sexual orientation and immigration status as well, like: F*** gay refugee, or Gay immigrant or
428 something similar. As Calgary is a multicultural society, we have to give our best to make the city safe for
429 everyone.

430 I believe that tone has a lot to do with harassment. Demeaning or aggressive tones especially.

431 What about race or cultural backgrounds?

432 What about comments about race

433 Its good

434 [test comment removed]

435 **Question 5: What are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?**

436 Expanding social work and social community programs for education and support.

437 Are there already bylaws in place that are not being enforced? How does one monitor and enforce a street
438 harassment bylaw? Who would an incident be reported to? These incidents are in the moment. How can
439 they effectively be addressed? Addressing street harassment is a societal shift.

440 some of the gaps might include: quick response time; no real consequence when incidences are reported;
441 shame and guilt when an individual does report; harassment from family or friends of the accused;

442 "No specific punishment or consequences. no monitoring of the streets"

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

I have never seen a single case of street harassment being addressed, so it is an area that is one large gap. It is important in my opinion to start at the root of the problem, as to why people do this, and what can be done to fix our society, rather than treat the symptoms (the street harassment itself).

Street harassment is often perpetrated by other individuals sleeping rough or living on the street. This in and of itself is a major issue that has almost no means of being addressed as police involvement is often not welcome due to a history of poor interaction.

I don't believe we need to create a by law addressing what some view as street harassment. I do believe we need to look at how we can facilitate and help those who are considered to be a marginalized segment of our population.

Reporting mechanism, evidence capturing mechanisms (e. g. Street camera), witness protection and encouragement, public campaign/billboard condemning harassment

Not sure

"I think that Calgary can do a better job on creating safe and positive walking environments. There are many dark and hidden corners in Calgary where perpetrators can hide and retreat in. Eliminating infrastructure that enables street harassment can assist in creating a better future for all Calgarians. Additionally, walking environments should heavily consider surveillance theory, whereby open spaces without hidden corners eliminates the opportunity for perpetrators to run and hide from their actions."

Calgarians seem to be becoming emboldened by the "right to free speech". A law to prohibit street harassment is required to correct this imbalance particularly as it currently tips away from those most vulnerable.

No idea who to report them to and what can actually be done to resolve the issues. No training for bystanders to know what to do

We should have legislation to protect all persons and it should be enforced.

From top city admin, police, justice system, education system there needs to be taught that ALL will be respected. Trauma centered therapy for those behaving in a cruel or anti social manner. A Basic Income for all. Requirement by perpetrators to face and listen to victims. Opportunity to know those they are harassing might increase understanding. Support for victims of harassment to report incidents and be involved in solutions.

Misogyny and homophobia are linked with white supremacy, ableism, and class hatred. It's difficult to dismantle any of them without addressing all of them.

There may be a lack of education/information among perpetrators and victims in terms of what constitutes street harassment; at this time, there are no clear processes in place for reporting/policing street harassment.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

How will it get addressed if someone experiences it?

"The reality is that many who are harassed on the street because of their marginalized identity may have also been harassed by police, or fear police harassment, so reporting, and calling for help may not be an option. for example many lgbtq+ refugees settling in calgary have been beaten and harassed by police in their home countries. How can one confidently report an incident of harassment? What is needed, video evidence, witness? would there be a way to report online? If you don't have video evidence, can investigators access public surveillance?

I'm trying to imagine a world where there could be more police presence which would not feel threatening to BIPOC community members.

Another gap is the drive-by any LGBTQ2+ member can easily recall one or many time that people in vehicles have shouted 'fag' out the window at them - could this sort of thing be covered with reporting of licence plate? what evidence would be needed, as these incidents often happen so quickly to whip out a camera and document, but impact the safety and wellbeing of many Calgarians.

For women and lgbtq+, and many others, the harassers are most often cisgender heterosexual men, - could there be a mandatory program for offenders to deprogram their misogynys, trans & homophobia and toxic masculinity?"

I think level of policing could be a challenge to address street harassment. We have a lot of unwanted interactions between our volunteers or members and people selling drugs off the C-train platform. Some of these incidents don't get reported as it would take too long for the police to respond

Specific reporting other than just 911. A specific harassment division with proper diversity training. Many marginalized folks are wary of traditional police so safe persons to report to would increase reporting.

People don't feel comfortable reporting street harassment. It is often brushed off as something that "just happens", and that people have to live with.

Stop trying to suppress expression. Instead, encourage free expression and acceptance of all. Teach LGBTQ+ people resilience and counter-speech - teach how to assert and express oneself effectively, it is a far better approach. We do not have the freedom from offensive comments, actions, or insults.

Public education , consequences

Lack of resources, lack of education in law enforcement, lack of street presence by law enforcement, victim blaming

Many of my clients (newcomers, refugees) are not aware enough of what harassment is, and because of bad experiences in their home countries, they are not willing to report this kind of violence.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Burden of proof. If there a chance of charging or fining an offender, proof would be needed, which would more than likely mean witnesses.

Safe spaces, quick access to supports for those facing homelessness, patrol in higher risk areas

"Holding people accountable by having legislation Educating people Awareness campaigns"

Personal protection, safe places, and guides how to respond

bylaw

Question 7. Please elaborate on why you think these would work.

Social programs change lives and the way we see them.

Research has shown that retributive actions rarely stick and if one wants to change societal behaviours, then you have to shift publics' opinion on what is and is not acceptable. This takes time. Embed an understanding of harassment and its impact into the school curriculum and teach the teachers how to manage harassment on the playground and in the schools. This is where the first hints of harassment of any kind are practiced.

I feel that the more humans that know that this does exist - street harassment will be called out more often; if there are by-laws in place that are publicly announced through multiple media it becomes more overt thus more individuals held accountable. Much like a snowball effect.

Many people who do not experience street harassment do not realize the extent of the issue and therefore awareness campaigns would be important

Again, it has to do with the root problems in our society such as sexism, racism, homophobia, ableism, poverty, lack of adequate education, etc., rather than the harassment itself. We NEED to address the root problems, rather than taking a backwards approach of arresting, fining, etc.

These address lack of public awareness and education surrounding the impact on individuals experiencing harassment as well as resources for both aggressors and victims.

Rather than creating more infractions, we should look at public education and building stronger community ties to address these concerns.

Immigrants, especially immigrant women, are afraid of strangers when they're on the street by themselves. They might be encouraged and feel more confident knowing the city cares for their safety and the public is aware of their safety and are acting on it.

The Public will be more aware of the context of street awareness

it works

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

"Whenever addressing harassment, violence, discrimination, etc. the survivors are the most important voices when considering social change.

Advocacy groups, if created in an inclusive way, could potentially provide a safe and therapeutic space for survivors to access the supports that they need. I also believe that change isn't possible without the community to support that change. Because street harassment is a city-wide issue, I think that many community stakeholders would be willing to contribute to creating a better future for Calgary.

The support of law-enforcement could also help deter potential perpetrators from committing street harassment. However, it is imperative that law-enforcement considers a holistic way to address street harassment, in which the offenders are also offered appropriate resources in order to decrease or eliminate recidivism.

I am unaware of the current city bylaws that address street harassment, but, due to the evolving social landscape, laws must be constantly revised and reviewed to ensure that it protects and serves Calgarians rather than further marginalizing them.

