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Our City Our Streets - Keeping Vancouver a Safe Place to Celebrate

Terms of Reference for a Review of the June 15 2011 Stanley Cup Riot

The Premier, Solicitor-General, Mayor and Vancouver Police Board Chair, and the Chief Constable committed to the citizens, residents and the businesses of Vancouver that the experience of the riot following the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday June 15 will be subject to a rigorous and independent review.

The Premier and the Mayor also agreed that this unfortunate event involved more than just Vancouver and that the learnings will be important for all communities in the province.

The public and business sector from Vancouver and beyond have been clear since the event. They know that the events that unfolded were unacceptable, put the public at risk, damaged public and private property and impacted the City's reputation. However, they don't believe that what happened represents the vision and values of the City of Vancouver and British Columbians should not shy away from the opportunities of celebration in their public spaces.

Several changes have been made in Vancouver's public safety infrastructure and processes in response to the Police Commission Report on the 1994 Stanley Cup riot. These have allowed the public to safely enjoy numerous very large events in public space over the last few years - the Celebration of Light, the Olympic experience and the first 6 days of the 2011 Stanley Cup finals being important examples. However, further changes may be necessary in light of the June 15 experience and a multi-sectoral approach is required.

There is global expertise in Vancouver and other jurisdictions on managing major events which needs to be tapped to ensure we continue to integrate emerging best practice in crowd management, policing, public safety, and transportation management into major event planning. Predicting the behaviour of crowds of people in different gatherings is an area of science and the latest information should be considered in our review including strategies to address the presence of criminal elements that purposely plan to disrupt public events.

We have asked [to be determined] to undertake an Independent Review with a report made public to City Council, the Police Board and the Solicitor General by August 31st 2011.

The scope of the Independent Review will be focused on the following 4 areas:

57. The learnings from the 1994 riot and how were they integrated into our planning for this event
58. The foundational elements of the VPD/city plans for the event and the relationship of those plans to what transpired in the lead-up and during the riots
59. The availability of liquor at public events and the contribution this made to the events that unfolded.
60. Looking forward, a framework for how the City of Vancouver and the VPD work with the appropriate partners to optimize the safe, inclusive and enjoyable participation of our public in celebrations in the public spaces for which our City is world renowned.

The review will be based on the assumption that Vancouver will continue to be a city which wants to continue to experience the full use of our vibrant public spaces to celebrate safely and responsibly.