

Deborah Liske

Subject: FW: Attn: Mayor Lisa Helps and Council, and Mayor Desjardins and Council - Victoria in Crisis - support increased police funding/resources and a "Safe City"

From: Monique <[REDACTED]>

Date: November 12, 2021 at 11:47:19 AM PST

To: mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca, Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca>

Cc: Monique Ploegmakers <ploegmakers@vcm.bc.ca>

Subject: Attn: Mayor Lisa Helps and Council, and Mayor Desjardins and Council - Victoria in Crisis - support increased police funding/resources and a "Safe City"

Attn: Mayor Lisa Helps and Council, and Mayor Desjardins and Council

Victoria in Crisis - Support increased police funding/resources and a "Safe City"

Victoria is in a State of Crisis with an alarming escalation in violence, anarchy and criminal activity – statistics prove that Victoria has become one of the most dangerous cities in Canada

Public safety is critical for everyone

It is well-known that the Vic PD has been underfunded, under resourced and under staffed for many years and no longer have the necessary resources to counteract the rise in criminal activity and public disorder.

It appears that our Victoria and Esquimalt Councils are off side BC's Police Act which states in Part 4, Clause15(1) that

"a municipality must bear the expenses necessary to generally maintain law and order in the municipality and must provide, in accordance, with this Act, a police force or department of sufficient numbers

- (i) to adequately enforce municipal bylaws, the criminal law and the laws of British Columbia, and
- (ii) to maintain law and order in the municipality.

An increase in police funding is not intended to criminalize homelessness, mental illness, addiction or poverty– it is simply necessary to counteract the escalating criminal activity that has emerged in our City.

It is critical that Mayor and Council also begin a coordinated and aggressive advocacy effort to the BC Provincial Government for more funds to fulfill the drastic need for more support and social services for the homeless, mentally ill and addicted.

My Personal Note:

3 years ago, there was a couple fighting on Johnson Street across from the brick building for the homeless. My Granddaughter and I were walking to the Victoria Conservatory of Music for a lesson and my Granddaughter was quite distraught that no one was helping this woman that was being verbally assaulted while sitting in her car. I sent her off to class and stayed to make sure the woman was safe and went to help out, the man yelling saw me and verbally threatened my life. I gave a police report to which nothing was really done about it and my Granddaughter no longer wants to take lessons at the Conservatory of Music.

I can not walk down Pandora street at Quadra or go out the doors of our Building on Pandora Street (the Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM)) due to people blocking the doors, needles everywhere, the stink of urine is overwhelming even though we try to clean it up regularly. People are foul mouthed and abusive both verbally and physically. The change in the past 5 years is drastic, from being able to walk down the street and say hello as you walked by even though the people were homeless and drug users to now where you are yelled at, sworn at and at times physically accosted for just walking by.

The place I work is supposed to be a safe place for children and vulnerable adults to go and learn to play music, when we have concerts, we would use our Pandora Street entrance to allow people in, now the way is blocked by disrespectful drug addicts and homeless people who are both verbally and physically abusive. 5 years ago, the people on the streets were at least respectful and moved away when we had Events, would say Hello and be kind - now they are abusive both verbally and physically, destructive to the property, and have created fear for many of the people working and attending classes at the VCM and other businesses in the area.

I am a taxpayer and as a taxpayer I would like to see my tax dollars at work in keeping our streets safe by adding extra Police support where it is needed.

Please help to make our streets and work spaces safe again. Added funding to the Police Department and any other support to assist with helping the people on our streets become more productive is essential.

Sincerely,
Monique Ploegmakers

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT	
RECEIVED:	November 15 , 2021
For Information	<input type="checkbox"/> CAO <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council
Other	_____
Referred to:	Deb H
For	<input type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Response <input type="checkbox"/> Report
For Agenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> COTW <input type="checkbox"/> IC