Positive walking environments will benefit all parts of society. I believe this will also help to address street harassment by creating a survivor centered city that strives to protect victims. As stated earlier, surveillance theory is used to create a safer community and has been proven to decrease crime in cities such as London. Walking environments that are open and safe can not only decrease street harassment, but also create a feeling of safety for all Calgarians. This plan could increase overall feelings of happiness and even physical health, as the stress of being harassed can seriously affect all parts of an individual's life."

The only people who can truly stop street harassment are those who perpetuate it, and education on why it is wrong and that it can/will be treated as a crime is essential

We change societies by people seeing, hearing, spoken words , visual promotions speaking in communities and organizations. Written enforcement then ensures the society understands what is acceptable conduct and what is not.

By removing possibility of making others into objects, angry people that want to hurt others, can learn of their victims humanity and can learn empathy if given support and trauma centered therapy.

A multi-pronged approach of education, enforcement, and community supports is necessary for change.

I think focusing on education, and implementing a bylaw would help to raise public awareness of street harassment. Currently, I think most victims accept street harassment as a regular part of daily life, and many perpetrators are unaware of the harmful impacts of their words and actions and/or know that there are no repercussions.

There needs to be a comprehensive strategy that brings awareness and knowledge about the unacceptability and consequences of street harassment.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

individuals who have become toxic are healed in community and through accountability, fines alone can lead to resentment and reinforce an idea that these individuals are alone, and the world is out to get them. Severely mentally ill individuals, will likely not be treatable by a fine or a program like this and will need more intensive care, but hopefully having a bylaw like this could be an opportunity to flag the individuals like this who need help.

More awareness of the issues and possible consequences the better. And on the ground advocacy works.

People should be aware that they do not have to put up with street harassment, and that the city is taking a strong stance against it. People need to know that their complaints will be heard and something will be done when they speak up.

Educating people to accept one another is very well researched - it works. You do not have to spend a moment on suppressing free expression. Teach people to express acceptance, welcoming, empathy, and loving one another. Replace negative behaviours with positive ones.

On going public education, clear city wide bylaw and enforcement

Many clients I work with have experienced street harassment and state that they weren't believed by law enforcement, or they felt they had nowhere to turn

"As I mention, many of my clients are very vulnerable people, and they came from countries/environments where different forms of violence are omnipresent. It's hard for them to understand what telling someone ""Go back to your country"" means from the Canadian perspective. It doesn't mean so much from their local views, but in Canada, it's unacceptable.

Sincerely, this kind of reaction could be related to xenophobia and racism, but mostly they attack someone's immigration status."

Advocacy to support education and what constitutes street harassment. Bylaws that are enforceable as a deterrent of the behavior.

Educating the public for sure, is something that is missing, working in the industry we hear it all the time, so we're not surprised. The public turns a blind eye to it, and doesn't think it exists.

Awareness is a constant effort. Community partners can do the actual work, and updating laws rather than new ones is a good default.

Awareness is a constant effort. Community partners can do the actual work, and updating laws rather than new ones is a good default.

Question 8: Is there anything else you'd like The City to know about addressing street harassment?

Expanding police capacity is not a useful direction for addressing a problem that is very linked to sociological issues.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

I think that only looking at Street Harassment is myopic. Street Harassment is a product of a bigger systemic problem related to sexism, racism, ageism, etc. Also, the harasser or bully (closely related) has often been the victim. It's a learned behaviour caused by someone's low self esteem and is a coping mechanism. This is much bigger than creating a bylaw and slapping someone on the wrist.

no, but I would like to know what the consequence will be and how will those individuals who engage in street harassment be held accountable?

Certain minority groups are more prone to street harassment

Increasing bylaws and police presence will not help.

It is important to address aggressors and victims and offer resources to both. Aggressors often act out due to feeling a lack of control, increased anxiety or feeling helpless and victims often have no appropriate resources to address issues they are being harassed for such as sleeping, grooming, urinating/defecating, being unkempt, being under the influence of substances, living in public etc. They also have few resources for the trauma they have experienced in the past and the resultant ways they experience being harassed currently

I hope the project might soon be implemented

no

The City must centre survivors in addressing harassment. Without our voices, it is possible that new bylaws, systems, etc. could neglect our needs.

I think if you could target an information launch prior to Stampede, and perhaps even get Stampede support, you might reach those who need to hear it most.

Street harassment is unacceptable anytime. This is harmful to the community and society at large.

One key message has to be that abusive speech is not Charter-protected speech.

I'm glad to hear this is being looked at because many people receive hurtful comments and slurs, which I can attest to as a woman and also in working with immigrants and knowing the insults they have to endure.

I am grateful for this initiative, though redneck-ery has always been a part of Calgary and Alberta, these last several years it has increased and flourished to unsafe and violent levels with Trumpism, and the divisiveness we are seeing. I think it is vital we take a stand for what behaviours we are not willing to accept or tolerate. It's a necessary step for restoring civility to society. To tackle the real problem of toxic masculinity which has made women and LGBTQ+ feel unsafe on our streets for years, having an authority will give victims some confidence and agency, and hopefully dissuade bad behaviour.

Increase the consequences.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Th frontline staff at our organization typically deal with a large amount of street harassment. It most often has been offhand comments and microaggressions about a staff members race.

As a gay man running a services for LGBTQ+ people, this proposal is completely wrong headed. It takes us backward and ignores the importance of free expression and how free expression won LGBTQ+ people their equal rights. Suppressing free expression might feel good for a few LGBTQ+ activists, but it will ultimately restrict LGBTQ+ freedom and equality. Furthermore, human rights and liberty law 101 is clear - restricting insulting speech and actions is simply unconstitutional. I am not in favour of this approach at all.

Calgary street should be safe for all Calgarian , All Calgarian should take responsibility to condemn all kind of bad behaviors towards fellow citizens ,

Multilanguage materials.

Consequences of harassment. make that clearer

Street Harassment: clients or members of external organizations

Question 2: In your opinion, does this [working definition] accurately describe street harassment? Why or why not?

"NO. Why would street harassment have anything to do with a stranger? It is much more likely that they know the victim. It can be anyone, hence the danger of walking the streets."

I think it misses that these are unwelcome and uninvited occurrences. It doesn't have to be disrespectful, demeaning, or insulting to be harassment, unwanted attention is still unwanted, and prevents me from existing in public spaces in the same (unharassed) way that a man does.

"it is fairly accurate , I also think sometimes individuals behave like this due to intoxication or drug use and its directed to everyone around regardless of who they are or what they look like"

"Unwelcome comments, gestures, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place because of their actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation, and that are disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, [threatening] and/or insulting."

I would add in the word ""threatening"" as often times street harassment does come as a perceived threat"

In my opinion it does not. Because, it is not identifying the aspects of addiction/mental health. And that the majority of this issue is in the downtown core

Yes - focus on the negative interpretation of the actions and effect on the person on the receiving end, rather than "intentions" of the perpetrator

The definition could be distilled to the first phrase: "Unwelcome comments, gestures and actions forced on a stranger." Street harassment is certainly not limited to those actions directed at someone's gender or sexual orientation, it occurs due to infinite reasons, including age, race, religion, or even creative expression.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

664 yes, this discribe very well the meaning for me

665 The wording of "stranger" can be changed. It does not necessarily have to be a stranger, it could be
666 anyone.

667 Yes. It encompasses many of the actions experienced

668 Yes. But it can also be done by someone that you know. Does not have to be a stranger.

669 yes

670 Yes, because they could be disrespectful, insulting and demeaning.

671 Yes it's inappropriate and intimidating

672 It is a good definition but sometimes harassment is veiled in friendly words that are actually demeaning, so
673 it is not always obvious that it should be unwelcome. Perhaps you need to elaborate more on the
674 demeaning aspect.

