

Kim Maddin

Subject: FW: State of Crisis Among Unhoused

Barbara Desjardins, (She/Her)

Mayor, Township of Esquimalt

Lekwungen Territory

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CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
RECEIVED: <u>Dec. 20</u> , 2021
For Information <input type="checkbox"/> CAO <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council
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For Agenda <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> COTW <input type="checkbox"/> IC

From: Meghan Murphy

Date: December 18, 2021 at 9:20:59 AM PST

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

Subject: State of Crisis Among Unhoused

Dear Councils of Victoria and Esquimalt,

I am a choir student at the Victoria Conservatory of Music on Pandora and a generally concerned citizen about the lack of services and support for unhoused people-though I know this city is working hard on solutions.

I am absolutely disturbed and alarmed at the recent communications the Conservatory has had with council and community organizations about increasing a police presence in the area, citing an increase in violence and the notion of 'safety'.

The Conservatory-which brings me and so many others absolute joy through music, connection and community-does not speak for me. I am 8 months pregnant, attend rehearsals at the hall at night and feel SAFE doing so. I'm often delighted at the scenes I walk by-people playing guitar, chatting and sometimes bringing me into a conversation. I am appalled that the building is now gated away from the community and it is beyond me that this wonderful organization wouldn't be a part of the solution (I'll be sending this to CEO Jane Butler-MacGregor as well). What about outdoor community classes or music circles? A table with coffee and snacks available some mornings? The counter action to 'danger' and 'lack of safety' is compassion and connection. The Conservatory has the ability and the resources to display the latter, rather than gathering energy around the former.

Councils, if you can in any way be a force to support, at the very least, a conversation around fact and positive solutions, many of us would be so grateful (most immediately, people experiencing homelessness). "We" are not in danger-people are hurting.

Thank you for your time,

Meghan Murphy