



"PROVIDING INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT, GOVERNANCE, AND STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT, REFLECTING THE NEEDS, VALUES AND DIVERSITY OF VANCOUVER'S COMMUNITIES."

November 30, 2020

Members of City Council
c/o Mr. Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

MAYOR KENNEDY STEWART, CHAIR

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WENDY JOHN, MEMBER

MERRILEE ROBSON, MEMBER

RACHEL ROY, MEMBER

FAYE WIGHTMAN, MEMBER

Dear City Councilors:

Re: Vancouver Police Department 2021 Operating Budget

The Vancouver Police Board considered the three scenarios outlined in the 2021 VPD Operating Budget submission and passed the following resolution at today's meeting:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board (Board) approves the VPD's 2021 Operating Budget totalling \$322,069,316 for submission to City Council under Section 27(1) of the *Police Act*.

Section 27 of the *Police Act* states:

(1) On or before November 30 in each year, a municipal police board must prepare and submit to the council for its approval a provisional budget for the following year to provide policing and law enforcement in the municipality.

(2) Any changes to the provisional budget under subsection (1) must be submitted to council on or before March 1 of the year to which the provisional budget relates.

This amount will ensure that the VPD can continue with its existing service and staffing levels (i.e. base funding to maintain current operations) and includes reversing the City-imposed budget reduction for vacancy savings, as well as increased funding for Community Policing Centres (\$350,000). This equates to a 2% increase from the VPD's 2020 Operating Budget.

The Board recognizes the financial impact on the City from the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the Board will need to control expenses in order to support the City in 2021. The Board shares the responsibility to ensure that scarce

VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

resources are allocated prudently and will continue to maximize budget savings where possible, in support of the City of Vancouver's ongoing financial mitigation measures.

Countless letters of support have been received from businesses, organizations, and individuals, representing thousands of people who live, work and play in Vancouver. These letters echo the sentiment that public safety must be maintained in order to facilitate a vibrant, safe, and livable city for all.

Attached for your information is the letters of support received by the Board, the Finance Committee's Report to the Board, as well as the VPD's report to the Board, setting out the details of the 2021 Operating budget.

We trust this is in order.

Sincerely

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Stephanie Johansen
Executive Director, Vancouver Police Board

Cc: Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
DCC Steve Rai, Vancouver Police Department
Mr. Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver



VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

PROVIDING INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT, GOVERNANCE, AND STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT, REFLECTING THE NEEDS, VALUES AND DIVERSITY OF VANCOUVER'S COMMUNITIES.

November 30, 2020

BOARD REPORT # 2011F03

Regular

TO: Vancouver Police Board
FROM: Vancouver Police Board Finance Committee
SUBJECT: 2021 Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Operating Budget

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Committee (Committee) has considered the three budget scenarios provided by the Chief and Vancouver Police Department (VPD) management and recommends the following:

THAT the Vancouver Police Board (Board) approve the VPD's 2021 Operating Budget submission to City Council for **\$322,069,316**.

This amount will ensure that the VPD can continue with its existing service and staffing levels (i.e. base funding to maintain current operations) and includes reversing the City-imposed budget reduction for vacancy savings, as well as increased funding for Community Policing Centres (\$350,000). This equates to a 2% increase from the VPD's 2020 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the Board and City Council approved the findings of an independent Operational Review. The Review determined that the public safety service gaps that remained after implementing all possible internal efficiency changes could be most effectively addressed through the addition of 120 sworn officers and 52 civilian staff over a two-year period (from 2018-2019). City Council and the Board agreed to spread staffing additions over a longer, four-year, and then ultimately five-year period (2018-2022) to minimize the funding impact to the City of Vancouver (City). These staffing recommendations were approved on the basis of ensuring adequate and effective policing, as required by the *Police Act* (Appendix 1).

In December 2019 year three of the five year staffing plan was approved for the 2020 budget, and the VPD has now returned to staffing levels dating back over a decade. The upcoming 2021 budget year (year four of the five year staffing plan) recommends an additional 20 sworn officers and 10 civilian members. However, City staff is supporting an imposed 1% budget reduction of \$3.1m related to vacancy savings. This vacancy reduction would bring staffing levels below those of 2009, despite a significant increase to calls for service, and a large increase to the Vancouver, and surrounding population since that time.

The Finance committee recognizes the financial impact on the City from the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the Board will need to control expenses in order to support the City in 2021. The Board shares the

responsibility to ensure that scarce resources are allocated prudently. **The Finance Committee believes that the Board could support the City's budget constraints by considering a delay to year four of the staffing plan under the Operational Review.**

The Committee recognizes the complex social issues in the City, and competing priorities for funding. The Committee agrees that the mental health and homelessness crisis needs to be addressed, and appropriately funded. Over the past ten years, the Board and the VPD have been highlighting these issues, and supporting partnerships with mental health services to collaborate on various treatment plans and approaches to reduce harm in the community (Appendix 2). Improving health outcomes for the people of Vancouver requires an integrated multi-government and multi-agency health focused approach involving long term strategy through coordination. Any discussion to reallocate funds from the VPD to alternative services must consider the adequacy and availability of necessary support structures and systems to ensure public safety.

The Committee acknowledges the difficulty in achieving the City's imposed 1% vacancy reduction for the upcoming budget, which would result in the delay of hiring approximately 34 police officers to the following year (2022). Regardless of the financial climate, the Board and the VPD have a legal obligation to maintain public safety, prevent crime, apprehend offenders, and advance investigations. The VPD is an essential and core service that operates 24/7, and has been unable to cease or curtail its operations during this pandemic. Any imposed reduction could bring the VPD below 2009 officer staffing levels, directly resulting in longer response times, officer burnout, and could impact the support of Community Policing Centres, public schools, and other VPD outreach programs that support the community.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee has considered the following three budget scenarios as outlined in the VPD's 2021 Operating Budget Report to the Board:

Scenario 1: \$318,575,648 is currently supported by City staff and meets City Council's motion to keep the property tax increase to a maximum of 5%. However, included in this scenario is a city-staff imposed 1% reduction of \$3.1m related to vacancy savings to address the City's financial challenges as a result of the pandemic. This is a direct budget cut and will impact existing staff and service levels as this will result in the delay of 34 sworn officer hires.

Scenario 2: \$321,719,316 includes items listed in scenario 1, and, reversing the 1% city-staff imposed budget reduction. This funding amount will ensure that the VPD can continue with its existing service and staffing level but does not include the implementation of Year 4 (of 5) of the Operational Review recommendation to hire an additional 20 police officers and 10 civilian professionals, or additional funding for Community Policing Centres (CPCs) or other items listed in scenario 3. VPD management recommends this scenario as the 2021 Operating Budget.

Scenario 3: \$326,586,354 is scenario 2 plus all VPD priority initiatives for funding increases based on prioritized ranking by VPD Management as outlined in the VPD's Operating Budget report.

Excluded from each of the three scenarios are budget adjustments for the 2021 benefit rate increases and expired collective agreements as these are reviewed with City staff and adjusted as a mid-year budget transfer, if and when the amounts are determined.

The Finance Committee reviewed the three scenarios provided by VPD management and took into consideration the Board's obligation towards public safety, the growing scope of the VPD's responsibilities, the consideration of calls to reallocating funding from the VPD, the health and wellbeing of VPD staff, as well as the immense financial pressures that the City is facing, and is recommending that the Board approve budget scenario 2 at \$321,719,316, plus \$350,000 towards funding for the 11 CPCs.

Funding for Community Policing Centres:

The CPC initiative was started by the VPD in 1994, as a collaboration between the VPD and the community, in order to work together towards addressing crime and creating a safer, stronger City. This community-based policing model looks beyond immediate issues, and searches for realistic longer term answers to complex community issues and concerns, through ongoing dialogue and building trust.

The CPC's are critical organizations, with an invaluable day to day connection with people and businesses in neighborhoods throughout the City. Each year, CPC staff and volunteers are in contact with tens of thousands of Vancouverites and visitors, and work with some of the most vulnerable people in their respective communities. Key contributions by CPC staff and volunteers include but are not limited to: recording and addressing community complaints, improving road safety, receiving found property, delivering food to the elderly and marginalized, providing cultural awareness training, addressing homeless and mental health issues, cleaning up graffiti and litter, providing interpretation and translating services, developing crime prevention initiatives, and supporting and promoting major community partners. Together with the VPD and other stakeholders, CPCs develop programs and projects that are designed to provide community members with varying abilities and skills, the opportunity to contribute to a thriving community by furthering public safety.

Last year, the volunteers from all 11 CPCs contributed over 60,000 hours. Using the gaming grant standard of \$20/hr for in-kind value, this brings the **CPC volunteer contribution to just over \$1.2 million annually**. Additional funding of \$350,000 to be distributed equally amongst all CPCs, would result in an immeasurable contribution to community safety during this extraordinary time of uncertainty and concern.

In 2019, the CPCs presented to the Board as a unified group, to relay financial challenges as a result of increased rents, utilities, and providing staff with a living wage. In a time where policing is turning towards a more community focused approach, it is absolutely essential to support, and adequately fund CPCs so that they have the resources available to continue their indispensable work, in partnership with the VPD. There is currently one VPD officer assigned to each CPC.

CONCLUSION

The Finance Committee is recommending that the Board approve the VPD's 2021 Operating Budget submission to City Council for \$322,069,316 to ensure that the VPD can continue with its existing service and staffing levels (i.e. base funding to maintain current operations) while also supporting increased funding for Community Policing Centres.

The Finance Committee recognizes the fiscal challenges before the City due to COVID-19 and understands the need for the Board to do its part to mitigate the resulting financial implications from this pandemic. As such, the recommended budget does not include the implementation of year four of the Operational Review staffing plan.

APPENDIX 1 – POLICE ACT LEGISLATION

Duties of a municipality – Excerpts from Section 15

1. Subject to this section, a municipality with a population of more than 5 000 persons must bear the expenses necessary to generally maintain law and order in the municipality and must provide, in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the director's standards,
 - a) policing and law enforcement in the municipality with a police force or police 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,
 - b) adequate accommodation, equipment and supplies for
 - i) the operations of and use by the police force or police department required under paragraph (a), and
 - ii) the detention of persons required to be held in police custody other than on behalf of the government, and
 - c) the care and custody of persons held in a place of detention required under paragraph (b) (ii).

1.1 The duties of a municipality under subsection (1) of this section include the duty set out in section 4.03 to use and pay for specialized services provided by a specialized service provider.

Estimates and expenditures – Excerpts from Section 27

1. On or before November 30 in each year, a municipal police board must prepare and submit to the council for its approval a provisional budget for the following year to provide policing and law enforcement in the municipality.
2. Any changes to the provisional budget under subsection (1) must be submitted to council on or before March 1 of the year to which the provisional budget relates.
3. If a council does not approve an item in the budget, the director, on application by the council or the municipal board, must
 - (a) Determine whether the item or amount should be included in the budget, and
 - (b) Report the director's findings to the municipal police board, the council and the minister.
4. Subject to subsection (3), a council must include in its budget the costs in the provisional budget prepared by the municipal police board.

APPENDIX 2 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION: PROJECT LINK

What is Project LINK:

Project LINK is a collaboration among the Vancouver Police Board, the Vancouver Coastal Health Board, and the Providence Health Care Board. Initiated in October 2011, its goal is to achieve improved outcomes for those living with mental illness and addiction.

BACKGROUND:

The initial impetus for Project LINK was the release of a 2008 VPD report entitled “Lost in Transition” which highlighted how lack of capacity in the mental health system was draining police resources and failing those suffering from mental illness and addiction.

In response, in 2011 the Vancouver Police Board and the Vancouver Coastal Health Board formed project LINK. Providence Health Care Board subsequently joined in 2015. A major first step was to enable the sharing of information across these police and health organizations. With that in place, LINK was able to make dramatic changes, including formation of the Assertive Community Treatment teams and the Assertive Outreach Teams. These teams have greatly reduced negative contacts with police, emergency room visits, victimization, and criminal justice involvement for those living with mental health and substance use issues. Other accomplishments and initiatives are outlined below.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES:

Collectively, LINK has led significant change across both the public safety and health sectors. Accomplishments and initiatives include:

- Embedding police officers within Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams;
- Expanding the number of ACT teams in Vancouver from three to five, to support a larger and growing clientele base;
- Improved linkage with St. Paul’s Hospital/Providence Health Care to bridge ACT clients effectively who come into contact with healthcare professionals from different hospitals;
- Developing an information sharing agreement and Privacy Impact Assessment to enable the exchange of critical client information between the organizations, to facilitate the proper care for each individual client;
- Improved communication with the VPD Chronic Offenders Unit to deliver a coordinated approach that ensures appropriate mental health supports are directed to the most prolific criminal offenders;
- Improved collaboration with the mental health programming provided through the Downtown Community Court;
- The development of an ‘early warning system’ within the VPD Mental Health Unit to identify clients at risk and get them the supports they need, when they need them;
- The development of the Assertive Outreach Team (AOT), a collaborative partnership between the VPD and VCH to deliver short-term transitional support for more challenging mental health and/or substance use clients as they transition from hospital or corrections to primary care service providers (International Association of Chiefs of Police 2015 Weber Seavey Award for quality and innovation in policing);
- Cross-sector consultation to inform the 2016 VPD Mental Health Strategy (Canadian Mental Health Association BC: 2016 Mental Health Voices Award recipient);

- Establishment of a monthly meeting between police and hospitals to review wait times, ambulance wait times, and to foster better communication relative to serving mental health clients in the community;
- Assisting with the operationalization of the Saint Paul's Hospital (SPH) Emergency Department HUB (HUB ED) and Vancouver Police Foundation Transitional Care Centre (VPF TCC), officially launched in 2018. The HUB and the VPF-TCC joined the recently opened SPH's Rapid Access Addiction Clinic (RAAC) and the Overdose Prevention Site (OPS). These four components create a specialized, multi-faceted response model designed to meet people's individual needs;
- Assisting with the operationalization of VCH Access and Assessment Centre (AAC), opened in 2016, and providing 24/7 services for Vancouver residents with mental health and/or substance use, as an alternative to the Emergency department;
- Working with Fraser Health Authority to establish information sharing agreements with police of jurisdiction in the Fraser Region, based on Vancouver model; and,
- Advocating to the Provincial Government for mandated information sharing agreements.



