



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG**

**OFFICE OF PARKS, FACILITIES, RECREATION & CULTURE**

*MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.*

<b>Author's Name: Heidi Baillargeon</b>	<b>Report Date: September 28, 2022</b>
<b>Author's Phone: 519 736-5712 ext. 2128</b>	<b>Date to Council: October 17, 2022</b>
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**To: Mayor and Members of Town Council**

**Subject: Safety at Admiral Hockey Games**

**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. Council **DIRECT** Administration to contract the Windsor Police Service and Paladin Security for a dedicated officer and security guard to attend and monitor the Admirals Hockey games and public skate sessions at the Libro for the 2022 season and further;
2. That Council **APPROVE** an over expenditure in the amount of \$20,000 from the General Reserve Fund in order to cover the cost of this service.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

N/A

**2. BACKGROUND:**

At the tail end of the 2021 hockey season the Town was experiencing an alarming increase in disruptive and negative behavior by a group of youths at the Libro Centre, particularly during our Junior C hockey team's games usually scheduled on Sunday evenings. As a result, Administration met with Staff Sergeant Chaney of the Windsor Police Service (WPS), the principal of General Amherst and the owner of the Admirals to discuss the increase in disruptive and negative behavior that was escalating due to Tik Toc challenges online. The season closed last year with the following parameters in place during games:

- A paid duty officer from WPS was contracted for both Saturdays and Sunday's

- Additional signage regarding Code of Conduct was placed throughout the lobby and seating areas.
- The Admirals drafted a disclaimer that was posted at their ticket table so people would read it when tickets were purchased.
- The Town increased staff presence during games including By-Law Enforcement
- Paladin Security present due to COVID -19

It should also be noted that although security guards were present last year during games due to COVID aggressive behaviour still continued and security and By-Law Enforcement were forced to call the Windsor Police Service to deal with the issues.

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

This behavior has continued to escalate since last season with damage not only at the Libro but other Town facilities as well such as King Navy Yard Park and Toddy Jones Park washrooms where cameras were recently installed this spring.

The Town does not currently have sufficient resources or trained staff to deal with these issues and many of the existing staff members have expressed concerns for their own safety regarding unlawful behaviour and activity that has occurred. The safety of Town staff and patrons attending the Libro is paramount in order to deliver quality recreational opportunities for the community to enjoy. It is therefore recommended that the Town hire dedicated WPS officer and Paladin Security Guard to attend and monitor Admirals games and the public skate sessions from 5pm to 11pm with occasional Saturday game as dictated by the schedule.

This years' schedule for home games equates to approx. 22 games at the Libro Complex. Of these 22 games the first two in September did not have on site the additional security presence recommended in this report and resulted in the noted incidents. Out of an abundance of caution for the security and safety of those in attendance at the games, as well as staff, Administration leveraged existing operational budget funding to increase security at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> games. It should be noted the presence of additional security at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> game notably reduced the concerning behaviours. This report is before Council seeking approval for the necessary funding to sustain this level of security for the remaining 19 games this season.

### **4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

Failure to provide a safe environment for patrons to attend Town facilities and events due to unlawful behavior presents various risks including poor/negative image with further risks of vandalism and damage to existing facilities. This could lead to potential lawsuits and exposure for the Town. In order to help mitigate these risks Administration recommends WPS and Paladin security be contracted for all the Admirals home games and the public skating sessions that back onto this time block for the 2022 season.

### **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The Admirals home games for the 2022 season scheduled at the Libro Community Centre are listed below with a public skate session starting at 5pm:

- September 11
- September 18
- October 2
- October 16
- October 23
- October 29
- October 30
- November 6
- November 13
- November 20
- November 27
- December 10
- December 11
- December 18
- January 8
- January 14
- January 15
- January 22
- January 29
- February 5
- February 19
- March 5

After consulting with WPS and reviewing the issues to date Administration recommends hiring one (1) WPS contracted Officer and 1 Paladin Security Guard for 6 hours on Sundays and the occasional Saturday, equating to approximately \$20,000 in total for the balance of the season based on the dates noted above.

Games start at 7 pm however WPS and security guard would be requested to be present from 5:00 pm when public skating sessions start to 11pm.

It should also be noted that should the Admirals make the playoffs, additional costs will be incurred when games are played at the Libro Community Centre. The development of the recommended 2023 operational budget will also study potential need for future funding for these services, for Council's consideration.

## **6. CONSULTATIONS:**

Windsor Police  
CAO office  
Recreation Department  
Facilities Department

## **7. CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, Administration recommends Council approve additional resources from WPS and Paladin security to help mitigate negative behaviour and further damage to the Libro during public skating sessions and the Admirals games as outlined in this report.



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Heidi Baillargeon  
**Director of Parks, Facilities, Recreation and Culture**

**RC**

<b>DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:</b> Name: Phone #: 519                      ext.
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<b>NOTIFICATION :</b>				
Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Safety at Admiral Games.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 12, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Tracy Prince

**No Signature - Task assigned to Valerie Critchley was completed by assistant  
Melissa Osborne**

Valerie Critchley

**No Signature - Task assigned to Kevin Fox was completed by workflow  
administrator Tammy Fowkes**

Kevin Fox