675 "Forced seems a bit extreme use of terminology. This is so General, that if you looked at someone the
676 wrong way, are they going to perceive it as disrespectful, demeaning, alarming and or insulting. I would be
677 able to call the cops on so many people and claim this because of what ""I perceived"". What is the
678 definition of Unwelcoming comments, gestures, and actions? This is Crazy for this to even be purposed."

679 "unwelcome" is a poor measurement. Hearing Nenshi make comments in public places on a number of
680 topics of concern to me, which I was offended by and were unwelcoming... I guess by your definition i was
681 harassed by the soon to be ex-Mayor. By his position is he allowed to Harrass?

682 I think the definition should also include race, religion, ethnicity, etc.

683 include that "discriminates, humiliates or embarrasses a person" and reference attacks against "ageism &
684 culture & race & ableism" categories

685 "Instead of "a stranger" say "any individual". People might receive street harassment from someone they
686 know/marginally know.

687 I think focussing on harassment only is shortsighted, the Canada Labour Code no longer separates
688 harassment from violence. As of January 1, 2021, the CLC combined them into one definition of
689 harassment and violence. My feedback is that Calgary should follow suit and adopt the same principles.
690 The definition from the CLC is "harassment and violence means any action, conduct or comment, including
691 of a sexual nature, that can reasonably be expected to cause offense, humiliation, or other physical or
692 psychological injury or illness to an employee, including any prescribed action, conduct or comment."

693 My opinion is that you should expand that harassment and violence are closely intertwined. I propose the
694 definition should be this:

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

Street harassment and violence means, unwelcome public comments, gestures, and actions, including of a sexual nature, that can reasonably be expected to cause offense, humiliation, or other physical or psychological injury or illness to an individual because of their actual or perceived sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation."

Unwelcome comments due to race should also be added.

Unwelcome comments or sounds

"Should also specifically include ""gender identity.""

I would also include signs/symbols, which are often motivated by hate.

I would suggest this wording:

"Unwelcome comments, gestures, signs, symbols, and actions forced on a stranger in a public place because of their actual or perceived sex, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or ability, and that are hateful, disrespectful, demeaning, alarming, and/or insulting."

I don't like the word ""forced"", which would be difficult to prove what that means."

I believe that we are in a free country and we can speak freely without offending others. Everyone has different ways of thinking and we can express ourselves as we wish and respect others.

Yes

Yes.

yes

Yes, but street harassment encompasses more than just the definition provided above. It also includes threatening behaviors such as pacing, following, staring... intentionally making someone feel uncomfortable/unsafe.

This captures the context to a large extent but not entirely. Sometimes, it is harassment or a feeling of lack of safety even without any direct action.

Yes, because it upsets you and makes you uncomfortable.

"Street harassment" seems a broad term to describe something that you are defining as inherently sexual in nature. Should it also include ethnic/racial identity? Religious affiliation? Might be a can of worms best left closed. I also question the need for a bylaw to address something that you are defining so narrowly, particularly when there are likely existing provisions in the criminal code to cover it.

What about race/religion? That is increasingly a factor in street harassment.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 724 I would also include religious expression.
- 725 Yes. For me, the key word is 'unwelcome'.
- 726 In addition to those, I also experience street harassment for my religious expression
- 727 No - I have received comments based on body type, hair colour, visible tattoos, choice of clothing,
728 neighborhood I was in, etc. I think the definition needs to be broader than sex, gender, orientation alone.
- 729 Being transgender I think it important to include the term "gender identity".
- 730 I think street harassment could include more than just sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual
731 orientation. It could include race, ability, and much more.
- 732 Yes but could it not encompass additional categories for which people receive unwelcome comments,
733 gestures and actions? It is not only women/2SLGBTQ+ that receive harassment. Consider perceived ability
734 as a factor as well.
- 735 No - it does not include racial or ethnic background as a factor
- 736 more or less, not complete
- 737 This statement is missing "race" or "ethnic origins".
- 738 yes, it's a good definition
- 739 Yes I think it does, as long as it includes detail on intimidation as well.
- 740 Yes, it is included in the definition, but much more other than this.
- 741 In my opinion, street harassment is also being exposed to other people's insulting behaviour, even if they
742 are not responding to you personally, such as shouting (especially insults and swear words), indecent
743 gesturing, urinating or defecating in a public place, exposing themselves, littering.
- 744 Yes this is street harassment and a good description of it, this is what has happened to me several times
- 745 No because sometimes people are more subtle about the things they are harassing you for. eg cursing and
746 yelling about your clothes or your weight/size but also targeting you for being a part of a marginalized
747 population
- 748 Yes
- 749 Yes, but I would add comments that incite violence or perpetuate harm.
- 750 I have been verbally harassed and followed by men. I do believe it is due to my being female and the belief
751 that I am an easy target

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

I think it is accurate, but I might include that it does not necessarily need to be a complete "stranger".
Sometimes street harassment can occur repeatedly with someone you are familiar with.

Yes. However, should the idea that these actions leads to a person feeling unsafe.

Many people are scared, worried, anxious about the vulnerable population. With their access to alcohol and narcotics, they become violent, unpredictable, and foul mouthed later in the day. They sleep in very public places, including the c-train.

Yes, the definition is good - although proving that someone made comments and gestures of this nature would be very hard to enforce.

This should include non warranted/blunt sexual advances or propositions.

It does to a point, but I think we need to include some other points in the above phrase to be more inclusive of the people who are being harassed. Include: "....because of their actual or perceived...religion, culture"
The addition of these 2 words are crucial.

"Some things to consider: Street harassment doesn't always come from strangers.

Other identities besides sex, gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation should be considered, including but not limited to: disability, race, age, language spoken."

Not really. It is not always because of perceived characteristics as you have described. Mostly it is random in my opinion.

Test

It does, as long as the term "forced" is not taken to mean only direct and intentional verbal or physical confrontations, but rather includes everything from those sorts of overt encounters all the way down to unintentional micro-aggressions that may be verbal discrimination not intended for the victims ear, or even non-verbal gestures or movements that result in people feeling targeted, unwelcome, and insecure.

I really don't like the word "street harassment"

It does not, it is too broad and could be interpreted to mean anything that was said within earshot that one doesn't like.

Question 3. In your opinion, what are the gaps for addressing street harassment in Calgary?

"the gap is no one seems to want to help. The police simply don't care, and even commit much of the street harassment. The public often allows and sometimes even encourages street harassment against non-cis people."

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

An absence of any type of formal repercussions for someone engaging in street harassment. I would never report it to police, because that's an unsafe option and wouldn't result in any actions being taken, but every other organization says there isn't anything they can do either. Unless we work to make women and gender non-conforming people valued members of society on par with straight, cis men, street harassment will continue as a symptom of a much larger issue.

in areas where incidents happen more often there should be more peace officers presence and involvement especially on train stations or bus stops and sometimes on the train

Taking into consideration of addiction/mental health. Cultural intergenerational traumas ect

Off the top of my head, the persistent conservative attitudes of the general population (or perceived attitudes) make reacting and reporting less likely to be done and more likely to be seen as futile. Furthermore, reaction at the time of the event is often not a safe way to respond (due to attitudes, prejudices, and experience of lack of sympathy and/or resulting consequences for perpetrator)

Presence of people in higher traffic/higher incident areas who are equipped to intervene in appropriate, non-violent ways and educate harassers, provide resources, etc. Advertising around personal rights and responsibilities related to street harassment, instituting bylaws to define street harassment and services available for harassers.