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD

REPORT DATE: November 12, 2020
BOARD MEETING DATE: November 30, 2020
BOARD REPORT # 2011F01
Regular

TO: Vancouver Police Board
FROM: DCC Steve Rai, Commanding Support Services Division
SUBJECT: 2021 Operating Budget

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT, the Vancouver Police Board (Board) receives this report for discussion on the various options of prioritized funding requests for the 2021 Operating budget for the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) ranging from \$318,575,648 to \$326,586,354, and,

THAT, the Board approve the 2021 budget for submission to City Council by November 30, per section 27 of the Police Act.

SUMMARY:

The VPD is a core and essential service with an expanding scope and increasing complexity such that it will continue to face escalating public safety and budget challenges. The impacts of the pandemic have put pressures on both the VPD and the City's budget such that full funding is not likely for all of the VPD's requests. As a result, the Board Finance Committee was presented with three different budget scenarios for their review and then their recommended endorsement to the Board. The three scenarios provided for consideration are as follows:

<u>Budget Scenarios</u>	<u>Total 2021 budget</u>	<u>Incremental from 2020 restated budget</u>	<u>% increase</u>
1: Supported by City staff, 1% city-staff imposed reduction	\$318,575,648	\$2,962,445	0.9%
2: Scenario 1, plus, reverse 1% city-staff imposed reduction	\$321,719,316	\$6,106,113	1.9%
3: Includes all VPD initiatives	\$326,586,354	\$10,973,151	3.5%

Scenario 1: \$318,575,648 is currently supported by City staff and balances City Council's motion to keep the property tax increase to a maximum of 5%. However, included in this scenario is a city-staff imposed 1% reduction of \$3.1m related to vacancy savings to address the City's financial challenges as a result of the pandemic. The VPD and Board did not agree or support this reduction. This is a direct budget cut and will impact existing staff and service levels as this will result in the delay of 34 sworn officer hires.

Scenario 2: \$321,719,316 includes items listed in scenario 1, and, reversing the 1% city-staff imposed budget reduction. This scenario will ensure that the VPD can continue with its existing service and staffing level (i.e. base funding to "keep the lights on") but does not include the implementation of Year 4 (of 5) of the Operational Review recommendation to hire an additional 20 police officers and 10 civilian professionals, or additional funding for Community Policing Centres (CPCs) or other items listed below in scenario 3. VPD Management recommends this scenario as the 2021 Operating Budget.

Scenario 3: \$326,586,354 is scenario 2 plus all VPD priority initiatives for funding increases based on prioritized ranking by VPD Management:

- (1) reverse 1% city-staff imposed budget reduction
- (2) Year 4 of the Operational Review,
- (3) funding for eleven CPCs,
- (4) Impending Provincial Digital Evidence Management system implementation,
- (5) additional resources for social issues,
- (6) increase for mandatory training, and
- (7) contractual increases for jail nursing services.

Excluded from each of the three scenarios are budget adjustments for the 2021 benefit rate increases and expired collective agreements as these are reviewed with City staff and adjusted as a mid-year budget transfer, if and when the amounts are determined.

For further details of the three scenarios, please refer to Appendices 1 to 3.

POLICY:

The Vancouver Police Board (Board) must prepare and submit a budget to provide policing and law enforcement in the municipality. The Vancouver Police Board Finance Committee is to assist in fulfilling the Board's oversight responsibilities.

Section 27 of the Police Act states that:

- (1) On or before November 30 in each year, a municipal police board must prepare and submit to the council for its approval a provisional budget for the following year to provide policing and law enforcement in the municipality.
- (2) Any changes to the provisional budget under subsection (1) must be submitted to council on or before March 1 of the year to which the provisional budget relates.
- (3) If a council does not approve an item in the budget, the director, on application by the council or the municipal board, must
 - (a) Determine whether the item or amount should be included in the budget, and
 - (b) Report the director's findings to the municipal police board, the council and the minister.
- (4) Subject to subsection (3), a council must include in its budget the costs in the provisional budget prepared by the municipal police board.

DISCUSSION:

The VPD is a core and essential service and with an expanding scope and increasing complexity, the VPD will continue to face escalating public safety challenges.

Having to meet additional demands has led to a decline in police service, including: slower response times to emergency calls, reduced service levels to citizens and businesses, limited ability to respond to non-emergency calls, greater risk of unsolved crimes and cases being lost in court, and increased rates of officer burnout. Throughout the course of the 2020 year, added public safety challenges included pipeline protests, anti-Asian hate crime incidents, increase in violent crime and weapons seizures, gang conflict, COVID-19 pandemic, encampments, and growing increase in disorder and crime, especially in the north- half of the City (Downtown core, Granville Street, Davie Village, the West End, Strathcona, Chinatown and Yaletown).

To address the public safety challenges, in 2016, the VPD launched a comprehensive 1.5-year long Operational Review that was led by independent criminologists. The staffing needs identified in the Operational Review for an additional 120 sworn officers and 52 civilian professionals were recommended to be implemented over four years (2018-2021). However, recognizing the associated financial impacts, the VPD agreed to a five-year implementation plan, which City Council approved in 2017.

The VPD's operating budget is funded through city property tax revenues. In July 2019, City Council approved a motion to limit the annual tax increase not to exceed more than 5% in any given year. Depending on the tax increase, it will affect the available funding city-wide, impeding on the necessary funding items for the VPD. City staff developed various tax scenarios with a 5%, 4.3% and 3% property tax increase that was presented to Council on November 4 for consideration. At the 5% scenario, the VPD's budget is impacted with a reduction of 1% for vacancy savings, which will result in the VPD having to delay the hire of 34 police officers for attrition and will hinder existing staff and service levels. Any further reduction of the property tax rate will result in fewer police officers, to which the VPD and the Board do not support. Council will make their final deliberation and approval on December 8, 2020.

2021 Operating Budget (Appendices 1 to 3)

In consideration of City's overall financial pressures, the VPD is presenting three budget scenarios to the Board for consideration, recommendation and submission to City Council.

Scenario 1: Current budget supported by City Staff \$318,575,648

In order to maintain the overall tax increase at 5%, City staff have supported a 2021 operating budget for VPD totalling \$318,575,648, which is a net increase of \$2,962,445 or 0.9% from the restated 2020 budget. While cognizant of the city's overall financial pressures, scenario 1 would hinder existing staff and service levels if the 1% vacancy reduction were not reversed. This would result in officer burnout and longer response times, and would also result in the delay of hiring approximately 34 police offices to the following year (2022). This is contrary to the Board's directive to hire additional staff members as recommended by the Operational Review.

The associated budget increases and reductions for this scenario are as follows:

Budget Increases– total \$6,106,113

- \$2,545,789 for sworn and civilian salaries and benefits pursuant to collective agreements,

- \$2,202,472 for 2020 Operational Review hires for their full year salaries, benefits, and related ongoing costs for the third year implementation of the 5-year Operational Review. In 2020, funding was partially provided based on when the new employees were hired in the year. As a result, the 2020 budget does not include a full year's salary and this 2021 increase is to top up that partial funding to reflect a full year's salaries,
- \$489,549 for fleet and fuel,
- \$761,335 for City Allocations, which are costs from other City departments that manage certain expenses on behalf of the VPD, such as buildings maintenance, radio maintenance, as well as the E-Comm 911 (for radio and dispatch) and Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) levies that are charged to the VPD. The VPD receives a budget allocation and the annual charges equal the budgeted amounts, so there should not be any budget risk for these items. Including these items in the VPD budget presents a more complete cost of policing,
- \$106,967 for rent, insurance, utilities and other expenditures.

Budget Reductions – total (\$3,143,668)

- Included is an imposed reduction of 1% of the VPD's net 2020 budget for vacancy savings. This citywide imposed budget reduction was directed by Council as a budget saving strategy to partially manage the City's budget deficit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This reduction was not approved or supported by VPD Management and the Board. As policing services did not stop and were not reduced during the pandemic, vacancy savings were not realized. This is a true budget cut on existing VPD service levels.

Scenario 2: Reverse 1% imposed reduction \$321,719,316

Scenario 2 represents a total of \$321,719,316, which is an increase of \$6,106,113 or a 1.9% from the restated 2020 budget. This would provide funding for fixed costs such as compensation for existing staff members, as outlined in scenario 1, as well as reverse the 1% city-staff imposed vacancy reduction. It does not include funding for new hires as recommended from Year 4 of the Operational Review or additional funding for the CPCs, or other initiatives listed in Scenario 3 below.

This scenario will allow the VPD to continue operations at status quo staffing levels (i.e.: "keep the lights on") and is VPD Management's recommendation to support this scenario, at a minimum, for the 2021 Operating Budget. Cognisant of the citywide financial pressures, while this scenario does not include any additional new hires, it does ensure that there is no service or staffing impact to the VPD's current operations. .

Scenario 3: Request for all VPD initiatives \$326,586,354

As part of the budgeting process, the VPD submitted various 2021 funding initiatives for Council approval. If the VPD could receive approval for items submitted in scenario 1, as well as all other funding initiatives submitted, the VPD's 2021 operating budget would be \$326,586,354, which is a net increase of \$10,973,151 or a 3.5% increase from the VPD's restated 2020 budget. In addition to the items outlined in scenario 1, the following are the remaining funding initiatives submitted to Council and ranked in priority by VPD Management:

1. Reverse 1% city-staff imposed budget reduction – increase \$3,143,668
This vacancy savings reduction was not approved or supported by VPD Management and the Board.

2. Year 4 Operational Review new hires – increase \$1,978,297
For 2021, per the recommendations of the Operational Review, an additional 20 sworn officers and 10 civilian members and related resources were scheduled to be hired.
3. Community Policing Centres (CPC) – increase \$350,000
There are 11 CPC's in Vancouver and nine of the 11 CPC's are operated, staffed, and governed by members of the community. Each year, CPC staff and volunteers are in contact with tens of thousands of citizens and work with some of the most vulnerable people. The CPCs require additional funding to provide various initiatives for crime prevention and addressing neighbourhood crime issues that are currently being impacted because of increased costs related to items such as a living wage rate to its employees and increases to rent. These examples are essentially eroding their ability to assist with community issues. The request is for \$350,000 that has been submitted for funding through the *Increase Focus on Equity and Critical Social Issues*, Council Priority, of which, \$200,000 of the request is ranked as first priority and is supported by city staff, such that if Council approves the funding related to this council priority, it may be funded. The remaining \$150,000 is ranked as second priority.
4. Provincial Digital Evidence Management (DEM) – estimate \$740,000
The British Columbia Public Safety and Justice System has developed a province-wide comprehensive and integrated digital evidence management and disclosure system that will enable evidence collection and management by police, disclosure and prosecution services, which is scheduled to be fully implemented in 2021.
5. Additional resources for social issues – increase of \$600,000
Since 2017, there has been an increase in demand for policing as result of social issues in areas such as the downtown eastside (DTES), and expanding into the North-half of Vancouver including Yaletown, Granville Street, and Strathcona Park.
6. Evolving Mandatory Training Standards – increase of \$750,000
Over the past 10 years, the mandatory training budget has not changed, considering policing has become more complex and members require relevant training to meet legislated new standards, emerging best practices, recommendations from Commissions of Inquiry, lessons learned from partnering agencies, new investigative techniques and technological advances, to name a few.
7. Jail Nursing Services – increase of \$448,741
The VPD manages the Vancouver Jail and all detainees upon entry require medical assessment, treatment, and assistance and are monitored until their release. The Board approved a new 3-year contract, effective September 1, 2020.

