

Deborah Liske

Subject: FW: Pandora/City Crisis - HELP!

From: Daniel Lapp <[REDACTED]>

Date: November 13, 2021 at 10:46:38 AM PST

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

Subject: Pandora/City Crisis - HELP!

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT	
RECEIVED:	November 15, 2021
For Information	<input type="checkbox"/> CAO <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
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

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps and Council, and Mayor Desjardins and Council.

I teach at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and for the first time since I started working there 8 years ago, I must say that I am considering my options. Not only do I (a 220 lb 6' white guy) feel unsafe coming and going from the building but I am deeply worried every day about my students safety. As well as the bike thefts leaving my students without their means to get home at 9:30pm, there are the long, frightening walks for 7 to 87 yr olds getting to the bus or their cars. And seriously...it's not just the guys shooting up in the VCM stairwells anymore (more or less in their own lost worlds), it's full blown criminal activity threatening the health and safety of folks walking down the street. And it affects us 'inside' the building as well...every week now, at some point during my Thursday rehearsal with the BC Fiddle Orchestra in Wood Hall (Pandora St) the kids stop playing their fiddles when someone pounds on our door or screams bloody murder only about 20' away from us on the other side of the wall. I look at the kids AND THEY ARE SCARED!

Do something. The situation is dire. For the first time since the pandemic, we are supposed to be able to host our annual Home For Christmas concert to a full capacity crowd in Alix Goolden Hall - an event which raises \$ for charity and enlightens the lives of over 2000 enthusiastic members of our community - every year for 17 years. Because the homeless are living on the front steps, we are forced, this year for the first time, to cancel the event.

So now the city is losing its culture. Sir Winston Churchill famously talked about Britain's participation in WW2 as a fight for culture as much as for freedom. Citizens of Victoria are losing both.

Find a solution. Fix the problem. Give the city back to the tax-paying folks who enliven the downtown with vital businesses and vibrant participation in events, cultural, social and otherwise. Make our city great - again. Please.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lapp,

International ambassador for the city of Victoria and BC (self-appointed ;)

Recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award for Service (in Victoria and around the country)

Well-respected local, tax-paying, property owning, community building musician/artist

Director of the School of Contemporary Music, VCM