

**Deborah Liske**

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**Subject:** FW: In support of increased police funding/resources and a "Safe City"

**From:** Julie Stewart-Boyle [REDACTED]

**Date:** November 15, 2021 at 10:36:47 AM PST

**To:** [mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca), Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca)>

**Subject:** In support of increased police funding/resources and a "Safe City"

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

I write this email to you to request an increase in police funding. I am very concerned about the escalating criminal activity that has emerged in our 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. The Vic PD has been underfunded, under-resourced and understaffed for many years and no longer has the necessary resources to counteract the rise in criminal activity and public disorder.

Public safety is critical for everyone. It is critical that the Mayor and Council begin a co-ordinated 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.

Although I am a resident of Saanich, I am often downtown for shopping, theatre-going and personal activities such as singing in the choir at the Victoria Conservatory on Pandora and Quadra. I feel more and more unsafe in Victoria, especially in the evening as I am often yelled at and occasionally followed for a few blocks while getting to my car. I have considered carrying personal protection in my purse. Having travelled to other countries in the past, I find myself feeling more at risk in my own city than I have in any other city I've travelled to (including Istanbul, Paris, London and Dublin). A result of this is that I am now travelling to other areas to do my shopping, etc. (like Langford and View Royal).

I am very sad at this situation as I grew up in Victoria and it has definitely not evolved into the confident, strong and beautiful city it should be.

It is essential that Mayors and Councils vote to invest in the safety and protection of its citizens by approving Vic PD's upcoming budget which includes an increase in police officers, mental health support positions and civilian staff.

Kind regards,

Julie Stewart-Boyle

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