Excluded from each of the three scenarios are potential increases for expired collective agreements and 2021 benefit rate increases. The 2021 benefits budget is calculated using an estimated 2021 rate. At the time of this report, the City has funded a portion of benefits related to the increase number of staff and further discussion is required with City that when the 2021 benefit rates are released and if that results in an overall increase, the VPD will receive a mid-year budget adjustment in 2021. This practice is consistent with previous years. Likewise, all various collective agreements at the VPD expired on December 31, 2019 and if the collective agreements are settled, the associated dollar increase will be addressed with City staff in 2021.

VPD Specific Reserve

The City has a reserve policy that outlines the conditions required for creating and using funding from reserves. In 2013, the City created a VPD-specific reserve. Subject to the Police Board's and City's approval, the VPD can draw upon this reserve if the costs of policing an unforeseen major incident or large-scale event would cause the VPD to go into deficit for the year. This means that although the 2021 budget does not include a provision for these types of events, such as sporting event playoffs, or large protests, the risk is mitigated up to the total reserve amount, which is \$1,987,068.

In addition to major incidents or events, a portion of this VPD-specific reserve is also intended for up to \$253,000 of the costs to police the Granville Entertainment District. The City has committed that should the VPD be in an overall year-end deficit position, the deficit will be offset by up to \$253,000 from the VPD's reserve mentioned above.

Other Items

Although, the 2021 budget has increased, similarly to the past few years, there has been a minimal general inflation provision included for some expenditure budgets.

Additionally, as with prior years, the City does not allocate directly to the VPD's budget, City's share of the Provincial traffic fine revenues under the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing program, which is a Provincial program to assist municipalities in ensuring community safety and addressing community specific strategic priorities. Revenues are generated from issuing various traffic violation and red light camera tickets.

The nature of policing is largely reactive. Situations can occur in the community that may negatively affect budgeted line items. Items such as the Criminal Investigation Fund (CIF), an allocation specifically for crime investigations and the related overtime, as well as addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and increase in street disorder related calls from the public.

Management will continue to prioritise available funding to maximize efficiencies and work with our partners at the City and other partnering agencies to address unforeseen or emerging items.

2022-2026 Outlook

As the nature of policing is highly reactive, and continues to expand, the VPD will continue to be cognisant of the emerging challenges and increasing complexity in the community and policing.

There are many factors that can change the policing climate such as, technological advances, changes in investigative standards and to the criminal code, decisions by other levels of government and Commissions of Inquiry, as well as the potential review of policing in British Columbia can affect how the VPD uses its resources and how it adapts to change. While the VPD must be flexible to the potential changes in policing, VPD staff must continue to address hate crimes, cybercrime, new illicit drugs, social issues such as the downtown eastside and encampments, the web of international organized crime and gang activities continue to necessitate additional resources, and increasing deployments for large events, protests, and demonstrations.

Subject to approved funding in 2021, by the end of 2023, the VPD is striving towards an increased workforce of an additional 120 police officers and 52 civilian members as a result of

the recommendations from the 2017 Operational Review, which will assist with overall employee wellness, as members experience high physical and mental demands. The VPD will continue to expand upon its employee wellness initiatives through its Employee Wellness Unit and Committee.

Surrey City Council is currently in the process to establish a Surrey municipal police department. Effective policing in the region is highly dependent on collaboration and cooperation across municipal jurisdictions and police departments. While the creation of another large urban municipal department in the Lower Mainland has significant implications for the entire region, it may also present opportunities for additional collaboration to further the public safety interests of Vancouver residents.

The below table provides the projected annual budget increase for the next 5 years based on each scenario. The VPD's budget is averaging a projected increase of approximately 3.0% from 2022-2026 to account for estimated salary and benefit cost increases related to the Operational Review, attrition, and potential future collective agreement wage increases.

Total Net Budget (in millions)

Scenario	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1		\$318.6	\$330.3	\$342.6	\$352.3	\$360.6	\$370.7
2		\$321.4	\$333.2	\$345.5	\$355.2	\$363.6	\$373.7
3	<u>\$315.6</u>	\$326.6	\$338.4	\$350.7	\$360.4	\$368.8	\$379.0

% increase

Scenario	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1		0.9%	3.7%	3.7%	2.8%	2.4%	2.8%
2		1.9%	3.7%	3.7%	2.8%	2.4%	2.8%
3		3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	2.8%	2.3%	2.8%

CONCLUSION:

The VPD's 2021 operating budget ranges from \$318,575,648 to \$326,586,354, subject to approval by the Board and City Council. VPD Management's recommendation is to support an Operating Budget of at least \$321,719,316 (scenario 2) to ensure that existing staff and service levels are not impacted. Management is constantly reviewing priorities to meet service demands, and will take necessary actions to work within the budget allotment.

Author: Melissa Lee Telephone: [REDACTED] Date: Nov. 12, 2020

Submitting Executive Member: Nancy Eng

(signature)

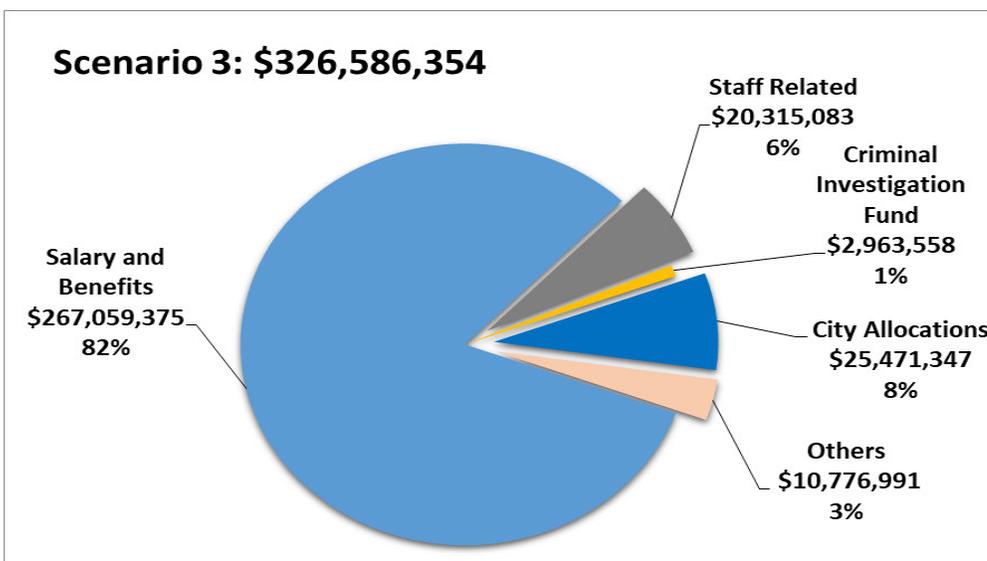
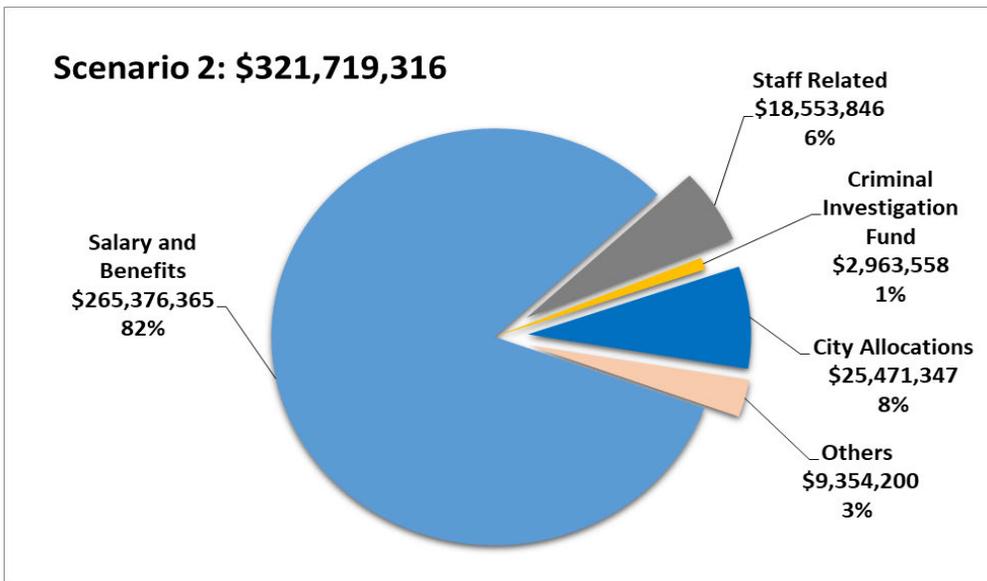
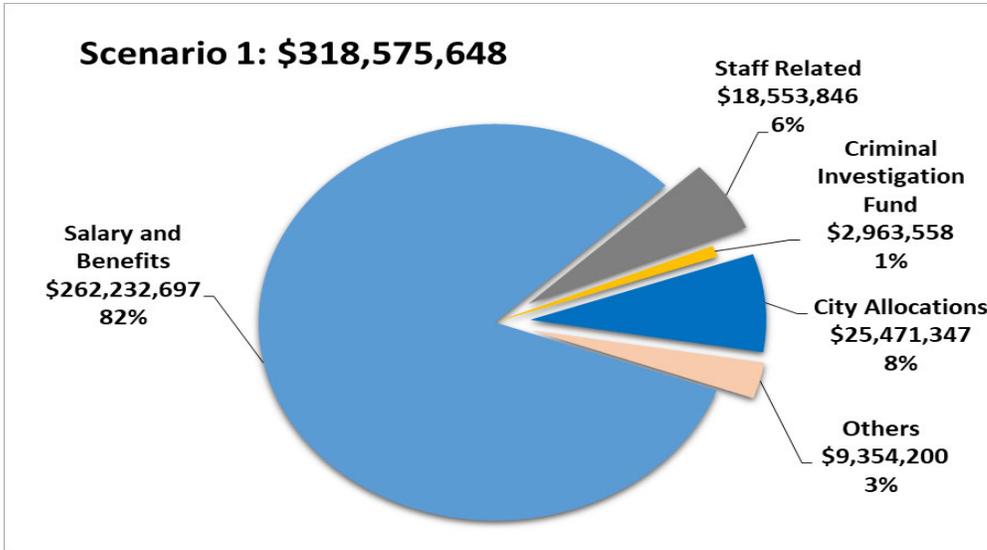
Date: November 12, 2020

**Vancouver Police Department
2021 Budget Summary
in millions (\$'000s)**

	\$ Change	\$ Cumulative Change	2021 Budget	% Change	% Property Tax Increase
2020 Restated Budget, estimate			<u>\$315.61</u>		
Items supported by City staff					
Sworn and Civilian salaries, and benefits	\$2.55				
Year 3 - Operational Review annualized salaries & other costs	\$2.20				
Fleet & Fuel, insurance, rent, cost allocations	\$1.36				
1% Vacancy savings - city wide imposed reduction	(\$3.14)				
Scenario 1: VPD's current 2021 budget supported by City staff	<u>\$2.96</u>	<u>\$2.96</u>	<u>\$318.58</u>	0.9%	0.35%
Reverse Imposed reduction					
1) Reverse City imposed reduction	\$3.14				
Scenario 2: 2021 minimum budget required for day to day operations	<u>\$3.14</u>	<u>\$6.11</u>	<u>\$321.72</u>	1.9%	0.72%
Other Initiatives - prioritized ranking by VPD Management:					
2) Year 4 Operational Review new hires	\$1.98	\$8.08	\$323.70	0.6%	
3) Community Policing Centres	\$0.35	\$8.43	\$324.05	0.1%	
4) Provincial Digital Evidence Management	\$0.74	\$10.52	\$326.14	0.2%	
5) Additional resources for social issues	\$0.60	\$9.03	\$324.65	0.2%	
6) Evolving Mandatory Training Standards	\$0.75	\$9.78	\$325.40	0.2%	
7) Jail Nursing Services - contractual increase	\$0.45	\$10.97	\$326.59	0.1%	
Total Other Initiatives	<u>\$4.87</u>	<u>\$10.97</u>	<u>\$326.59</u>		
Scenario 3: 2021 Operating Budget, inclusive of all initiatives		<u>\$10.97</u>	<u>\$326.59</u>	3.5%	1.29%

