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September 9, 2003

City Services and Budget Standing Committee
Vancouver City Council
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C., V5Y 1V4

Fax: 604-873-7419

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

**Re: Contracting Out of Security Services at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH)
and St. Paul's Hospital (SPH)**

This letter is follow up to my email and telephone conversations with City staff and Councillor Louis.

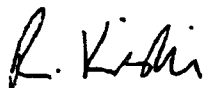
I write on behalf of a group of employees from VGH and SPH who are concerned about the contracting out of security services. Our group represents a full spectrum of healthcare professionals and staff, nurses, doctors, technicians, and support staff.

We wish to appear as a delegation to the City Services and Budget Standing Committee at its September 18, 2003 meeting. Tonya McLaughlin (Registered Nurse/ Registered Psychiatric Nurse- SPH Emergency Department), Charline Hooper (Registered Nurse- VGH Intensive Care Unit), and Roger Kishi (Security Supervisor- SPH) will update Council on the situation at these facilities. We will also ask Council to examine the effect of these changes on City resources, particularly those of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services.

We will be asking the committee to consider a resolution to this effect. A copy of the resolution is attached.

We look forward to the opportunity of appearing on September 18.

Sincerely,



Attachment: 1

**Re: Contracting out of Security Services at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH)
and St. Paul's Hospital (SPH)**

Whereas public safety is of primary importance to Vancouver City Council, and

Whereas VGH and SPH have high rates of violent incidents, particularly in the Emergency and Psychiatry Departments, and

Whereas Vancouver Coastal Health (VGH) and Providence Health Care (SPH) have chosen to eliminate skilled and experienced security staff as part of the healthcare team by contracting out security services to Paladin Security Group, and

Whereas it is commonly known that City resources are under extreme pressures, particularly Police services,

Therefore, be it resolved that Council express its concern of the elimination of skilled and experienced security officers from the healthcare teams at VGH and SPH, and

Be it further resolved that Council instructs staff, particularly Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, to report on the effects of these changes at VGH and SPH on the City, and to closely monitor and regularly report once changes are implemented, and

Be it finally resolved that these be communicated to the CEO's of Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care.