Lack of boundaries to address this issue

No proper protocol on whom to call or refer to, because the police do not take these issues seriously. Who do we rely on to call or refer to in order to address harassment, would be the question. There are also no parameters around what constitutes harassment, that would warrant any action. There are no safety protocols for people being harassed should they choose to come forward with it.

Avenues to report. Quite often the actions feel scary, but do not seem to fit the criteria for police involvement. Therefore, it often doesn't get reported, and people are unaware of what to do in those instances.

Provincial laws. Actual enforcement to stop it and help everyone feel comfortable.

well you can't really report it unless there's actual action (i.e. rape, theft etc).

People should be better informed about minority groups, or the so called people that look or behave differently.

Street harassment often includes a neighbor giving undue unwelcome attention to a woman who does not want to be the focus of that attention. Eg. Calling out to her over the fence, constant observation as she comes and goes from her home or staring as she is bringing in groceries, doing yard work or as she walks to collect her mail. As a widow, I have experienced this kind of harassment for years. The police has not been able to help despite numerous complaints.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

815 This is just made up terminology. We have laws already in effect to handle harassment.

816 Police and bylaw officers have the power and authority to act on any significant harassment. We need to
817 stop social engineering and attempting to control citizens in every public interaction. Yes harassment is
818 wrong, but what is worse is bureaucratic control.

819 How will this be enforced? How would someone be held accountable if they are not known to the victim?

820 what is missing: consequences for harassment (comparison - all the distracted driving with cell phones
821 continues because minimal consequence), use social media / news to showcase examples of positive
822 intervention

823 "By limiting your focus only to harassment, you are excluding the idea that harassment can quickly escalate
824 to violence, which is why I think Calgary should adopt the definition from the Canada Labour Code that
825 refers to these two as connected.

826 Street harassment happens so quickly, that I imagine the back and paperwork process would provide a
827 great challenge. My role at the organization is to address cases of harassment and violence. Having 14,000
828 employees who have contractually signed employment agreements is challenging enough, let alone a city-
829 wide initiative.

830 The gaps for me as a woman who doesn't know the system and supports in place for me, would be that. I
831 don't know what support is available to me. It feels unreasonable to contact the police or a city official when
832 someone I know or don't know makes inappropriate comments. As an example, I receive the harassment,
833 make my way to a local police station, fill out a report saying that someone I don't know made a gender
834 based comment, on some street corner, what are they going to do about it? It seems like a dead end
835 situation. For my own safety, I am not going to engage with the harasser and there's no way to inform
836 anyone for help in a timely making the process irrelevant. I think the members of the police force who roam
837 the streets policing, would have a really good idea of what doesn't doesn't work in terms of following up.

838 Based on the volunteer work I do, helping women who are at risk of domestic violence. There seems to be
839 an overwhelming number of people who already struggle with the system in place as it stands, perhaps look
840 into the gaps that you already know from your processes in dealing with minor/major offences. The gaps
841 you might face in those processes a might be really similar to those experiencing street harassment."

842 There is never anything done by officers when street harassment is reported.

843 There are no ways to help me feel more safe, no repercussions to people for doing this

844 Have a look at what the City of Edmonton is proposing.

845 If it were illegal, with consequences, then perhaps the perpetrators would be less likely to do it. It would
846 help to codify that such behaviour is unacceptable.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

847 Yes. There is no information for youth and adults on how to seek immediate help when facing street
848 harassment.

849 Lack of laws to protect citizens. For example stalking, aggression towards minority groups. Also a lack of
850 training for Police. I have dealt with all of the above. When I was being stalked I didn't feel like there was
851 much I could do and when I was raped I called the police and they discouraged me from pressing charges
852 or going to court because I didn't have a rape kit(I called the police a week or 2 after. I then felt victimized
853 by the police. They didn't offer me any help or tell me about resources out there either

854 "Safer spaces for people of all expressions to be in. The public transit areas could have more presence of
855 CCTV or deterrents. Our street entrenched populations need more safe spaces to be at all hours, not just
856 day programs so that they are off the streets when it's dark and have somewhere safe and clean and warm
857 to be instead of clustering together (as they should for their own safety) on the streets."

858 Tackling inebriated people or people who are under influence, who travel by public transport or who are
859 present in any particular spot (say in front of a cafe or in a station etc.) and create discomfort for other
860 passengers is something that can be taken up in this case.

861 People know that they won't be identified so while passing by they make comments.

862 The gaps are not in enforcement but in education and other social determinants of health. Harassment is a
863 cultural phenomena and is made acceptable by learned behaviours passed on via school, family,
864 workplaces etc. I would much rather see time and money spent on programs that educate young people,
865 particularly men, and programs in penal settings that help offenders emerge with an understanding of how
866 their actions affected others. Deterrence as a basis for punitive action has limited utility in my opinion. Far
867 better to start at the source than to treat the symptoms.

868 Bylaws, ambassadors, purposeful interventions through commercial entities (ie. not in my city), etc.

869 "Calgary, and Alberta, and Canada, fails more vulnerable residents and citizens. We do not prioritize the
870 health and wellbeing of people, and instead criminalize and ostracize those who are poor, disabled, who
871 have experienced trauma or intergenerational trauma, people with addictions.... and so people who have
872 been failed to be cared for and have not been allowed to be whole by their communities end up in
873 vulnerable, powerless situations which can sometimes result in street harassment.

874 At the same time, people of immense privilege (e.g. young white males) are also able and allowed to harass
875 others in the street with little consequence, especially in areas like the Red Mile. Toxic masculinity and rape
876 culture are both so engrained and accepted in our communities, and reinforced in schools and many
877 athletics programs... which contributes to street harassment as well.

878 Additionally, we allow white supremacy marches thinly coded as something else (e.g. yellow vests; anti-
879 lockdown / anti-mask) etc. to rule our streets and parks with little consequence, which further enables and
880 fuels despicable behaviours and beliefs that are expressed and experienced through street harassment."

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

881 lack of awareness of rights

882 I don't think there is anything in place to begin with to deter street harassment

883 Timely responses, identifying the perpetrator is often impossible

884 It's unclear how to report harassment so it's important to make it non-threatening as possible. Reporting to
885 the police is difficult if you don't trust them to treat you fairly and with respect.

886 I don't know what Calgary currently does to address street harassment. I've been street harassed on
887 countless occasions and was unaware there was a protocol surrounding it.

888 I tend to focus my efforts on education and awareness instead of enforcement. Can a campaign for
889 engagement with Calgarians be started? Messaging around appropriateness of these interactions and the
890 results and impact on those who experience it?

891 "1. Acknowledgement that it even happens. 2. Disregard of the impact racial/ethnic background has. 3. Lack
892 of swift and strong consequences. 4. Lack of clear method of reporting, and assurance of investigation"

893 "No safety for minorities (religious, sexual or ethnic) I fear for my life when I walk on the streets of
894 downtown"

895 I'm personally not 100% aware of the laws against street harassment, so actual laws and awareness efforts
896 would be a gap to address. Also, information on what to do if you are harassed. What is the best course of
897 action? Building a safe city will involve educating citizens on what is not acceptable, why and the impact on
898 quality life and Calgary's brand / success as a top liveable city to attract business and talent.