**Vancouver Police Department
2021 Operating Budget**

	2021 Budget			2020 Budget	\$ Change		
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
RECOVERIES							
Program Fees	\$ (2,081,000)	\$ (2,081,000)	\$ (2,081,000)	\$ (2,081,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Parking	(155,300)	(155,300)	(155,300)	(155,300)			0
Cost Recoveries, Grants & Donation	(22,078,594)	(22,078,594)	(22,078,594)	(22,544,733)	466,139	466,139	466,139
Other Recoveries	(207,100)	(207,100)	(207,100)	(207,100)			0
TOTAL RECOVERIES	\$ (24,521,994)	\$ (24,521,994)	\$ (24,521,994)	\$ (24,988,133)	\$ 466,139	\$ 466,139	\$ 466,139
EXPENDITURES							
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 283,535,891	\$ 286,679,559	\$ 288,362,569	\$ 282,689,137	\$ 846,754	\$ 3,990,422	\$ 5,673,432
Building Occupancy & Maintenance	2,500,853	2,500,853	2,695,053	2,526,494	(25,641)	(25,641)	168,559
Professional Fees	3,622,431	3,622,431	4,154,522	3,622,431			532,091
Equipment & Fleet	15,748,663	15,748,663	16,716,000	15,152,186	596,477	596,477	1,563,814
Other Expenses	8,973,494	8,973,494	10,136,094	8,770,409	203,085	203,085	1,365,685
Supplies & Materials	3,566,044	3,566,044	3,574,944	3,451,747	114,297	114,297	123,197
City Allocations	25,471,347	25,471,347	25,471,347	24,710,012	761,335	761,335	761,335
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 343,418,723	\$ 346,562,391	\$ 351,110,529	\$ 340,922,417	\$ 2,496,306	\$ 5,639,974	\$ 10,188,112
TRANSFERS							
Transfers to Reserves	\$ 126,910	\$ 126,910	\$ 126,910	\$ 126,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers from Reserves	(447,990)	(447,990)	(129,090)	(447,990)			318,900
TOTAL TRANSFERS	\$ (321,080)	\$ (321,080)	\$ (2,180)	\$ (321,080)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318,900
TOTAL BUDGET, net	\$ 318,575,648	\$ 321,719,316	\$ 326,586,354	\$ 315,613,203	\$ 2,962,445	\$ 6,106,113	\$ 10,973,151



Staff related costs include:

- Fleet
- Equipment
- Uniform, Drycleaning, Firearm/Ammunition
- Travel and training

Other costs include:

- Community Police Centres
- Jail Nursing Services
- Facility Rents
- Contracts, Consultant
- Computer, various miscellaneous & supplies
- All other budget line items

City Allocations include:

- Building cost allocation
- IT support allocation
- 311 Cost allocation
- ECOMM allocation
- Radio maintenance



Distribution List

Vancouver Police Department Budget Letter of Support from Tourism Vancouver

Vancouver Police Board

Chief Constable, Adam Palmer	adam.palmer@vpd.ca
Executive Director, Stephanie Johanssen	stephanie.johanssen@vancouverpoliceboard.ca

Mayor and Council

Mayor Kennedy Stewart	kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Councillor Rebecca Bligh	CLRbligh@vancouver.ca
Councillor Christine Boyle	CLRboyle@vancouver.ca
Councillor Adriane Carr	CLRcarr@vancouver.ca
Councillor Melissa De Genova	CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca
Councillor Lisa Dominato	CLRdominato@vancouver.ca
Councillor Pete Fry	CLRfry@vancouver.ca
Councillor Colleen Hardwick	CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung	CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca
Councillor Jean Swanson	CLRswanson@vancouver.ca
Councillor Michael Wiebe	CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca
City Manager, Sadhu Johnston	sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Deputy Manager, Paul Mochrie	paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



November 18, 2020

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council:

I am writing to you on behalf of Tourism Vancouver, our city's dedicated destination marketing organization (DMO) and business association representing over 800 members in tourism, hospitality, and related industries. Our DMO purpose is to promote a vibrant, welcoming, and safe city locally, nationally, and internationally to visitors of all kinds. A positive reputation for Vancouver is critical if we are to build back better.

Tourism Vancouver and its Board of Directors understand and are empathetic to the fact that Vancouver's most vulnerable populations face serious and complex issues, including but not limited to homelessness, addictions, mental health impacts and the challenges inherent in historic structures of systemic racism. The added burden of the perils of COVID-19 makes the job of supporting disadvantaged populations that much more difficult.

However, we have heard from many of our members regarding the increase in break and enters, assaults, vagrancy, intimidation, and a general feeling of a lack of safety. This is of serious and escalating concern for our members.

What is at stake: for 2019, the Metro Vancouver visitor economy was estimated at \$14.4 billion through leisure tourism, business conferences and live events, accommodations, retail, attractions, and transportation as significant contributors. The serious issues mentioned with the addition of COVID-19 compounds the negative impact on our tourism businesses and staff to provide the services and experiences to our visitors further damaging Vancouver's battered visitor economy.

We have a lot of collective work to do to rebuild the social and economic vibrancy of Vancouver because of the devastating impact from Covid-19. The Vancouver Police Department is a critical partner in those efforts and the preservation of a positive city reputation.

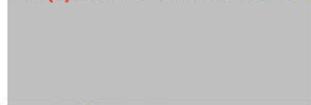
We are concerned and do not support the consideration of reductions to the Vancouver Police Department budget and personnel before and until other shared considerations are found.

On behalf of Tourism Vancouver and our members we would encourage the City of Vancouver to work towards a solution that enables a stable and sustainable budget for the VPD, while exploring the possibility of delivering some aspects of community safety in ways that make all populations – including marginalized groups – feel supported through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and beyond.

Tourism Vancouver values a positive relationship with the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department; we welcome any opportunity to discuss these concerns in greater detail.

Your partner for a safe and welcoming city,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Royce Chwin
President and CEO

華埠基金
VANCOUVER
CHINATOWN
FOUNDATION

November 27, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, I am writing to convey our support of the work of the Vancouver Police Department and their proposed budget for 2021. The Chinatown Foundation was established in 2011 and over the past decade, we have sadly witnessed the steady decline of our neighbourhood. COVID-19 has accelerated that decline, as Chinatown and the surrounding neighbourhoods have been especially hard hit. There has been a tremendous rise in anti-Asian hate crime and a marked increase in commercial break-ins and property crime including graffiti. The people who live, work and visit the neighbourhood no longer feel safe, even though this is one of the City's primary responsibilities to its citizens.

These are difficult times for the City as we understand the challenge of trying to provide more services with fewer resources. However, we implore you that the Vancouver Police Department is not a budget item that you should consider cutting.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Carol Lee
Chair
Vancouver Chinatown Foundation

Cc: Sadhu Johnston, Vancouver City Manager
Adam Palmer, Chief Vancouver Police Department



**BUILDING
OWNERS AND
MANAGERS
ASSOCIATION**
British Columbia

Suite 556
409 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC
V6C 1T2

TELEPHONE
(604) 684-3916
FASCIMILE
(604) 684-4876
WEBSITE
www.boma.bc.ca

November 27th 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver

By email to: mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

Dear Sir or Madame,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia (BOMA BC), I am writing to convey our concerns with regard to public safety issues and street disorder in Vancouver.

With discussions currently underway on a reduction to the Vancouver Police Department 2021 budget, it is important to note our members feel the City needs to provide more supports to address the mental health and social service issues we believe have been the cause of some recent street disturbances.

There are concerns for the safety of workers in our industry and of equipment in our downtown core, such as vehicle fleet damage. We request any decisions you make reflect the potential for a worsening situation.

In joining with other business associations, we ask you provide resources to address the root causes, and provide supports so citizens continue to feel safe downtown.

If you would like any more information please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Damian Stathonikos
President
Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia (BOMA BC)

cc: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager – City of Vancouver
Adam Palmer, Chief – Vancouver Police Department
Stephanie Johanssen, Executive Director – Vancouver Police Board



Pakistan-Canada Association

P.O. Box 47002, Unit 19-555 West 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., V5Z-4L6

Web: www.pakcan.com E-mail: info@pakcan.com

November 24, 2020

Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver City Council
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Sent Via Email : Mayor: Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca
VPD CC: adam.palmer@vpd.ca
City Manager: Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca
Executive Director VPB: Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca

Dear Mayor Stewart and Vancouver City Councilors

Re: Hate Crimes and the Vancouver Police Funding

Our organization was founded in 1963 and it is the most recognized organization representing people of Pakistani descent in Canada. Along with the Jamia Masjid, located at 655 W. 8th Avenue, Vancouver, we are an integral part of the community.

Vancouver Police Department has always been responsive and available to us in our times of need when members of our community suffered from serious hate crimes in Vancouver and across Canada. Few years ago, we were delighted to host the Vancouver Police Board and the VPD executive for one of their monthly meetings at the Jamia Masjid. Many members of our community participated in that meeting and gained even more confidence and trust in the Vancouver Police.

Since Covid-19 hit in March the hate crimes in the City have gone up dramatically. Our community is concerned whether the City has sufficient police resources to properly investigate all the hate related incidents. The people of Jewish and Muslim communities have often been the victims of hate. And now the Chinese Canadians seem to be the primary target. While the Police is doing its best to keep everyone safe, we would like to see more police present and visible in neighborhoods as a deterrent against those who maybe contemplating committing violence

against people from visible minorities. Prevention is better than having to care for victims of crime and bringing criminals to account.

Our organization does not want the City Council to cut any funding from the Vancouver Police Department. In this troubling time the people in our city need to be assured that they are going to be kept safe.

It is important for the Council to spend taxpayer's money with utmost care and efficiency. Policing is challenging work. The calls for police service will continue to grow as the population continues to grow. We should be planning and funding for the present and future needs for public safety.

We have immense respect for the officers and civilians in the Vancouver Police Department. Day in day out they risk their lives for everyone else's safety. They need our support. City council has competing priorities. But public safety should remain the top priority and the Vancouver Police Department should be given funding to hire enough people to keep our City safe.

Respectfully

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Saif M.Pannu

President

From: [CBIA - Angela](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Vancouver BIA Partnership letter to support the funding for the VPD in the City's 2021 Budget
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 3:28:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Vancouver BIA Partnership letter to support the VPD funding in the 2021 City Budget.pdf](#)

To Mayor Kennedy and Councillors,

Enclosed is a letter on behalf of the Vancouver BIA Partnership, to support the continued level or more in funding for the Vancouver Police Department. As the Chair of the Safety Committee we value our relationships with our NPOs, CPCs and officers working in our BIA areas. Many of the BIAs partner with their local CPCs and NPOs and work closely with the 22,000+ businesses we represent. Public and street safety are high priorities for the BIAs and at least a quarter of our budgets are allocated to safety and security. During Covid many of the downtown core BIAs exceeded their safety and security budgets to patrol and monitor the many empty businesses. A major concern is sanitation and the increasing number of needles and graffiti in our BIAs and long with encampments.

We appreciate all the dedicated work the VPD provides to the businesses and residents of Vancouver and believe a decrease in funding will be detrimental to our businesses and communities as a whole.

Kindest Regards,

Angela Evans
Executive Director



#300 – 3665 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC, V5R 5W2
T: 604.639.4403 **E:** angela@shopcollingwood.ca
shopcollingwood.ca



Business
Improvement
Association

November 23, 2020

To Mayor Kennedy and Council,

The Collingwood BIA would like to express the importance of community safety in our organization and we couldn't do it without the Vancouver Police Department, our NPOs, and our local Community Policing Centre. They have been instrumental in educating and keeping the neighbourhood and businesses safe. Our BIA has the Collingwood Guardians who have been trained by CPC/VPD staff and are eyes and ears on the street, reporting when necessary.

The Collingwood BIA supports continued funding to the Vancouver Police Department at the equivalent or higher to continue the valued services in our City especially during this pandemic. We have seen the importance to keep our City calm and orderly as Covid fatigue increases.

As the Safety Committee Chair for the Vancouver BIA Partnership, I am so grateful the all the work the VPD has provided to our members. The appointment of a VPD Liaison at the Partnership's request at the beginning of the pandemic has been beneficial to all parties.

Thank you and if you have any questions, I can be reached at angela@shopcollingwood.ca or 604.639.4403.

Sincerely,

Angela Evans
Executive Director

#300 – 3665 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5R 2W5 T: 604.639.4403
E: info@shopcollingwood.ca



MUSQUEAM INDIAN BAND

6735 SALISH DRIVE
VANCOUVER, B.C.
CANADA V6N 4C4
TELEPHONE: 604 263-3261
FAX: 604 263-4212

November 27, 2020

Statement from Chief Wayne Sparrow regarding Musqueam's relationship with the Vancouver Police Department

On behalf of the Musqueam Indian Band Council, I would like to express my gratitude to the Vancouver Police Department for the strength of our longstanding working relationship. Through our comprehensive service agreement with the City of Vancouver, the VPD liaises directly with administration and Musqueam Security to ensure an adequate level of respectful, fair, impartial and culturally-sensitive service is delivered to residents of Musqueam Reserve. Not only does the VPD provide our community with enhanced safety, they also partner with us to continually build relationships with residents. For example, the VPD Musqueam Liaison Officer will attend community events, and hosts an annual summer basketball camp for youth to learn teambuilding and sports skills while building positive relationships with local police officers. Musqueam thanks the VPD for their continued dedication to serving our community, particularly during this unprecedented global pandemic.

Respectively,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Chief Wayne Sparrow
Musqueam Indian Band

cc. adam.palmer@vpd.ca
Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca
kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca
CLRboyle@vancouver.ca
CLRcarr@vancouver.ca
CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca
CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca
CLRfry@vancouver.ca
CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca
CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca
sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

November 16, 2020

The Vancouver Police Board
Vancouver City Council

2021 Police Budget Proposal

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) to express our concerns about possible police budget restrictions and the impact that these restrictions could have on community safety in downtown Vancouver.

