Deborah Liske		
Subject:	FW: Crisis	CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT RECEIVED: November 15, 2021
		For InformationCAOMayor/Council Other
From: Julie Puetter < > Date: November 13, 2021 at 6:36:05 PM PST To: Mayor and Council < <u>mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca</u> > Subject: Crisis		Referred to: <u>Deb H</u> For <u>Action Response</u> Report For Agenda <u>X</u> Council <u>COTW</u> IC

Dear Mayor and Council of Victoria, It is sad to go downtown and experience the very negative changes that have occurred over the last years. One no longer feels safe walking on the streets. It is demoralizing to see the number of helpless and homeless people walking the streets. My heart goes out to them but I do feel helpless.

My girlfriend owned the W& J Wilson Clothiers store on Government Street which had been in operation for over 155 years and she had to close the flagship location due to the many disturbed people entering the shop and causing disturbances. The police were often not able to respond to their requests for help due to being busy elsewhere and short staffed. Slowly her customers informed her that they would no longer shop at the downtown store but shop at the Oak Bay and Sidney stores where they felt safer. How sad!

You are the only ones who are able to take a stand and make changes to rectify this situation. Please do something to save our city which was considered one of the best and safest in Canada. Now it has the highest crime rate in Canada even higher than Vancouver. Shocking! Certainly this is a wake-up call that something must be done to rectify the situation. Your council spent non proportional and valuable time discussing the "lunch" issue. I wonder how much effort and time is going into rescuing our city.

I know there is no easy fix but it would be nice to think that some sort of progress is being made. Unfortunately, it appears to be getting worse and not better. I beseech you to concentrate on our most important problem currently facing Victoria.

Sincerely, Julie Puetter