



## CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

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### **TITLE: SPONSOR**

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to present a motion for which Mayor Heron gave notice on October 5, 2020.

### **PROPOSED MOTION(S):**

That Council sponsor the Jessica Martel Foundation fundraiser Christmas in November in the amount of \$1,000.

### **ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

Strategic Priority #5: Housing and Social Well-being: Enhance housing options and social supports.

Facilitate an increase in the variety of housing types and provide social supports to respond to changing demographics and accommodate the diverse needs of residents.

5.4 Explore interim housing options to support vulnerable populations.

5.6 To explore options for an enhanced, integrated, and coordinated network of social services to meet the basic needs of residents and address emerging trends and issues.

### **ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

N/A

### **ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION**

N/A

## BACKGROUND:

The profound impacts of domestic violence are felt throughout our society, and unfortunately St. Albert is no exception. Research shows that a coordinated community response is the most effective way to address this issue. Responses should include a continuum of strategies and services, from primary prevention to crisis intervention.

The Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation is a registered charity that opened a 21-day emergency shelter called Jessie's House in Morinville, Alberta. It was opened in May 2020. Eleven beds are currently open during the COVID-19 pandemic. They provide temporary housing for those escaping violence at home. [Their service area](#) is: "Individuals from the Sturgeon Region and St. Albert will be our priority, however residents outside the region will be supported as capacity permits".

The Mayor's Task Force to End Homelessness was formed in January 2018 in response to the increasing numbers of homeless people living in St. Albert. In addition, it identified three further populations vulnerable to housing issues, one being women and children leaving domestic violence situations. Between July and September 2019, staff from six local and regional agencies were interviewed to identify the challenges that women and families living in domestic violence circumstances experience. Since this time domestic violence numbers have risen across the world during the COVID-19 pandemic and feedback from St. Albert agencies certainly reflect this increase locally. In the Mayor's [Task Force to End Homelessness](#) Final Report (June 1, 2020) Jessie's House was recognized as an important resource for St. Albert families and it was recommended that:

*"The Task Force's recommendation to support women and families fleeing domestic violence is to focus on the post-shelter needs of people who are exiting Jessie's House and other shelters. Post-shelter supports will enable women and children to live and thrive independently and away from their abusers."*

Report Date: November 2, 2020  
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