Community safety for our members is regularly brought up as being a primary area of concern in the downtown core. Our members regularly face issues such as blatant theft, aggression, vandalism, threats, and the overall sense of feeling unsafe. Police presence and visibility, as well as community police programming, are crucial in helping to curb these issues and provide an overall sense of safety to not only DVBIA members, but to everyone who lives, works, and visits here.

The DVBIA is extremely concerned that if the VPD is not adequately resourced, there will be a negative impact on the already prevalent issues that are occurring in Vancouver. The DVBIA works closely with the VPD to ensure that areas of concern voiced by our members are being addressed. This valued partnership has resulted in proactive programs such as the Boost and Bust, which targets active shoplifters, and online Safety Seminars that provide information in areas of personal safety and safety strategies for businesses.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns in more detail, as well as ways in which the DVBIA can continue their proactive relationship with the VPD on all matters related to community safety in downtown Vancouver.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Charles Gauthier, MCP
President & CEO

CHAIR:

Luca Citton
Boughton Law Corporation

VICE CHAIR:

Melissa Higgs
HCMA Architecture + Design

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Vera Liu
Kingsett Capital

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR:

Gary Pooni
Pooni Group

DIRECTORS:

Graham Blank
Tom Lee Music

Kim Ficocelli
Cadillac Fairview

Gwen Hardy
Elettra Communications

Rob Kavanagh
GWL Realty Advisors

Julie Lacasse
QuadReal Property Group

Kari Lockhart
Deloitte

Christopher Lythgo
Business Development Bank of
Canada

Dani Pretto
Vanterre Projects Corporation

David Roche
Bentall GreenOak

Nate Sabine
Blueprint

Chuck We
Hudson Pacific Properties

PRESIDENT AND CEO:

Charles Gauthier
Downtown Vancouver BIA

November 19, 2020

TO:

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Bligh
Councillor Boyle
Councillor Carr
Councillor De Genova
Councillor Dominato
Councillor Fry
Councillor Hardwick
Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Swanson
Councillor Wiebe

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Paul Mochrie, Deputy Manager, City of Vancouver

Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board

Hello all;

I am writing today as a small business and property owner in the city of Vancouver to express my grave concerns about the potential police budget restrictions and the impact those restrictions could have on community safety throughout our city.

Over the past 20+ years in business I have had offices in Yaletown, Gastown, and today in the Hastings and Victoria area of the city; and my family has a home in the Coal Harbour neighbourhood.

My company specializes in communication support for events in British Columbia as well across Canada; and as such we often work closely with law enforcement in communities large and small. I can tell you from first-hand experience the challenges faced by law enforcement and I can attest to the dedication to the people of our city as well as visitors

from around the world displayed by the VPD officer's I have dealt with during the past two decades.

But what has become abundantly clear that our city is experiencing worsening vandalism, aggression, threats and theft. In my opinion, the growing proliferation of these issues throughout our city means the challenging job of policing is made even harder. Therefore, I strongly urge the Vancouver Police Board as well as Mayor and Council to ensure adequate policing resources by maintaining current funding levels to VPD.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Laura Ballance
President, LBMG

laura@lbg.ca

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

604-637-6646 (direct)



November 17, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the 22 members of the Vancouver BIA Partnership we greatly appreciate the continued dedication and commitment of the Vancouver Police Department in keeping our city, and in particular our commercial areas, safe during this unprecedented time.

The Vancouver BIA Partnership Safety & Security Committee felt the need to increase its meeting frequency to weekly once commercial zones experienced mass business closures and fewer eyes on the street in March. The mandate of this Committee is to discuss safety and security issues on the high streets of Vancouver. A VPD officer was allocated to this Committee during the first wave of Covid 19 in the spring of 2020, and this was of paramount importance so that we had a direct line between the BIAs and the VPD, with all information concentrated to avoid duplication, and excess reporting.

As of September 2020, this VPD position is permanent and meets with us biweekly to ensure that we are all on the same page regarding issues that are affecting our businesses. These issues have included identifying problem individuals who have eluded the VPD in the past as they roamed between various locations, and our reports did not connect. It has been of great value to coordinate these types of reports with one officer, and to have the VPD be able to take action.

As businesses closed their doors in the spring, issues of vandalism and property crime increased. Many of the BIAs had to find resources to hire private security to protect their businesses. The Committee was a crucial reporting hub for these crimes. The VPD provided resources and knowledge on how to communicate safety protocols and recommendations to our merchants.

We realize that the Mayor and Council have a challenging task ahead in making some decisions regarding the VPD budget.

When reviewing the Vancouver Police Department's budget, we would like to emphasize the importance of keeping this position in the budget, so that we can consolidate our information and thus reduce the waste of resources if we were to report singularly to various officers. Keeping this position, which attends our now bi-weekly meetings would actually save money in the long-run.

Furthermore, with the wide increase in violent crime and aggressive street behaviour, we feel that the VPD now more than ever needs an increase and not a decrease in resources. We are a growing City and we cannot fathom how our VPD can do its job if resources, which are already scarce, can actually continue to give us the safety we require both for our merchants and our customers, which are the voting residents of Vancouver.

The work that the VPD does has a profound impact on our economy at large, and we thank you for them for the commitment and determination they show our districts. When making your funding decisions, please consider the importance of prevention and safety to avoid the costlier price of crime.

Thank you,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Angela Evans, Safety Committee Chair

On behalf of the Vancouver BIA Partnership

**Vancouver Police Board
Vancouver, BC, Canada**

November 20, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,



My name is Douglas Okero and I am the Senior Manager, Stakeholder Relations for RUNVAN, DBA Vancouver International Marathon Society. We are a local non-profit organization that hosts a variety of running events each year in the Lower Mainland.

Safety is the Society's number one priority in all the events RUNVAN hosts, namely **First Half, BMO Vancouver Marathon, Granville Island Turkey Trot** and **Great Trek**. For the last 7 years we have worked closely with the West End Coal Harbour and Collingwood Community Policing Centres on event days to manage on course safety for both runners and general public. Prior to event day and after, community centres provide vital safety and community engagement which makes City of Vancouver a thriving safe city to live, work and play.

The Society is grateful for the safety leadership Aleya Trott, Executive Director of West End Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre and Partap Sahota, Executive Director, Collingwood Community Policing Centre champion in Vancouver. Policing Centres staffed with amazing teams of community volunteers provide City of Vancouver neighbourhoods great public safety programs for residents and tourists to enjoy peace in their places of work, business, leisure and residences. Without such centres and programs, crime prevention and community engagement will be negatively impacted and as a result making our neighbourhoods less safe.

RUNVAN looks forward to continuing to work with the West End Coal Harbour, Collingwood and other Community Policing Centres as they have proven to be great community safety partners before, during and after any major event in Vancouver. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know by contacting me at douglas@runvan.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

S.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Douglas Okero
Senior Manager, Stakeholder Relations
Vancouver International Marathon Society
604 872 2928 / douglas@runvan.org

VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
MARATHON
SOCIETY

1288 Vernon Drive
Vancouver BC
Canada V6A 4C9

+1 604 872 2928
runvan.org



Bernard Pinsky Q.C.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

November 20, 2020

Vancouver Police Board

Attention: Stephanie Johanssen Stephanie.johanssen@vancouverpoliceboard.ca;

CC: Mayor Kennedy Stewart kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;

Re: VPD Budget Considerations

Dear Ms. Johanssen:

My name is Bernard Pinsky and I am the chair of the Vancouver Jewish Community Security Committee, a committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. It is the committee's role to help our Jewish organizations, individuals and families prepare for and deal with physical security for events, programs, buildings and other sites, and in the past year or so, we have added cyber security and information protection to our mandate. The committee members are all volunteers but we have hired one person to assist us because the job became much too big for volunteers to handle. The physical threats to our security, targeted in hate crimes because our community is a minority, was clearly evidenced by successful attacks on other Jewish communities in North America and Europe in which many people died, as well as by less severe attacks on or threats to our Vancouver community. Added to that now are cyber criminals making attempts to steal money and data from Jewish organizations made vulnerable because of the Covid-19 imperative that employees work from home and access their work online. There is a huge amount to do and our work will never be done.

We would not be able to do anywhere near as much without the full cooperation and involvement of the VPD. They respond quickly to our calls, they train us, they participate in and help with our event planning security and building security procedures, they give us seminars, provide alerts, they deal with personal threats and incidents and anti-Jewish racist damage and graffiti, they provide seminars, some even volunteer with our committees. They foresee potential harm and help us forestall it. The VPD are the key to our community's, and all communities', ability to feel safe in Vancouver.

I ask that you provide the Vancouver Police Department with sufficient resources to do their job properly. I support the VPD without reservation.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Thank you.

cc. Adam.palmer@vpd.ca clrboyle@vancouver.ca; clrcarr@vancouver.ca; clrdegenova@vancouver.ca; clrbright@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrfry@vancouver.ca; clrhardwick@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrweibe@vancouver.ca; sadju.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca;

DAVID V PYM

November 16, 2020

City of Vancouver - Manager Sadhu Johnston sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
City of Vancouver Police Chief Adam Palmer adam.palmer@vpd.ca
City of Vancouver – Mayor Kennedy Stewart Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca

City of Vancouver
3rd Floor, City Hall
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6B 8R1

Dear City Manager, City Mayor and City Councillors,

**RE: City of Vancouver: Budget
Police Services**

It is my understanding that the City of Vancouver and its City Council is considering a budget review and that one major item under review are cuts to the Budget Allocation for Policy Services.

Please be aware that many, if not most of us who have lived in this city for many years (for me almost 80), consider this the most ridiculous proposal ever.

Policing is an essential service, perhaps more today than ever. All one has to do is to look around at the challenges faced by the Police service in keeping the City, its Citizens and Property safe with the ever increasing lawlessness, lack of regard for private property and businesses and overall deterioration in the respect toward persons and property.

One of Council's prime responsibilities is the protection of all persons and property, and public safety falls clearly under Council's responsibility. The City of Vancouver, over the past 5 to 7 years has permitted infrastructure to significantly deteriorate along with the protection of its assets.

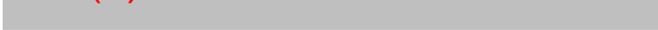
It is clear from reading that the Police Services has a comprehensive plan in place and they have a need to continue the employment of technology to improve their cost effectiveness. Let's not stand in the way of progress.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



David V. Pym

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential





November 20, 2020

Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Bligh
Councillor Boyle
Councillor Carr
Councillor De Genova
Councillor Dominato
Councillor Fry
Councillor Hardwick
Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Swanson
Councillor Wiebe

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Paul Mochrie, Deputy Manager, City of Vancouver

I am writing today on behalf of Blueprint, an independently owned and operated entertainment and hospitality business. We own several businesses in Vancouver, from liquor stores to nightclubs and live music venues to bar and festivals. Pre-COVID we employed over 600 people in the city.

We're adding our voice to the chorus of businesses and residents, especially those in the downtown core, who are deeply concerned about the impact of potential cuts to policing and the impact on our communities.

The increase in street crime is both palpable and material. In Gastown and the Granville Entertainment District especially, the increase in break-ins, weapons brandished, flagrant hard drug use, and threats of violence have never been so numerous or so alarming.

We realize that social and mental health issues of all kinds are at the heart of this problem, and that those suffering need help, attention and solutions. Defunding the police, however, is not

the answer at this time. We feel strongly that if the crime situation does not improve, we may pass the point of no return, and our downtown core will die. We're urging Council to maintain current budgets and funding for the safety of our communities and strength of our businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Nate Sabine
Director of Business Development
Blueprint



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KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY

GURDWARA SAHIB

(Established 1906)

8000 Ross Street, Vancouver BC V5X 4C5 • Tel: 604-322-5610 or 604-324-2010
Fax: 604-322-0504 • Email: kdsross@live.com



Vancouver City Council
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

November 26, 2020

Sent Via Email :Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca
adam.palmer@vpd.ca
Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca
Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca

Dear Mayor Stewart and Vancouver City Councilors

On behalf of Khalsa Diwan Society, its members and the community, I want to thank you and the Vancouver Police Department for responding to our needs over the years. Even though we could not hold the annual Vaisakhi Parade this year due to the Covid-19, your whole-hearted participation in the annual Vaisakhi Parade is deeply appreciated.

The Community Policing Centre on our historic temple location is one of a kind in North America. It serves the important function of VPD's connection with the community. Many officers and volunteers at the Community Policing Centre have been good role models for our youth. They promote public safety and help build trust in the Police Department.

We are concerned with the dramatic rise in hate crimes in the City especially since Covid-19 targeting Canadians of Chinese heritage. Many others have also been victims of hate crimes as have been members of our community. We are a diverse City. And we must have proper policing resources to maintain utmost level of public safety.

Over the past few years, the City of Vancouver has consistently asked its Police Department to serve an increasing population and to address equally increasing crime. But the City has not provided adequate funding to hire more police officers so that the Police strength can increase to meet the ever-increasing demand for calls for police service.



ੴ ਸਾਹਿਬੁ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਹਿ॥

KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY

GURDWARA SAHIB

(Established 1906)

8000 Ross Street, Vancouver BC V5X 4C5 • Tel: 604-322-5610 or 604-324-2010
Fax: 604-322-0504 • Email: kdsross@live.com



In 2020 the Vancouver Police funding was below what the Department had requested. Due to the Covid-19, the City Council removed 1 % of the Vancouver Police Departments approved budget.

While our community fully supports the efficient use of public funds especially during these challenging times, we do not support any further decline in the level of service that the Vancouver Police Department is able to provide given the rising demands that it faces.

We hope the Council will take a long-term perspective by approving higher funding to the Vancouver Police Department so that additional sworn and civilian staff may be hired in accordance with the approved Operations Plan outlining staff needing. At the very least, the City should reinstate the 1 % amount it took away from the 2020 funding and provide additional funds to support and expand the Community Policing Centres.

KhalsaDiwan Society, Vancouver established in 1906 with over 11,000 members, is proud to be a part of our safe and beautiful city. and we want to keep it that way!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Malkiat Singh Dhami

President, KhalsaDiwan Society, Vancouver.

From: [Paul Stoilen](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [Paul Mochrie](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: VPD Support
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 3:26:31 PM

All stakeholders, please excuse this group e-mail, it is for efficiency purposes.

I am writing on behalf of The Donnelly Group and Safe & Sound Entertainment, collectively we own and operate 25+ businesses in Vancouver.

While our organizations strongly believe that more needs to be done to address the mental health, addiction and homelessness crisis' in Vancouver, we do not believe reducing the current policing budget will help any citizen of Vancouver. Furthermore, we strongly believe that any budget reduction will continue to deteriorate the ability to operate hospitality businesses which rely on basic public safety principles to attract customers and staff.

In summary, we fully support maintaining the current policing budget for 2021 and urge Council to not make any cuts so we can all get back to contributing to the vibrancy and well being of the daytime and nighttime economies of Vancouver.

Sincerely,

Paul Stoilen
President
Safe & Sound Ent.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Gordon Mah](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: 2021 VPD Budget
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 8:05:19 PM

City Council,

As a downtown employee and resident, I do not support reducing the current VPD budget. I feel that it is unsafe walking to and from work every day. Downtown vagrancy has been rising and I believe that public safety is a genuine concern for everyone working/living downtown.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Gordon Mah, CPA, CMA

Controller

Granville Entertainment Group

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



roxyvan.com



legacyliquorstore.com

From: [Moray B. Keith](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police Budget Restrictions and Community Safety
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 3:41:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

TO: Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Bligh
Councillor Boyle
Councillor Carr
Councillor De Genova
Councillor Dominato
Councillor Fry
Councillor Hardwick
Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Swanson
Councillor Wiebe
Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Paul Mochrie, Deputy Manager, City of Vancouver

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing today as the President of the Dueck Auto Group. We have two Dealerships in the City of Vancouver, and are a Member of the New Car Dealers Association of BC (NCDA), which represents franchised new car and truck dealers in the City of Vancouver region. Our members employ indirectly or directly, more than 30,000 British Columbians in family supporting jobs in a wide variety of roles, from automotive technicians to IT professionals, management and sales personnel. NCDA Members are responsible for more than 19% of all retail sales in the province, generating more than \$2.9 Billion in GDP and contributing more than \$675 Million in tax revenue to all three levels of government annually. The NCDA also owns and operates the Vancouver International Auto Show.

The purpose of this letter is to express grave concerns on behalf of our membership about possible police budget restrictions and the impact they could have on community safety throughout our city.

Regardless of neighbourhood, **community safety is a top issue** being expressed by our membership. Worsening vandalism, aggression, threats and theft continue to affect our neighbourhoods and businesses directly, while also contributing to a general feeling of the city becoming less and less safe and secure.

Our members / Dealerships are extremely concerned that **if the Vancouver Police Department is not properly resourced, the already urgent criminal issues facing our city will only grow.** We recognize that the root cause of many of these issues relate to mental health,

From: [Deirdre Carter](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Policing Budget
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 2:38:28 PM

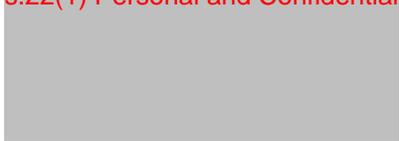
I wish to add my support to maintaining the policing budget for 2021 and urge Council not to make any cuts because I don't feel that cutting the police budget will make me safer and reduce crime.

I live and work in Vancouver. I do not want any cuts to the policing budget. I pay Vancouver property tax and I would prefer to pay my fair share of additional property tax if I had to rather than have a cut to the policing budget.

Regards,

Deirdre J Carter, CPA, CA

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addictions and homelessness and these issues do require significant attention and work – but not at the expense of safety. As such, we strongly believe and urge both the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council to maintain current funding levels to VPD. Our members feel that any reduction in funding would have a dire and potentially irrevocable effect on neighbourhoods throughout the city and the safety of our citizens.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss our key areas of concern, and any way which the NCDA could assist in the area of community safety now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Moray B. Keith
President, Dueck Auto Group
Member, New Car Dealers Association (NCDA)

CC: Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board

Moray B. Keith
President

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FAX NUMBERS (AREA 604)

Merchandising	272-7579
Distribution Centre.....	272-7582
Accounting.....	272-7640
Human Resources	272-7443
Information System.....	272-7172
Retail Stores.....	272-7680
Retail Store Development.....	272-7669
Retail Technical Group.....	272-7157
Loss Prevention.....	272-7627

EXECUTIVE & ADMINISTRATION OFFICES:

LONDON DRUGS LIMITED
 12831 HORSESHOE PLACE
 RICHMOND, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
 CANADA V7A 4X5
 PHONE (604) 272-7400

November 27, 2020

City of Vancouver
 453 West 12th Avenue
 Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Attention: Mayor Stewart and Council

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council,

I am writing on behalf of London Drugs Limited and our Loss Prevention Department in support of the Vancouver Police Department's budget request for 2021.

Policing is an essential service that must be supported and maintained, and the work of the VPD is fundamental to public confidence during these uncertain times of challenge and seemingly endless angst.

The Vancouver Police are vital to supporting the employers and employees of Vancouver business. Contrary to recent findings, the property crime rates for Vancouver businesses are alarmingly high. Reports of lower property crime do not reflect the reality for those businesses that have remained open during the pandemic.

Crime in Vancouver costs retail business many millions of dollars a year. Because of this crime, our businesses are spending millions of dollars on safety and security to reduce those losses, but far and away our biggest concern is for the safety of our employees and customers.

We see in the VPD Year-End report an 11% increase in assaults and a 39.5% increase in assaults against peace officers. This is completely unacceptable, and we should all be concerned for the health and well-being of those dedicated police professionals we count on to face the most difficult situations that we could not face ourselves.

Violence against anyone is wrong, and adequate resources to reduce violence must be maintained. Safety is one of the greatest challenges in any public-facing business and we need our police to support our people. In Vancouver, front-line retail and service staff are experiencing similar increases in assaults and threatening behaviour. This is a disturbing trend that needs to be eliminated, and the resources to do so must be provided for by Council.

Our Police Department holds us up in moments of crime victimization where individuals determine if they will continue to feel safe on their streets, continue working in front-line jobs, or choose to stay living in these communities. Abuse, threats, and assaults against front-line essential workers are becoming all too common in Vancouver and we must have a well-funded and prepared police service to intercede with repeat and violent offenders.

The tactical and crisis response of the VPD is vital, but the strategic role of being connected to the public is an investment in reducing future policing needs. The Department's community engagement and prevention programs bring together business groups and community organizations to become partners in preventing crime. Community outreach work, mental health response partnerships, and youth connections are all areas that cannot be put in jeopardy.

It is simply the worst of times to inhibit the good work of our public safety professionals. The citizens, businesses, and visitors of Vancouver will be best served with a well-funded professional police service and there is an opportunity for Council to provide a strong statement of support with a funding commitment.

Yours sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Tony Hunt

General Manager, Loss Prevention

London Drugs Limited

cc:

Adam Palmer, Chief Constable Vancouver Police Department

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver

Stephanie Johansson, Executive Director, Vancouver Police Board

Clint Mahlman, President and Chief Operating Officer, London Drugs Limited

Stuart Louie, Governor and Chief Medical Officer, London Drugs Limited

John Montalbano

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

VIA EMAIL: Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca

November 26, 2020

Mayor and Council

City of Vancouver

453 West 12th Avenue

Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council Members,

I unequivocally support the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request and implore you to support our VPD, which is in the best interest of Vancouver's citizens.

The VPD is challenged to meet the public safety needs of Vancouver with fewer officers today than ten years ago. Yet our city's population continues to grow, as does crime and deaths related to the Opioid Crisis. Criminals are more sophisticated than ever before, not only in terms of weapons but also cyber security and other crimes not evident to the naked eye. The fact that VPD has a presence across our city, makes them best placed to see first-hand the emerging issues and needs of citizens -and to protect them. Now is not the time to be creating financial chaos, with an institution trusted by the majority of Vancouverites.

VPD officers care about the well-being of people in this community - all people - and they act with integrity and compassion. Our VPD have led the development and implementation of best practices in community policing, citizen engagement, crime prevention and public safety programs for decades. There is not a better informed, engaged, and empathetic police force in North America.

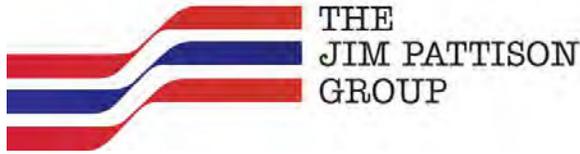
To be clear, Vancouverites stand for continuous improvement in policing -but how that is achieved on a lower budget is confounding. Dare I say, it seems Council is choosing to ignore the facts. Facts that clearly point to the VPD's exceptional service to our community. Ignoring facts, in the pursuit of an ideological victory is irresponsible -especially given the issue here, is, public safety.

As a Trustee and former Chair of the Vancouver Police Foundation, I have seen first-hand how our VPD officers are busier than ever. Our VPD officers (men and women with families also struggling thru this pandemic) do not have the flexibility or the luxury, to work from home and meet a criminal, or an over-dosed civilian, on Zoom. They take home the visions of stabbings, overdoses, homicides, suicides, sexual and physical assaults and cannot quarantine for 14 days. They are exposed to all manner of physical and mental threats: *so perhaps gratitude would be an appropriate response from Council, rather than a morale-destroying budget cut, seemingly serving ideological pursuits.*

Yours Truly,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

John Montalbano



CORPORATE OFFICE, 18TH FLOOR, 1067 WEST CORDOVA STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V6C 1C7 (604) 688-6764 FAX: (604) 687-2601 www.jimpattison.com

FOOD, BEVERAGE AND PHARMACY

Save-On-Foods
Pricesmart Foods
Urban Fare
Bulkley Valley Wholesale

Pure Integrative Pharmacy

Buy-Low Foods
Associated Grocers
Choices Markets
Meinhardt Fine Foods
Nature's Fare Markets
Nesters Market
Quality Foods
Van-Whole Produce

Everything Wine

Canadian Fishing Company
Alaska General Seafoods
Delta Pacific Seafoods
E&E Foods
Leader Creek Fisheries

Ocean Brands

ILLUMINATED SIGNS

Pattison Sign Group

MEDIA

Pattison Outdoor

Jim Pattison Broadcast Group

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Audi Edmonton North
Campus Acura
Campus Honda
Campus Infiniti
Campus Nissan
Jim Pattison Chrysler Jeep Dodge
Jim Pattison Hyundai
Jim Pattison Lexus
Jim Pattison Subaru
Jim Pattison Toyota
Jim Pattison Volkswagen
Jim Pattison Volvo

Jim Pattison Lease
Vancouver Hino

Pattison Agriculture

Peterbilt Pacific

RETAIL DISTRIBUTION AND MERCHANDISING

TNG Canada
TNG Retail Services

ENTERTAINMENT

Great Wolf Lodge
Guinness World Records
Ripley Entertainment
Ripley's Aquariums

PACKAGING

Genpak
Montebello Packaging

EXPORT SERVICES

Westshore Terminals

REAL ESTATE GROUP

Jim Pattison Developments

INSURANCE

Great Pacific Insurance
Jim Pattison Insurance

November 16, 2020

Vancouver City Hall
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver BC V5Y 1Y4
Attention: Mayor Kennedy Stewart

Re: Proposed Budget Cuts to Vancouver Police Department

Dear Mayor Stewart,

Vancouver has consistently ranked among the top cities in the world for livability and overall quality of life. Low crime rates, citizen safety and city stability have been significant contributors to these rankings. Undoubtedly, the excellent work of the Vancouver Police Department has been a key factor in our success. We certainly understand the enormous fiscal challenge the City faces as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and know that difficult decisions will need to be made by our elected representatives. We are, however, hopeful that the City will be able to spare the VPD budget from significant cuts.

