

REPORT

Restorative Justice Committee

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** September 27, 2021

From: Restorative Justice Committee **File:** 05.1033.20-2021

Item #: 2021-358

Subject: Anvil Centre Default Lighting

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, Council refer the motion from the Restorative Justice Committee to the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force for engagement with first nations and consideration that the Anvil Centre have orange as their default outside lighting colour in acknowledgement of the recent and ongoing discoveries at residential schools; and,

THAT, Council direct staff to develop a lighting policy for all civic buildings.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's approval to send the recommendation from the Restorative Justice Committee, to change the default lighting colour of the Anvil Centre to orange to the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force, and for staff to create a Civic lighting policy.

BACKGROUND

During the August 31, 2021 meeting of the Restorative Justice Committee, Councillor Puchmayr acknowledged the recent findings at residential schools in Kamloops and elsewhere. The following is an extract from the minutes of the August 31, 2021 Restorative Justice Committee meeting:

4.1 Anvil Centre Default Lighting

Councillor Puchmayr advised that he contacted staff at the Anvil Centre to request that they light up the outside of the facility with orange lights, in acknowledgement of the recent residential school discoveries. He shared that he would like to see orange as the default colour for the Anvil Centre indefinitely unless they are requested to light up in honour of another occasion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT, in acknowledgement of the recent discoveries at residential schools, the Restorative Justice Committee requests that the Anvil Centre have orange as their default outside lighting colour.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

STAFF COMMENTS

Currently the City has two buildings that are able to be lit in different colours, The Anvil Centre and City Hall. The City has no policy that governs the lighting of these buildings with decisions being made through staff consultation and the Mayor’s Office. In the absence of a policy this decision has to be referred to Council.

This request has highlighted the need for clear policy to guide staff with this and other requests. Other cities have policies that can be used to guide this work.

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, staff recommend this committee request be sent to the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force for consideration and possible inclusion in a lighting policy. The Task Force, if they believe it to be appropriate, would be able to lead engagement with local First Nations groups to uphold “the nothing for us, without us principle.”

Staff recognize that lighting up the Anvil Centre in orange as the default setting may prove problematic as the colour orange is also associated with a number of organizations, including the New Democratic Party (NDP), the Orangemen (the international Protestant fraternal order), and the New Westminster Secondary School Hyacks which could lead to public misunderstanding of what the colour represents. As well, seeing the orange lights at Anvil Centre, and knowing what they represent, may be triggering for some First Nations people bringing forth traumatic memories.

OPTIONS

The following options are presented for Council’s consideration:

1. **THAT** Council refer the motion from the Restorative Justice Committee to the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force for direction on the request that the Anvil Centre have orange as their default outside lighting colour in acknowledgement of the recent and ongoing discoveries at residential schools; or,

2. **THAT** Council endorse the Restorative Justice Committee's request that in acknowledgement of the recent discoveries at residential schools, the Anvil Centre have orange as their default outside lighting colour; or,
3. **THAT** Council direct staff to develop a lighting policy for all civic buildings; or,
4. **THAT** Council provide alternate direction to staff.

Staff recommends Options 1 and 3.

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by: Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk

This report was reviewed by: Jacque Killawee, City Clerk

This report was approved by: Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer