

Deborah Liske

Subject: FW: Attention Mayor Lisa Helps and Council and Mayor Desjardins and Council

From: Allan & Donna Bell [REDACTED]

Date: November 14, 2021 at 4:54:48 PM PST

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

Subject: Attention Mayor Lisa Helps and Council and Mayor Desjardins and Council

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 understaffed 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 offside BC's Police Act which states in Part 4, Clause 15(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 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.

Your honours, this is not a political issue, it is a matter of the safety and security of citizens and the long term sustainability of the City of Victoria.

I personally have felt threatened and abused on the streets of Victoria, specifically outside Alix Goolden while attending an event. I have been followed to my car, yelled at while I locked my doors and called police for assistance. I have been sworn at and bullied off the sidewalk, all these events have been in the past 18 months. I no longer walk in that area and feel unsafe even driving there.

Please consider the funding for Police and other support services carefully and work to give us our downtown back!

This is an urgent issue.

Respectfully,
Donna Bell
Oak Bay resident

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For Agenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> COTW <input type="checkbox"/> IC