Vancouver citizens enjoy a high quality of life and this attracts top talent and capital from all around the world. Businesses can thrive knowing that people and property are safe, and this allows commerce to prosper while contributing to the growth of the city. Individuals can raise families knowing that their children will be supported and will have opportunities in a thriving community.

Tourism is also an important economic driver of the city of Vancouver, and although this has been impacted by COVID-19, tourism should return to historical levels. Tourism could be negatively impacted if crime levels increased and tourists did not feel safe while visiting Vancouver.

The COVID-19 pandemic has lasted much longer than many have anticipated, and the second wave has proven to be stronger than the first. For many citizens, the pandemic has elevated physical and mental stress. This is the time when Vancouver citizens need the most support. By maintaining the police department budget, the city can ensure that citizens are not faced with the added stress of increasing crime and threats to safety.

Yours truly,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Ryan Barrington-Foote
Executive Vice-President

From: [GLC - Michael Geldert](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRBoyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: 201127 | Notice of Special Council Meeting - 2021 Budget
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 7:19:06 PM

Good evening,

I write to you to express my opposition to the proposed VPD budget cuts. I understand there are a number of community groups signed up to speak on December 1st and I am trying to make myself available to do the same. I believe this vote, however it is decided, will have significant implications on public safety in 2021.

I have seen statistics that speak to increases in crime in some areas and decreases in others. I have read reports from other municipalities that confirm much the same. To me, these figures may be of some internal assistance, but they do not capture the pulse of our city.

To capture that pulse you need only walk our streets and listen to the what people are talking about. I have found myself walking the streets this year and listening – really listening – in ways I realize I had failed to do beforehand. I've listened to Karen Ward and Sam Sullivan. I've listened to my neighbours and small business owners. I've listened to the men and women who appear to be barely holding on – some who own condos in Yaletown, others subsisting in tents and SROs. I've listened and all have confirmed that they do not feel heard.

This has been a very challenging year for every person who lives or works in this city. I don't pretend to know all the challenges we're facing but I'm certain that providing fewer resources to any of our front-line workers will not help overcome them.

In the years since I lost my father, himself a member of the Edmonton Police Force up until his death, my views on policing have been conflicted. I have always conceived that year over year, the costs of maintaining public safety could be scaled down to allow for a redirection of funds to build up the city. Indeed, I have never wanted to live in a city where police officers present as an expensive paramilitary force where reports that they are aggravating marginalized voices are condoned. I have been concerned that we may have operationalized the problems without identifying them and that this would lead to a bloated, cost-prohibitive, and ineffective peacekeeping.

With unhelpful ideologues on both sides of the argument, I wanted to resolve my own confictions. This year I decided to get to get to know the Vancouver Police Department. I took every opportunity this year to speak with these women and men and I found myself remembering how I saw my father when I was a young boy. I saw real compassion and the courage to apply it daily. I saw regular de-escalation of conflict using words, not weapons. I found myself digging deeper into VPD efforts to engage with our city's communities and I came away ashamed that I had allowed my opinions to be derived from ideology, not facts.

The bottom line is this – concurrent crisis' have shaken public confidence in the institutions we need to operate this city effectively. Our VPD have exceeded all reasonable expectations and should be given the opportunity to build on the progress they have made in 2020.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my email and for the work you do for our city.

Stay healthy,
MICHAEL GELDERT / LL.B, LL.L, Esq.

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From: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: PALMER, Adam; JOHANSEN, Stephanie (Police Board); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRblgh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfrv@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Against Cuts to Police Funding
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 5:40:42 PM

Dear Mayor & Council, and Chief Constable Adam Palmer, VPD

Although the opinions I am about to express are mine only and I do not represent any group, I would like to mention that I am Co-Captain of the RC87 Block Watch and have been for the past 4/5 years since its inception to deal with the crime in our neighbourhood; and that I would like to express my extreme disagreement of any funding cuts to the Vancouver Police Department at any level. I am appalled that anyone at City Hall would even consider applying cuts to the VPD when Vancouver faces a mental health, housing and opioid crisis, which has caused huge increases in property crime and we are also seeing more violent threats and acts of violence in Vancouver, particularly since the tent city overtook the Strathcona neighbourhood. While the tent city is at the park and its outskirts, the crime and violence extends all over the neighbourhood and into others, too.

In our block watch catchment at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential, for more than a decade we have been battling dial a dope drug deals, home and auto break ins, theft, prostitution, vandalism, and threats of violence (mainly from drug addicted tenants of s.22(1) Personal and Confidential) and this past summer, I myself walked past a man masturbating in his car at the end of my street. I have also had my car broken into numerous times, although there is nothing to steal and I lock my car. Last week I was actually stalked by a man until I turned around and glared at him again and he walked away and did not follow me anymore. I notified our block watch and Collingwood community policing station, and I was horrified when watching the news last night and a man who looked exactly like the man who stalked me was arrested for waving machetes and large knives at doorbell cameras in East Vancouver (I too, live in East Vancouver).

In less than 1 ½ years my car has been broken into twice, I was visually violated by a masturbating sex offender, and I was stalked by who appears to be a dangerous criminal in my neighbourhood (both times I was walking my dog) I am sure the only reason our home is not broken into is because we have large dogs, and lock both our gates in the front and back alley. Many of our neighbours are not so lucky.

I will tell you that the majority of the crime we experienced were from tenants of s.22(1) Personal and Confidential who were the drug addicts that held our neighbourhood hostage for more than a decade with their crime sprees against us and our neighbours. Since their departure, the crime in our neighbourhood is almost non-existent now. We couldn't have done this without the help from the members of our community policing station who supported us and worked with the RC87 Blockwatch captains and members to help us have these tenants finally evicted. Our neighbourhood finally feels more safe again, though it's likely only a matter of time when it won't.

I am appalled that the Mayor and Council are planning on investing millions of dollars to push for a Green Plan you would want to instill even though you do not have the legal ability to implement!

(charging drivers to come downtown)... yet you say you do not have enough money for our police budget? It is an insult to your constituents that you spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on office chairs, (right after Mayor Stewart begged the federal government for an exorbitant amount of millions of dollars or "Vancouver will go broke",) yet Council wants to cut back the police budget so that we, the citizens and tax payers of Vancouver, will endure more crime, and less officers to respond and resources to utilize?

How far would the money that goes to the office chairs (not a drop in the bucket as you claimed and justified) and the ineffective green plan go in the Vancouver Police Department? These are only two examples! If you are short of money, look elsewhere! We already do not have enough Police Services!! We need to look at being the SAFEST city, not the GREENEST!! We live in the most expensive city in North America and none of us feel safe, yet our taxes continually go up to pay for services in the DTES which only enable addiction, not address it. And as our city becomes more of an embarrassing cesspool day by day, our Mayor and Council feel the Vancouver Police Department should be defunded. Have you walked past the tent city? Have you spoken to your constituents?

I can not wrap my head around this. Nor can anyone I speak to about it.

Mayor and Council, please listen to your constituents. A green city means nothing if we are not safe to walk in our neighbourhoods with our dogs, or police do not respond to mothers who have a hatchet wielding addict trying to break down her front door, as happened in Strathcona. A green city does not protect its tax payers from break ins, sex crimes, vandalism, the constant theft from mom and pop grocery stores, barber shops, corner stores, the small businesses who are trying to survive a pandemic, yet can only watch their stock, and possibly bottom line, walk out the door in the hands of a drug addicted thief. A green city does not provide safety and comfort, not for those with mental health issues who are being victimized by drug dealers and criminals, or for home owners who no longer feel safe in their own home or neighbourhood.

May I say, that if you really want a green city, then go ahead and defund the Vancouver Police. Your city will be totally green, with no one living in it, or coming to shop here, or wanting to support our local restaurants. You won't need to worry about emissions from cars. No one will be here, except the drug addicts and criminals that Mayor and Council favor and have an unending budget for, over its taxpayers, who simply want to feel safe again.

Denise Fantinato

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Penny Tham](mailto:Penny.Tham)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca
Cc: [JOHANSSFN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](mailto:JOHANSSFN.Stephanie@vancouver.ca); [PALMER, Adam](mailto:PALMER.Adam@vancouver.ca); sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Subject: City of Vancouver Police Budget Request
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 5:31:29 PM

Dear Mayor and Council Members

I am a long time resident (I moved here over 55 years ago), property owner and therefore a taxpayer in Vancouver. I am a retiree and currently volunteer regularly in Chinatown. I am writing to you as you consider the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) 2021 budget request, to express my support for the Department's request. I appreciate that these are difficult times and that the Council is faced with the challenge of trying to do more with less. There must be cuts somewhere but funding to the VPD should not be a place to consider cuts.

Chinatown and its nearest neighbours have been impacted especially hard by the COVID 19 pandemic. Chinatown, as has been acknowledged by the City of Vancouver, is of significant historic and cultural importance. Even in the pre-pandemic times, it faced significant challenges. These challenges have now been magnified to the point where the safety and security of people who live, work and visit here is of real concern. There have been well documented instances of anti-Asian racism, vandalism and even assaults on regular people here. We need the strong presence of the police here even more than before if we are to ensure that Chinatown can survive as a viable neighbourhood and hopefully even revitalize in the future. People, like myself, who come to Chinatown need to have the confidence that it is safe to do so. The VPD provides an essential service here which must be maintained.

A visible VPD presence and its ability to react quickly to emerging situations is of vital importance. The City Council has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient resources provided to ensure the public safety and security of its residents. That has to be one of its top priorities. So again, please consider approving the VPD's 2021 budget request as submitted but at the very least, please **do not make cuts** to the VPD's budget that would bring funding to below the current 2020 budget levels.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Penelope Tham

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Aya Mikage](#)
To: [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [PALMER, Adam; kennedy_stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Concerns about the 2021 budget from a Vancouver resident
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 4:53:50 AM

To Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen of the Vancouver Police Board, the Mayor and Councillors of Vancouver:

First off, although I wish to remain anonymous, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for giving me the opportunity to express my views. Albeit the city of Vancouver is not the only city I call home, I have lived and worked in Vancouver most of my life and I can truly say the quality of life here is nothing to scoff at. While this can be attributed to the different levels of government, the level of service that the City of Vancouver offers its citizens plays a major role.

There are a number of priorities outlined in the 2021 budget and I think some of them are worthwhile ventures but I do not think public safety should be sacrificed because of them. As a resident, property and business owner in the City of Vancouver, I DO NOT support any policing budget reductions. Since the start of the pandemic, elderly neighbours of mine have stayed sheltered at home, because of two fears: catching the Coronavirus and getting assaulted due to their race. Racism, especially anti-Chinese racism, exists in our society every day, but it has undoubtedly flared up to new levels since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. If there is a reduction in the police budget and suppose the number of officers are reduced due to attrition, with a lower number of officers present/visible, even with the existence of the COVID-19 vaccine, how will this vulnerable group of residents regain the confidence to go out and do the things they enjoy again knowing that there may not be any officers that can help them in their time of need. How can you compensate for their decreased quality of life?

While there are calls to “defund the police” by a small vocal group of people, I feel that by cutting funding to the police would be doing a disservice to people who live and work in Vancouver. This is because some of the reasoning behind this movement is not quite applicable to Vancouver and this is in large due to the progressive and innovative programs that the Vancouver Police Department has in place. For example, there were calls to have a mental health professional to attend well-being checks with the police, the Vancouver Police Department already has that practice in place (dedicated car with a Registered Psychiatric Nurse).

With the formation of the Surrey Police Department in the horizon, I, for one, do worry about losing experienced officers to that city. And if there are cuts to the policing budget that will lead to a reduction in police officers and programming, how can residents of Vancouver expect to have the same high level service that is the envy of other cities

around the world?

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. Take care and stay safe.

From: [Justyn Shippelt](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSFN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Cutting the police budget
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 10:16:53 PM

Hello all,

My name is Justyn Shippelt and I have lived in Vancouver for close to a decade now. I have lived downtown in this amazing beautiful city for 8 years. During these years I have worked at the world famous roxy. I continue to work there. It has been the best and favourite job I have ever had in my life. It has come to my attention that the city is talking about cutting the police budget. This to me is a TERRIBLE IDEA. The police being on Granville street throughout the night is what makes it a safe place to have fun. I have friends that come here from out of town and Granville street reminds them of Vegas. This city needs to keep granville street and the downtown area a beautiful and safe place to come for tourism. There are many theatres clubs and restaurants to come to for the people flying, Driving and coming in through the ports. Lots of cruise ships. It's a beautiful and fun city to come to. I know that these places are not attracting anyone and have slowed down exponentially because of the pandemic. But once this virus is over and done with we need them to thrive and be safe for people to enjoy this beautiful city. Please please please do not cut the budget. I appreciate you reading this email. Be safe during these harass times.

