



**CONCLUDED  
PROBLEM REPORT  
PS-1**

**Problem ID: 50**

**Reporting Division :** SOUTH

**District:**

**Neighbourhood:** OLD STRATHCONA

**Address:** WHYTE AVENUE MALL

Reg	Rank	Last Name	First Name
1766	CST	CAMP	STEPHEN

**Key Description:**

**Problem Description:**

Working in Old Strathcona, you have no option but to realize that this community is quite different from other areas of the City. It is compiled of small businesses, shops, services, coffee shops, restaurants, pubs, clubs, taverns and agencies. It is an area that puts on festivals and events throughout the year (ie. The Fringe, Gay Awareness parade, Silly Summer parade, Christmas parade and the Farmers Market). It has a number of theatres as well (ie. the Walterdate and the Chinook) which attracts people from the arts and entertainment community. It attracts buskers, street entertainers and street vendors. Due to the above, agencies have formed to protect and assist in the continued development of Old Strathcona, for example The Area concerns Committee, The Old Strathcona Foundation and The Old Strathcona Business Association.

All walks of life are attracted to this area; a complete social stratification can be found here. From beggars, young teenagers, families, professional and blue collar workers, runaways and criminals. It is also a lucrative area for individuals and businesses; it is becoming a tourist attraction in North America.

This community is a separate entity from the City, with a vibrant life of its own. It attracts unique problems quite different from other areas.

**Problem solving strategies and results :**

**ANALYSIS:**

in south Edmonton, service and self generated calls were the highest in Old Strathcona, and has been for the past five years. Due to the infiltration of licensed premises and entertainment venues, liquor related calls were becoming familiar (ie. trouble with drunk, trouble with man, disturbances, assaults, mischiefs, thefts, robbery, and drug complaints). There was an increase in the panhandlers, street performers and street venues. Even minor infractions such as jaywalking, skateboarding and bicycling on sidewalks are becoming bonafide concerns from people within this community.

Agencies such as Area Concerns, OSBA, and the OSF became upset and confrontational towards these concerns. Many of the laws utilized by police either could not handle these unique problems, or there were no laws to utilize. Something had to be done to control this congested area, permeated with a host of concerns.

**RESPONSE:**

I decided that a bylaw specific to Old Strathcona may assist in alleviating some of these problems mentioned above. For example, a bylaw could stipulate that only X amount of licensed premises can operate within each block, that panhandlers cannot beg for money or gifts in Old Strathcona, that designated areas only are to be used for street entertainment and that only an X amount of vendors are to be in each block.

I liaised with Calgary Police and the City Solicitor for Edmonton and Calgary, and discovered that under the provincial statute, The Municipal Government Act, Section 179, gives City council authorization to pass a bylaw establishing an area of a city, similar to Old Scona as a mall. Once this is complete, this bylaw can control this area by establishing laws specific for it; some examples being in the previous paragraph (see attached copy of section 179).

An example of this theory in action the Steven Avenue Mall Bylaw established in Calgary by using Section 179 on the **Municipal Government Act. Steven Avenue now has its own bylaw specific for the problems in that area (see attached bylaw).**

ASSESSMENT:

The proposal I put through has been approved by the Edmonton Police Service at the superintendent level, and now is with the Executive Committee with City Council. It is now out of our hands with our optimism that it gets approved.

I spoke with the Calgary Beat Sergeant who say that they utilize the Steven Avenue Mall Bylaw when they walk the Steven Avenue area. They assess the bylaw as a useful tool in assisting to alleviate the unique problems found on the avenue. We are optimistic in the Whyte Avenue Mall Bylaw being passed so we can utilize it here. An update will follow at the end of 1995.

Respectfully submitted,

Cst. Camp, Stephen #1766