899 "enforcable bylaws, fines or penalties, business buy-in for zero tolerance on their premises"

900 No way to have street harassment addressed in immediate situations - safety is impossible if police take 4+
901 hours to arrive and hard to gather eyewitness accounts with no physical evidence.

902 There should be an emergency contact number to reach out (other than 911) without taking a long delay in
903 responding. There should be strict laws against street harassment.

904 Not enough resources to address homelessness. If there were more drop in centers or facilities for people
905 at risk to gather at, the streets would be safer. There are also more and more reckless or aggressive drivers
906 who affect the safety and comfort of people in the streets.

907 There are no laws and no punishment for street harassment, people can just get away with shouting,
908 throwing things, insulting ect people on the street and there's no real safety for the victims

909 someone to call, buttons like they have at my university ? usually it happens to me downtown at night when
910 no one is around me and the perpetrator

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

I feel there isn't enough action being taken to ensure that members of diverse groups feel safe and comfortable in all areas of the city. More overt and clear support for members of groups impacted by street harassment should come from city council, law enforcement agencies, etc., which would help to create a culture of zero-tolerance.

It would be nice to have help buttons placed around the city. In emergency a person may not be able to get to their cell phone.

Education to prevent street harassment - I would imagine that the act of street harassment would be greatly reduced by teaching our youth (particularly male-presenting people) the importance of respecting others and mitigating patriarchal/other harmful beliefs (particularly female-presenting people).

"Very difficult to prove and track and individuals have to hold each other accountable and not remain quiet on these issues. Individuals have different idea on what is harassment and flirting/joking. Line has to be clear. The line might be that the person on receiving end expresses they are uncomfortable."

Police and bylaw do not stop people being anti social. Shouting and swearing in public is allowed. This is wrong. We need to stop this behaviour immediately. People are scared to visit downtown or ride the c-train.

"1. Not enough mental health resources 2. Not enough well trained police, and too much reliance on them to deal with mental health issues. 3. Not enough accessible sensitivity training for non-professionals."

race, religion, and culture

Financial support to organizations (not the Calgary Police Service) that work to address issues such as community safety, domestic violence, harm reduction.

No policing for begging or harassment. No education to those doing the begging or harassment that would indicate that the behaviour is wrong.

Clearly, otherwise you wouldn't be engaged in this process.

i very hard to say because you can't control those who are living in poverty and struggling with addictions - I think its the system basically, to access those supports there is too much tape to get through and thats why these people give up

The gap is in police resources and education. The legal tools already exist. A new bylaw will be unlikely to withstand a charter challenge re: freedom of expression.

Test

Question 5 or 4B: Please elaborate on why you think these would work.

Because bylaws might help but it won't fix the issue. The issue is the the division and hate behind this form of violence.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

I don't have much faith that they would work well, but it would be better than nothing, and at least send a message that street harassment is unacceptable, even if no-one's actually going to do anything about it.

there should be consequences for harassing people and disturbing others in a public place

Attitudes need adjusting as a whole. The behaviour is not called out currently by many who might otherwise do so, because (I think) they are not aware of the negative effects on others.

Community participation and awareness in addition to enforceable bylaws will lead to decrease in unwanted harassment. Existing community groups are strategically placed with historically excluded communities to raise awareness in spaces where they already hold relationships and trust.

Create boundaries by law would help to improve behaviors

Education will bring awareness about what constitutes harassment so that people are more empowered to address it. Laws and policies will help citizens feel protected by their city.

Bylaws provide a place to report incidents, especially repeat incidents. Awareness campaigns and community partnerships provide public education and opportunities to respond outside of a legal framework

Many people do not know what is going on and how big of a problem this is. Awareness would help. More support for those who feel uncomfortable is always great. Laws would be a great step to help actually reduce harassment.

I think a bylaw on street harassment would be beneficial so that actual tickets or fines are in place for people that harass.

In my opinion everything goes down to actually knowing the people.

If people are fined for harassing a woman then maybe they can't get away with it anymore

All of the above would raise awareness of this issue. Unless people are educated to recognize it as harassment, they will not step up and protect others when they see it happening, especially over and over. I think having a stronger community that stands against harassment requires education and awareness. It also requires that there will be consequences for the people that are acting this way. It is all about power over another person and should be recognized as an abuse of power in our society.

People's behaviors depend a lot on their child development with their parents and family. Maybe we teach the parents to be nurturing, loving, guiding, structured, and disciplined parents.

There will always be some bad people but overwhelmingly people are good and support one another. Social engineering creates resentment against groups and increases the harassment and hate.

some may not be aware what is not appropriate however, I believe most are aware and just filled with anger and take it out on other so there needs to be consequences that are deterrents

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

I don't think you're going to create change within the public system on the streets until you create change within all of the industries that you have control to do so. Schools, places of employment (which include a huge sector). If local coffee shops, malls and etc. we're expected to increase their attention around harassment and violence as a whole, that would help educate people on their rights. Sometimes focussing just on what you don't want to have happen is shortsighted, perhaps you also need to focus more on gender based acceptance. You could do this by updating employment legislation as well. This shift is going to take time and buying and the place to start that are in the spaces in which you have authority to do so.

With a bylaw, more people would know that street harassment is not okay and that there will be consequences, which would deter individuals from street harassing.

If there is awareness and repercussions for harassment it would be less common

A standalone bylaw will be the most effective approach and will be easier for the public to locate and understand, rather than adding on to an existing bylaw. Use the recent "conversion therapy" bylaw as an example.

Educación and information are the keys for a better city's.

All of these initiatives would create more pressure to make such behaviour socially unacceptable.

People know harassment happens. But we need to know what we can do about it through education and actual laws.

I think our society protects the offender. For example restraining orders don't actually protect victims. We could have more shelters for victims of violence and stronger charges for offenders. We could have police that are more empathetic with better training. Teaching children from a young age proper treatment of others. If all they learn at home is violence they will grow up and know no different

When people feel valued, safe and are housed and fed, there is a correlation with less crime in the area. Harassment would decline because people would be better educated on how to treat one another with respect.

It would capture the particular issue highlighted earlier and steps would be taken to address this aspect of street harassment.

Because if there will be a law, people will be more careful of making unwelcoming comments. Usually people are afraid of laws.

