

COMITÉ MIXTE UNIVERSITÉ-COMMUNAUTÉ
SANDY HILL TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE

Le 4 novembre 2021/ November 4th, 2021

4:00-6PM

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpdeCtqDloGdQOfA4qkAQnwqFxFxH96MCB2d>

Link to Resident Statements Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Ua3sNK3Dr5>

1. Mot de bienvenue / Welcome
2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour / Approval of the Agenda
3. Déclarations des parties prenantes / Stakeholder Statements (5 minutes each)
 - Conseillier Fleury / Concillor Fleury
 - What occurred in Russel is not tolerable. His responsibility is to convene this group. T&G can and has put forward a number of initiatives that lead to more cohesive efforts in our community, one example is the welcome week walkabout. Panda is a continuing struggle - a football game that is held at Lansdowne has considerable negative impacts on Sandy Hill. Throughout the years, we have tried to bring a number of mitigation strategies to minimize impacts on residential communities. The pregame mitigation strategies have been somewhat successful recently. The Councillor does not have authority over whether or not there is a Panda Game. One success of the mitigation efforts of this year was the pregame tailgate, which brought 3000+ students out of the residential streets to the Sandy Hill arena Parking lot. The Panda game has become a broader "Homecoming" event for students. The Councillor is looking for broader measures relating to public safety, to make sure residents have a safe community even throughout panda. Ineffective response needs to be addressed. The riot that took place revealed evident gaps in our planning.
 - Action Cote-de-Sable / Action Sandy Hill
 - *full report in appendix* ASH asks for strict enforcement (zero tolerance) of noise by-law, regular monitoring of streets for infractions and increased patrolling and fines. Adopt a nuisance by-law. City should place a moratorium on new builds targeted to students. The university should develop a student code of conduct

and develop standards for off campus student housing. The Police should significantly increase presence in anticipation of large gatherings. The City, University, and Police should adopt an approach similar to the City of Kingston.

- Universite d'Ottawa / University of Ottawa
 - Ottawa values close relationships with neighbours. Deeply sorry that egregious events caused undue fear and stress among residents. Behaviour was shameful and does not align with the values of the University. Morning events were successful, they were taken by surprise by Russell ave party following the game. uOttawa are learning about FOCOs/MOCOs (fake or mock homecomings) that are happening at universities across Ontario. Students need to realize there are consequences for their actions. uOttawa will continue to work with partners to strategize for mitigation, and learn about what is happening in Ottawa as well as other university cities.
- Bureau central des activités / Event Central
 - Event Central are the entity responsible for administering the special event on public and private property by-law. This by-law outlines what events coming to the city will require a special events permit. The tailgate at the Sandy Hill Arena was a mitigation tactic to remove party-ers from residential streets in the hours before the game. This was granted a special events permit after bringing together SEAT stakeholders which included By-law, OPS, uOttawa. Both the sanctioned tailgate and the Panda Game at Lansdowne required health and safety and emergency plans by the Universities as well as dedicated deployment of Police and By-law services. Little to no issues arose from the two sanctioned events. Approximately 3000 people attended the pre-game tailgate event. Quick entrance to the tailgate and busses prevented overcrowding within and adjacent to the event space. It's clear that the party-ing extended well beyond the confines of any sanctioned event. These events speak to a larger party culture trend, not attached to any sanctioned game or event, that is spreading across the province. Next steps include listening to resident input and feedback from all stakeholders to bring recommendations to the City for next year.
- Service des reglements / Bylaw
 - Quite a bit of planning, adequately resourced for the pre-event stages but not for what happened in the evening hours. 9 charges have been laid to date, and By-law continues to work on the 3 open investigations. 20 noise complaints were generated that night, when By-law officers went to act on these complaints, Police were already heavily present and it was difficult for officers to lay charges in real time. By-law worked closely with OPS before, during and after the event to ensure that By-law officers are not contributing to the crowd mentality. By-law will continue to collaborate and listen to residents and Town & Gown stakeholders.
- Service policiere d'Ottawa / Ottawa Police Service
 - OPS plan to put together a full report of this year's Panda Game to learn for the future. OPS was not prepared and trauma ensued. Planning ahead of the game was extensive, the team focused mainly on pre game and game time. Officers also went to Waterloo to observe the measures around their homecoming. OPS'

plan was to have lots of crew in the morning as visual deterrents in Sandy Hill and at the game. It seemed like crowds had dissipated in the hours after the game, so OPS relieved the majority of officers. Blocking the streets in the evening was not condonement, but because they did not want to introduce increased risk to the area. Notice of change in crowd behaviours across the province, many police services are working to find the cause of these worsening behaviours. OPS are committed to listening to residents and learning from this year to be better prepared for next year.

4. Préoccupations issues des déclarations des résidents / Concerns from Resident Statements

- What are the consequences?
 - OPS: 8 people were charged (2 mischief over 5000, 2 unlawful assembly, 6 takepart in a riot, 6 mischief rendered inoperative). If convicted by a judge, those charges would appear on these individuals' criminal records.
 - By-law: 21 complaints, resulting in 10 fines issued (all for noise).
 - uOttawa: Use the incident as a teachable moment for students. The University should act without opting for the harshest consequence at the outset, but within a certain set of parameters agreed on by both parties. Placing students on probation has been a consequence for some students charged with criminal offences.
- What is the necessity of the Panda game? Why not cancel?
 - uOttawa: Events like those we saw after the game are happening in many cities and are not always tied to an official event. Therefore cancelling Panda would not necessarily put an end to partying.
- Why was Russell Ave closed?
 - OPS: Concerns around introducing a motor vehicle to a pedestrian dense area. Having a vehicle creates too much risk and can cause a multi-casualty situation.
- Why didn't the police efficiently communicate that this was an illegal gathering?
 - OPS: Officers had not seen an event like this before and were not prepared. Immediate responders were not up to speed on how to deal with it and what was in their power, by the time more senior officers arrived, it was too late.

5. Statements by Russel Residents

- Recognition of broader problems at play. Shared responsibility between many institutions has led to a lack of ownership of the problem. Councillor failed to coordinate a response, OPS left residents feeling abandoned. Safety of the community as a whole is at stake. Fragmented and uncoordinated planning process is an embarrassment to the City. Need to figure out an effective plan and ownership of the failure needs to be taken. Gaps in planning as we saw should not have existed, and should have been predicted. A good plan will outline accountability.
- Residents want to hear more from uOttawa. It's important to properly call out the violence for what it was, a riot, as opposed to "incident", "unsanctioned event", or

“teachable moment”. Residents also want to hear more about actual consequences from the University and want them to take ownership for what did and did not happen

6. Solutions proposées dans les déclarations des résidents /Solutions Proposed in Resident Statements

- Cancel Panda or at least suspend it.
- Refuse the approval of a Special Events permit.
- Develop a coordinated response and preventative plan.
- Increase evening police presence.
- Improve communication.
- Have uOttawa develop a code of conduct.
- Improve consultations with residents.

Next steps

- Ongoing reviews and reports by stakeholder groups.
 - OPS have met with everyone internally, and have compiled information from all sections involved and will conduct a review based on this information
 - uOttawa are gathering feedback from various stakeholders to inform draft plans for next year. Making sure they have global solutions to mitigate risks going forward.
 - Special Events are working with SEAT members and using information from this meeting to form reports and recommendations to the City.
 - The Councillor will continue conversations with stakeholders and residents.

7. Ajournement /Adjournment