The evidence is clear and overwhelming; punitive measures are not a strong predictor of behavioural change. Look at mandatory minimum sentences. We need to address the reasons why people harass others in the first place. Spending money on addressing poverty, education, mental health support, addictions, supporting child welfare will do far more in the long run than having Bylaw or Police officers

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1005 hand out tickets. A program like Wiseguyz through the Centre for Sexuality is an excellent example of
1006 education in action that would contribute to eliminating street harassment.
- 1007 The City should be a leader in this, setting the standard for what is not acceptable in the community
1008 (through Bylaw). Then awareness and partnerships with community organization and businesses can help
1009 create environments that make it clear that behaviour is not tolerated. There are even design principles in
1010 place for urban public spaces that support minimizing street harassment (eyes on the street, signage in
1011 windows that indicates welcoming and belonging), etc.
- 1012 "The most recent experience of street harassment I faced was walking with my very tall male partner. Two
1013 individuals, who were intoxicated and drinking in public, and living rough, cat called me.
- 1014 I understood that it was not about me or my body at all, but rather an attempt to get under the skin of my
1015 partner, and demonstrate that they still held some power. I understood that these men were entirely
1016 disenfranchised, that they were afforded so little power and opportunity in our society that for them, they
1017 needed to claim it where they could.
- 1018 New bylaws, bylaw enforcement, awareness campaigns will not change their circumstances. It will not
1019 change their status, or their ability to have control in their own lives.
- 1020 That's why I believe that by addressing the root causes of poverty, mental health and addictions,
1021 intergenerational trauma caused by genocide, is an important step forward for reducing street harassment
1022 (both by reducing incidents of it by having fewer perpetrators, but more importantly because these same
1023 people are also extremely marginalized and face way more street harassment by others than I ever will.
- 1024 Addressing sexual harassment and abuse in schooling and in sports will also go a long way in reducing
1025 street harassment against women and the 2SLGBTQ* community by normalizing from young ages that
1026 those behaviours are not acceptable... because right now they are encouraged."
- 1027 Recipients/victim of street harassment need more awareness of their rights; perpetrators need more
1028 awareness of what is unacceptable, backed by bylaws.
- 1029 People are more likely to harass people on the street if there are no repercussions for it
- 1030 Because there are currently no strategies to protect people against street harassment. Something is better
1031 than nothing
- 1032 Because it is good that citizens KNOW that there are enforceable laws that PREVENT harassment and
1033 there are REPERCUSSIONS.
- 1034 It is a multi-faceted issue and I believe tackling it from multiple angles is what can be beneficial. At the
1035 community level as well as at the government level.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

1036 Enforcement/bylaws are not effective means of addressing these kinds of civic issues. They would only
1037 serve to frustrate "offenders" instead of creating an inclusive educational opportunity to address the issue.
1038 Fines and bylaws do not change hearts and minds.

1039 Until awareness campaigns ingrain in offenders that street harassment is wrong, the knowledge that legal
1040 and enforceable consequences exist would be a deterrent.

1041 The more ways of providing support and advocacy, the better!

1042 Any further and specific action like those listed would help move the dial and help deter street harassment.
1043 As a born and raised Calgarian, I have been a victim of street harassment a handful of times based on race
1044 and gender and felt there was little recourse. Nowhere in my everyday life in the city did "street harassment"
1045 get mentioned as a thing to address, but was something to endure. I believe more action on this on
1046 multifaceted levels will help improve Calgary's reputation as a safe place to build a life and visit.

1047 Getting citizens trained on bystander intervention would be a huge help, as well as making it clear that
1048 street harassment carries significant fines or possibly jail time. Most of the time when I've been harassed
1049 and/or assaulted each year, others were witnesses and did nothing, I think largely from the fear of getting
1050 involved and standing up.

1051 I hope these would work because education is the key for all positive developments

1052 There needs to be something, and working on new bylaws and then making it known to the public I think
1053 would help some people understand that its not ok to do

1054 because i think that the organizations that work and live in the community would know how to best serve
1055 and protect the people experiencing harm in the community. yes laws and bylaws are needed but they
1056 should be created in partnership with community members and actual people who experience it every day,
1057 most of the people are people who use TRANSIT. this is the highest risk of harassment is for people who
1058 use transit.

1059 Usually no one knows how to deal with it or who to contact about it.

1060 Building awareness would be very helpful. Such as posters stating what to do if you are being followed and
1061 how to help people if you see them being followed and harassed

1062 Education, advocacy, and community partnerships would work as a primary prevention approach - stopping
1063 street harassment before it happens. Creating/amending bylaws would target the harassment that currently
1064 exists today, and would hopefully prevent repeat harassment from occurring.

1065 This is a problem that is routed in long standing bias and tradition. It will take education and the ability of the
1066 public to gain understanding not only through knowledge but social and emotional connection to others.
1067 That takes reaching people in multiple ways and in a way that allows them develop empathy and
1068 understanding.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1069 Create a bylaw that makes shouting, swearing and anti social behaviour illegal. This has to be backed up
1070 with the law being enforced. We can make Calgary better, we just need to be stronger and more
1071 determined.
- 1072 Honestly, I am not sure they would work, but we need to start somewhere. Educating the public about the
1073 various issues is always worthwhile. Eliminating harassment requires a mind shift. It is my hope that
1074 education can help with this, especially around social media etiquette.
- 1075 If a new bylaw is created then you can state/include everything that needs to be addressed rather than
1076 being vague and trying to update an unrelated bylaw
- 1077 Victim blaming is engrained in our society. We need to all work to change the narrative from "what people
1078 can do to stay safe" to "what people can do to keep from harassing other people"
- 1079 There seems to be an increase in acceptance of this behaviour. It also seems to be spreading
1080 geographically. While it was previously localized to areas where homelessness was more prevalent I now
1081 notice a presence in suburb areas in the city. And those doing the harassing seem to have adopted that it is
1082 a normal practice. I have never seen anyone approached by law enforcement to educate them otherwise.
- 1083 They probably won't work, but they are the best approaches listed, and are certainly better than doing
1084 nothing. The problem is, until the majority of the population (i.e. white settlers) recognize they owe their
1085 social status to the disproportionate privilege they still enjoy, it will remain socially acceptable to claim street
1086 harassment is merely a minor issue that impacts only a very, very few, so is therefore not something society
1087 needs to be overly concerned about.
- 1088 There's a reason why these people are there and begging for money or harassing people for things to get
1089 what they want to feed their addictions or needs. Creating awareness will help people see why they are
1090 there - there is soo much trauma in this world some people just don' know how to cope. We need more
1091 people with compassion and empathy.
- 1092 Public education campaigns have worked before for many things and I think they are the only realistic tools
1093 available.
- 1094 **Question 6: Is there anything else you'd like The City to know about addressing street harassment?**
1095 "This stuff happens at trains too. Lot's of transphobia. Also [personally identifying info removed] is known to
1096 attack people in this manner."
- 1097 Street harassment is a symptom of several bigger issues like misogyny, racism, homophobia and
1098 transphobia, and until substantive, long-term improvements are made on those issues at on a society-wide
1099 level, street harassment will continue. So don't give up, but also don't settle for incremental, tokenistic
1100 change.
- 1101 Create sings at the street to prevent the problem

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1102 No
- 1103 No.
- 1104 I believe women have the right to walk down a street and feel safe and not have to deal with rude and crude
1105 comments.
- 1106 I think that your bylaws should include General harassment because clearly Federal and provincial
1107 legislation is not doing anything to help people in this situation. Calgary can be a leader in this area that
1108 other jurisdictions can follow
- 1109 Stop this crazy talk. This is a really bad idea.
- 1110 Focus on your core responsibility... you are failing there... perhaps less pet projects and interference in
1111 areas outside your jurisdiction and you could be a bit more successful in areas that are municipal
1112 jurisdiction.
- 1113 Utilize people with lived experience to share their experiences.
- 1114 " - Please make developers pay for more of the infrastructure instead of the city so you have money to
1115 spend on adequate night lights in established inner city that illuminate more than just a tiny spot below the
1116 bulb (1/2 the year it is dark after work and in mornings) and cameras.
- 1117 - I am shocked that this was tabled in Dec - a non-union place ie shareholders would have sacked people
1118 for such slow productivity / action.
- 1119 - food for thought – enabling cars to have access– if I am at Stampede Grounds late at night e.g. after a
1120 concert, stampede – I will walk on 17th Ave because there are businesses still open, better lite, and more
1121 traffic as opposed to quiet 10th Ave or 14th Ave. Also, In my perception the city only cares about bike lanes
1122 and not helping small business thrive that would bring people into an area creating more witnesses and
1123 potential bystander intervention. If an area is not safe – harassment is more likely to occur !
- 1124 - I have filled so many city stakeholder surveys even gone to community consultations over the years and
1125 sadly realize that my words are just a checkmark on your report as the city has already decided what will be
1126 done
- 1127 - in my opinion, this city is angry and sadly that anger translates to harassment but it will also spiral into
1128 addictions as a way to cope so go to the root and reduce social isolation and create a sense of belonging
1129 for all not just the privilege middle class families"
- 1130 N/A
- 1131 This is an important and much needed initiative, which fills an important gap in community safety and
1132 enforcement. For example, the threshold for a hate crime charge is very high, and human rights complaints
1133 would not apply to a situation like street harassment. This bylaw is a great opportunity for the City of

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

- 1134 Calgary to show leadership and continue its commitment to building a safe, welcoming, inclusive and
1135 respectful city for everyone.
- 1136 Make easy access to information in as many languages as possible with Police and Peace officers.
- 1137 I work as a volunteer tutor at the immigration CCIS immigration centre. Many of my clients are young
1138 immigrant women. Some of them are so harassed on the bus/LRT system that they have stopped coming
1139 to get tutoring help. This greatly impedes their progress to establish their lives in Canada. Bystanders need
1140 help in knowing how to respond to aid victims, preferably without engaging with perpetrators.
- 1141 Even with the Me Too movement I don't believe a lot of men understand what it is like to be a woman and
1142 deal with harassment on such a regular basis. Our society has taught us that its okay for people to touch
1143 you, its not rape if a spouse forces you to have sex, its okay to cat call. We need to be teaching people
1144 from childhood all the way until they die boundaries and appropriate behaviour. Such as in all levels of
1145 schools, work places, churches everywhere, in order to change societies behaviours
- 1146 This will require more than just "one" solution.
- 1147 Nothing specific.
- 1148 There should be a strict law for street harassment so that people may walk comfortably without any fear.
- 1149 I am very concerned about the potential for any potential bylaw to be used against people experiencing
1150 mental health crises or exhibiting emotional dysregulation due to substance use or mental health diagnoses.
1151 I worked for the DOAP team previous to my current role and have seen first hand how poorly understood
1152 these issues are by the public. I would worry very much about the potential for people living homeless to be
1153 targeted based on their inability to conform to standards of behaviour that "normal" people, who don't have
1154 to face the same issues, get to set. This seems to me like another way to segregate and persecute people
1155 who really need low-barrier options and support.
- 1156 There's not one solution, it involves societal change, empathy and understanding for one another, and a
1157 culture shift where street harassment becomes unacceptable. That involves each and every one of us.
- 1158 "The people who face the most street harassment aren't going to be completing this survey, or talking to
1159 partner organizations. I hope you're also hearing about street harassment instigated by Calgary Police
1160 Service, because that is very real and common. We won't bylaw our way out of this. We have to get back to
1161 creating communities that care, uplift and support one another. We can't keep othering each other and
1162 limiting opportunities for people through criminalization."
- 1163 It is good to consider and address this issue.
- 1164 It will be under reported, especially by our marginalized and vulnerable populations. Robust education for
1165 the public is required

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1166 It happens more often than you think, especially if you belong to a marginalized group
- 1167 It's probably more common than you realize
- 1168 Thank you for the effort to address the issue.
- 1169 Harassment based on racial/ethnic background should be addressed and documented.
- 1170 Street harassment is a real issue. As someone who worked to attract visitors to the city, it was
1171 embarrassing to have had our guests harassed and disrespected in our downtown. Is there a racist/sexist
1172 group meeting location in downtown/hot spot for incidents? If so, I feel it's important to be truthful and inform
1173 marginalized citizens to stay away from that area for safety or have police policing that area closer.
- 1174 "It happens constantly, and is extremely debilitating. I'm working to move out of Calgary because I've been
1175 harassed so much here more than any other city I've ever lived in and I don't feel safe here any more. I got
1176 harassed almost always mid-day, fully clothed and conservatively dressed, surrounded by people around
1177 public transit, and even just for wearing a mask along with the city mandate. I'm exhausted sticking up for
1178 myself and if I don't have the ability to attack harassers back, I've internalized a sort of danger that I can't
1179 intimidate them back, and thus just need to accept the harassment here. Which I am sick to death of
1180 accepting - it's made me agoraphobic and even with counselling every time it happens again I'm
1181 retraumatized. I'm resigned that I need to leave Alberta now in order to escape the regular and relentless
1182 street harassment here, and in Fort McMurray when I lived there.
- 1183 I would also love if the fine pool could also fund a positive reinforcement tool for bystanders. Like, if you are
1184 a noted intervention person in street harassment, you could get a financial incentive for reporting/standing
1185 up for street harassment from charged individuals if the case goes through."
- 1186 City can affix posters re inclusion, supports and education in this matter
- 1187 It happens more than you think, 90% of people i know have experienced it, I've experienced it since I was
1188 14. A child. Its not just an adult problem and it needs to be addressed, there needs to be something that
1189 people can do when we are constantly getting harassed on the street for no reason
- 1190 it happens on transit, it happens every day, all day. it traumatizes people it victimizes people, it takes
1191 peoples power away. im not sure how to fix it but i hope they find a way.
- 1192 It's usually done in groups of two or more or people with mental problems.
- 1193 No
- 1194 Street harassment emerges out of harmful beliefs about the target populations of said harassment. I firmly
1195 believe that prevention- through education and advocacy- is key.
- 1196 This has to INCLUSIVE and DIVERSE. The protection can not leave anyone out.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1197 I am a downtown ambassador so I see issues with harassment every day. Olympic Plaza is home for the
1198 vulnerable, on a regular day, you never see workers, couples, families there.
- 1199 Could the lines of street harassment be blurred with Hate Crimes? Could street harassment be punished as
1200 a hate crime? Yes, I feel it should
- 1201 Those who harass people on the street are often needing support in other areas, including
1202 financial/employment, mental health, housing, harm reduction. To address street harassment we also need
1203 to address systemic issues that disproportionately affect houseless individuals, people who use drugs,
1204 BIPOC, and people struggling to meet their basic needs.
- 1205 I feel unsafe even in my car. I have been approached walking, on my bike and in my car at traffic lights.
1206 Something needs to be done.
- 1207 If your are not willing to put your money where your mouth is, in other words, guaranteeing to actually
1208 commit sufficient resources (monetary and other) over the long term, then don't waste our time!
- 1209 if you make tougher by laws - we don't need more indigenous people in jail - we have to be creative and
1210 think outside the box when dealing with street harassments.
- 1211 The city should be very, very, very clear on what does not constitute street harassment. The city should
1212 measure the number of different people who doing the harassment and the frequency that they do this.
- 1213 The city should also have an answer for how it will prevent people with neurological disorders and mental
1214 illnesses from becoming harassed by accusations.
- 1215 Emails sent to project team
- 1216 As much as I am against harassment, I am also against any measure that restricts our
1217 fundamental freedoms, in this case free expression. We don't have freedom from being offended
1218 or being insulted. I did do your survey to express my clear opposition to this proposed bylaw.
- 1219 Clearly someone within the city did not do any legal precedent search on free expression, and
1220 restrictions against offensive or insulting comments and actions. What you are proposing is simply
1221 unconstitutional and lacks any understanding of the precedents set in Canadian law on free
1222 expression. Before going any further, someone needs to do their legal research, start with
1223 <https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/443/index.do> which noted "It is settled that to
1224 override a constitutional guarantee a government supporting a limitation imposed by law must show a
1225 purpose or objective of pressing and substantial importance." The suppression of free expression in
1226 Canada has a very high bar, and various court decisions have struck down cases and legislation that
1227 would suppress offensive comments for good reason. Restrictions need to be a "reasonable" and
1228 "demonstrably justified." For further, information, people get to know the Oakes test – a basic and
1229 fundamental test of principle in Canadian law. This proposal would be quite counter to well set

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1230 Canadian law. For more information, go to: [https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/rfc-dlc/ccrf-](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/rfc-dlc/ccrf-ccdI/check/art1.html)
1231 [ccdI/check/art1.html](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/rfc-dlc/ccrf-ccdI/check/art1.html)
- 1232 Furthermore, the proposal clearly lacks any understanding of the core importance of free
1233 expression for the LGBTQ+ community. The LGBTQ+ people won their rights and equality thanks
1234 to free expression and by countering hateful and offensive messages with strong clear arguments.
1235 I was one of these people that fought hard using free expression before Alberta had equal rights –
1236 I could not have done what I did without relying on free expression and offending many
1237 homophobes, politicians, religious leaders and so on along the way. Suppressing free expression
1238 will ultimately backfire and suppress LGBTQ+ to counter messages of offense, especially publicly.
1239 Who is to define “insulting” for example – a white heterosexual religious male against a gay man
1240 countering homophobia?
- 1241 A far better approach is to conduct public education on how to accept and welcome people. Or
1242 education on how to show empathy, compassion, and how to love one another in the community. If
1243 you want to support the gay community, then fund a gay community centre with long-term
1244 sustainable funding. These examples are measures that will have a far greater positive impact on
1245 the community and encourage people to come together without having to express anyone’s free
1246 expression.
- 1247 Personally I do not like harassment and offensive comments, but the importance of not
1248 suppressing free expression is simply too fundamental to being LGBTQ+.
- 1249 CPS in person conversations: definition
1250 Vulnerable pop can get in trouble because they say things, we have seen it currently with Covid
- 1251 Existing definition is a bit limiting.
- 1252 Suggestion to opened to speak to the whole person. Because the definition can be limiting then to enforce,
1253 because it based on what the person perceived so if they don’t think of gender
- 1254 What about how someone is dressed? Nothing about gender expression.
- 1255 Better to cover the whole person and experience. Would give more authority to enforce.
- 1256 Wouldn’t require more going back when another issue comes up.
- 1257 Unwelcome comments forced on a stranger, against any member of the public in a public place that are
1258 deeming, etc. that way it covers everyone.
- 1259 People might not, or don’t report it because they don’t perceive that they are in the definition, the issue.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1260 Put the emphasis on the wrongdoing not on who is the victim or the person doing it. That way you are
1261 focusing on the issue.
- 1262 Because of, but not limited to, as language could be a change if needed to keep the gender as the primary
1263 focus
- 1264 Component of understanding of where people are coming from, homelessness and addiction is that
1265 experience and impact that they see every day.
- 1266 Making it too specific, might miss social change and needs.
- 1267 On the reporting side: already putting down if this is motivated by hate.
- 1268 Could be in how it set up so that when it is report, or when the victim statement is taken. So that it helps
1269 walk through the person reporting.
- 1270 Adding advertising/education to support the bylaw so that it shows the intent of the bylaw.
- 1271 Good to have the bylaw so that we can track, report it, for the same person. That way you can have an idea
1272 that there is a mental health issue, etc.
- 1273 This will help with tracking the issues, the gaps, and having more tracking in general for addressing the
1274 issue.
- 1275 Would also help with the courts side of things if the person is a repeat offender so that there is action after
1276 that include them.
- 1277 First thoughts were, finally, this is a great name.
- 1278 Anyone trying to enjoy the downtown core and can't because what's going on socially.
- 1279 What's currently reported a lot is issues around homelessness and confrontations.
- 1280 Anyone should be able to come downtown and enjoy the downtown without thinking.
- 1281 We don't want someone who is mentally ill to get it because they are saying things that are sexist, etc. and
1282 they are
- 1283 Seeing the same people are suffering day in and day out, for years. We are not helping people who need
1284 the mental health supports directly
- 1285 Having them taken care of so that it is safe, comfortable for those who are coming from the suburbs but also
1286 those who are part of.
- 1287 Homelessness and addiction need to be a large part of addressing this since many of issues, many of these
1288 are core issues that are having the impacts

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard
December 2021

- 1289 Involving homeless shelters also be part of the conversations, having the full-on life
- 1290 Ticketing those who are homeless doesn't solve anything.
- 1291 CPS in person conversations: Other ideas to address the issue
- 1292 This issue would be better solved culturally rather than the courts, or through a bylaw.
- 1293 Would be great if the people around them said its not allowed, that we as Calgarians don't believe in
- 1294 this/don't do this. Ultimately, we want this to become a cultural norm.
- 1295 Society needs to be the check mark against this. We are for the most time there for the big outbursts.
- 1296 When there is nothing in place the options are either out or in jail, need that in between support (for
- 1297 homeless)
- 1298 Bylaw is good, but it is important that it is presented in a way that talks about the legal protections for
- 1299 victims.
- 1300 Spending more money and investment in an education campaign that says we don't tolerate harassment
- 1301 etc.
- 1302 Potentially that bylaw only investigates these, police may not be the right people to be going to these.
- 1303 Even though this is a bylaw this could become a police job. Its important that this not be another addition,
- 1304 there is nothing criminal about being homeless, but who most of the time gets called is police.
- 1305 So, having people know who to call and who should respond. Having dispatch know/say who to respond to
- 1306 what call, so that [people are directed appropriately.
- 1307 Having an info share
- 1308 Taking away that punitive fear as well, having it be bylaw when, having it be police when it is a safety
- 1309 issue/criminal code charge.
- 1310 When people see the police, they think of the worst-case scenario.
- 1311 Other cities have axillary services also within their police to enforce bylaws, they are the police services.
- 1312 This doesn't victimize the person/
- 1313 Good idea is to run it as a starting program, starting it with bylaw services people, having them be punitive.
- 1314 There are consequences but they are not as severe if they enforced by police.
- 1315 For the consequences having it be therapy, coaching, something that is covered for the victim as well where
- 1316 the fines go to.

Street Harassment Notice of motion

What we heard

December 2021

- 1317 Approaching it from the point of view of development of the person vs. approaching it from a punitive way.
- 1318 Having it embrace those Canadian values so that they are supported on both sides, funding the therapy etc.
- 1319 Having them understand the impact of what they did, the person who did the wrongdoing.
- 1320 These actions are not tolerated, they do happen we are here to support both sides, help you through it if
- 1321 you experienced it and help you/teach you change it/ learn if you are doing something hurtful to others to
- 1322 not do it to others in the future.
- 1323 Important to talk, to address the mistakes, the things that aren't tolerated, and things that are wrong.
- 1324 Ways that victims see themes that they matter and that what happened to them matters, and that something
- 1325 could be done.