Thank you,
Justyn Shippelt
Sent from my iPhone

From: stephanie_banks
To: PALMER, Adam; [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](mailto:JOHANSEN, Stephanie (Police Board)); CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Cutting VPD budget
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 6:13:25 PM

To whom this may concern,

I wish to add my support to maintaining the policing budget for 2021 and urge Council not to make any cuts because I don't feel that cutting the police budget will make me safer and reduce crime. I have lived and worked in the downtown area for 8+ years now. I walk everywhere, from daily errands, to and from my jobs, etc. The hours of my employment are sometimes late. I do not always feel safe walking home alone. Having a strong police presence around Vancouver is extremely important not just to me but to all citizens. If we do not it will undeniably increase crime in all areas. Especially during a time like this where the police should be in full force and focused on the important things happening in the city. Not stretched thin because their budget has been cut and room for human error will increase. VPD needs to be adequately resourced. Everyone deserves to feel safe day or night in their own city. Not having to worry that when they have an emergency will they be able to get the help they so desperately need in a timely manner. Vancouver also thrives on being a canadian tourism hub. Something like this will be putting not only our citizens in danger but any tourist as well. The world is chaotic and very unknown for a lot of people right now. Having the full service of the police behind you will keep people at ease. I strongly disagree with cutting the VPD budget.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Banks

From: [Ina Brooks](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Feedback Ina Brooks - DO NOT DEFUND THE VPD
Date: Thursday, November 26, 2020 6:39:25 PM

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Ina Brooks and I am a resident of downtown Vancouver. I have lived and worked in the city of Vancouver for over 20 years. Up until recently Vancouver was the kind of city I was proud to call home. It was relatively safe, beautiful, prosperous, and socially conscious. In the last few years however, and particularly in the last year things have changed dramatically. I do not feel safe in my neighborhood anymore, nor in many parts of the city. I am embarrassed when friends visit from out of town at the level of decay and threatening activity that occurs on our streets. Moreover I am extremely frustrated with a municipal government that seems to think this is fine and is completely apathetic to the concerns and needs of ordinary citizens.

Like most people I was shocked and dismayed at the death of George Floyd back in May of this year. I watched the unrest south of the border with great concern as my family lives in the U.S. There is no doubt that there are serious problems in the U.S. relating to race and social inequities. Canada may not be perfect, BUT WE ARE NOT THE U.S.! As a Jewish Canadian I am very sensitive to the idea of racial discrimination and persecution and have many friends who share those concerns. But I have also dealt with the Vancouver Police on several occasions, and can say with absolute certainty that these officers are not part of that problem. The VPD officers that I have met and dealt with have been professional, informed, and compassionate. I have had discussions with them about homelessness and addiction and have been surprised at how progressive their views are on these issues. As one of them said to me "regardless of the causes and solutions for homelessness and addiction, we still have a duty to protect people and address violent behaviors, including those that victimize other marginalized people". Quite frankly it is puzzling and disturbing to me that municipal governments in Canada have, in reaction to an incident in another country, made decisions regarding policing and public safety absent of any actual data or facts!

I am all for increased treatment for addiction and actual solutions for homelessness. That is not what the City of Vancouver is doing. We have watched as millions upon millions of dollars are dumped into the DTES over the past 20 years, to what end? The problem has become worse at an increasing rate, and is now spilling over into every other part of the city. That is not a solution, nor is defunding the police! As a resident of this city I resent being vilified by certain entities within City Council simply because I have a job and a roof over my head. The way things are going I don't know how much longer I can live here, and I cannot in good conscience recommend that others live, work, and invest in this city the way things are going.

I am asking the Vancouver Police Board NOT to defund the VPD.

Sincerely,

Ina Brooks

Vancouver BC

I respectfully acknowledge that I live, work, and play on the unceded traditional and ancestral territories of the x^wməθkwəy^{əm} (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaf (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

From: [PALMER, Adam](#)
To: [BERNARDIN, Kevin](#)
Cc: [CHOW, Howard \(VPD\)](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [HEER, Simi](#); [CARTER, Kim](#)
Subject: FW: Support for 2021 VPD Budget
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 6:40:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

CHIEF ADAM PALMER

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

604.717.2950

adam.palmer@vpd.ca | vpd.ca



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From: Susannah Pierce **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential**
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2020 6:39 PM
To: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Cc: clrblich@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca;
CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca;
CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; PALMER, Adam <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>; clrdominato@vancouver.ca
Subject: Support for 2021 VPD Budget

Dear Mayor and Council,

I have been a resident of Vancouver for more than 7 years after having lived overseas in The Hague, New York City and Washington, DC for most of my life. I consider Vancouver as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. When I moved here with my two young children seven years ago, I also considered it one of the safest. I am concerned however that Council is considering cutting the VPD budget at a time when risk to public safety is poised to increase. Over the last months, there has been an increase in hate crimes against Asian populations, break and enters, violent crime and domestic violence. With the pandemic lasting into mid, late 2021, the City must have the appropriate resources to support what is likely to be a further increase in crimes as well as mental health related calls. Now is not the time to cut the budget. I understand the 2020 budget simply maintained 2009 staffing levels. As a result, I would go so far to encourage an increase in the 2021 budget to provide the necessary resources to prepare for the increased risk to public safety. I have had the good fortune to meet many VPD officers and I say from personal experience, they are among the finest. Please continue to support their work and public safety in Vancouver.

Kind regards,
Susannah

From: [Max Meyer](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfrv@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: I am against police budget cuts
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 11:10:59 AM

As an owner and resident in Yaletown and west end , I oppose city budget cuts to police . Each week , month , year , ... the illicit use of drugs in public streets and parks is getting worse. The aggression, litter , uncapped needles , rudeness , threats by so many of these people towards passer bys who are tax paying citizens is out of control. Please do not defund police.

Please address these individuals with more rehab beds.

Many are offered safe supply and their reply to doctors is 'your shit ain't as good as what I can get on the streets ' . Give me my welfare Wednesday cheque ' .

Please make them have a role in bettering their situation and community . For example if they refuse to go to a shelter (and many do) make them clean up after themselves. Rather than littering everywhere. Putting others at risk with discarded needles and cigarette butts.

Please change welfare Wednesday cheque's to card system where they use welfare funds for food and clothing and essentials. Rather than cash that goes to drug dealers and neglects their personal care .

Opiate replacement Meds work and patients need to have to make better choices to commit into these great services offered by many DTES clinics .

Thanks

Max Meyer

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Byron Elliott](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: It's time to INCREASE VPD Budgets.
Date: Thursday, November 26, 2020 11:32:19 PM

Yaletown in 2020 is not the same Yaletown of previous years.

Our neighbourhood has taken a sharp nose dive with homeless people, mentally ill people, drug addicts, drug dealers, and criminals being welcomed in by the city.

It seems like every action by the city continues to cater to the drug addicts and criminals in our area and no longer the residents.

The vibe has majorly shifted in Yaletown and downtown and now more than ever we need more police presence.

There are needles in the streets, there are homeless people digging through garbages every day in all of the alleys, people selling street drugs, law abiding citizens feeling unsafe to walk in their own streets, in their own parks, etc.

Please clean up the previous problems that you have caused by moving all of the cities homeless into Yaletown. THEN consider budget cuts to appease whoever it is that you are trying to appease.

This isn't what I moved to Vancouver for, this isn't what I became a homeowner for, I'm 20 years invested in my Vancouver life and to watch the city and specifically my area take a nosedive where it is no longer safe and where the city continues to go out of it's way to cater to the criminals instead of the tax payers is insane.

Please smarten up and listen to the actual tax paying citizens.

You have all contributed to creating a problem, now limiting the police at this time is NOT acceptable in these areas. This is downright negligent of all of you to push forward such things.

Smarten up and clean up the mess that you have made in Yaletown and Downtown.

Continued missteps like this are ruining our once beautiful city.

Byron Runka

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



November 27, 2020

Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Chief Constable Adam Palmer,
and Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen
Vancouver Police Board
kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
adam.palmer@vpd.ca
Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca

Re: Opposition to Vancouver Police Department Budget Cuts

Dear Mayor Stewart, Chief Constable Palmer, and Ms. Johanssen,

The undersigned are responding to recent news of proposed budget cuts to the Vancouver Police Department for 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has created untold challenges and deeply affected hundreds of thousands of Vancouverites including the most marginalization members of our society. The role of the VPD is crucial in a time of increased physical and social restrictions that add tremendous weight to issues such as family violence, homelessness, the opioid crisis, and other social welfare situations.

We oppose cuts to the 2021 budget for the Vancouver Police Department.

VPD has and continues to be crucial to the safety and wellbeing of our community. We respectfully ask that the Vancouver Police Board maintain the existing budget and capacity of the Vancouver's police force.

Signed,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Name & Address

Name & Address

From: [Kris King](#)
To: [JOHANSSFN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 7:31:21 PM

To Whom it may concern, well actually it concerns us all. Please, please, please do not cut police funding. My name is Kris and I've worked on Granville for 16 years (until covid hit) and plan on going back just as soon as well it can happen. Also living downtown I walk around alot and have found conditions deminishing in regards to an overall safe and welcoming environment. As a large mammal I generally feel safe and secure throughout my day however as I watch others walking around on the sidewalks you can almost see a level of concern and often discomfort on their faces recently in the downtown area. Let alone observing a mother and her children as they pass by an individual heavily under the influence of something or rather and manage to avoid an interaction only to be presented with a similar situation but maybe 20 feet away knowing all the while the mother is most apt terrified and then a police cruiser drives by and you can immediate see relief on her and her childrens faces. So I definitely feel VPD is incredibly important in securing that welcoming environment we all want to live in downtown and when things open back it's definitely the environment we all wish to work in... I myself find VPD to always be both polite and efficient in dealing with conflict and it's resolution often going the extra distance to make sure all parties feel that they dealt with fairly and with respect. I would very much dislike to see any less VPD presence in the downtown area as they always make my surroundings feel right, and to lose any of them would feel just wrong. Thank you for time, sincerely dude that lives and works downtown and wishes to continue feeling safe in doing so....

From: [Cyrus Sepehr](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-ying@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Maintain the policing budget for 2021
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 1:53:37 PM

Greetings ,

My name is Cyrus Sepehr, I am a 24-year-old working in the heart of downtown Vancouver. I write this to you because I urge you to reconsider lowering the budget for the Vancouver Police Department.

I work at the s.22(1) Personal and Confidential a nightclub on Granville street with over 30 years of history. Throughout my time there (around 3 years), the V.P.D have been a reliable and safe presence that not only help our business deal with disturbances or disruptions to our work, but also keep our streets safe during and after hours.

If the V.P.D receive less resources to do their jobs, we will all suffer as a result. It will make dealing with aggressive customers/situations much more difficult, as our doormen will be unable to waive down V.P.D that would be in the vicinity.

It will make the streets more dangerous, which will have a trickle-down effect that will impact the hospitality industry (as well as other industries) throughout the city. This is because people will have less of an incentive to go out if they feel an increase in risk, and lack of protection. There have been many times I've had to escort my coworkers/friends home, because it felt unsafe letting them go on their own. There have also been instances where my coworkers have had their cars broken into and robbed.

I am adding my support to the growing list of names that want to maintain the policing budget for 2021. Reducing it will not make us safer, nor will it reduce crime in the city.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I truly hope you will reconsider your decision and maintain the budget.

From: [Jason John](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Cc: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Subject: Please don't cut the VPD Budget
Date: Saturday, November 28, 2020 8:14:38 PM

Good evening.

I would like to ask you to please increase the VPD budget because I feel that our city needs this.

I'm a 5th generation Vancouver resident who lives in Kitsilano and want to give you a few facts on what my wife, daughter and I have experienced over the last 10 years. My vehicle has been broken into 5 times in front of my house. Three times my house has been broken into and there is multiple times that houses in my area have been broken into. I know this because I'm of Block Watch Co-Captain on my block so I get emails giving me updates.

I've done some research and 2009 we had approximately 1500 ish police officers and as of 2020 we have about the same?? In 2009 the Vancouver population was 2,238,000 and in 2020 the population is 2,581,000. This is an increase of 343,000 people and we have the about the same amount of officers. That doesn't make sense and I fell that we need more coverage.

My family and I don't feel safe in the evenings in our quiet neighborhood anymore. We need more officers.

Please reconsider your thoughts of cutting the budget for the VPD.

Thank you for your thoughts and if you can email me back what your thoughts are that would be great.

Sincerely,

Jason A. John, Vice President, Sales & Operations

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Hello.

November 20, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

You are responsible for balancing the needs and safety of Vancouver residents and businesses at a time when policing and the systems that govern it are under immense pressure and scrutiny across the continent. Principles of safety, community, racial justice and equity are coming together in new ways. Sometimes this happens in conflict, sometimes in concert. No where else is this more apparent in Vancouver than the community of Strathcona, a neighbourhood where different ways of working, living, and being converge.

Given this confluence of communities and perspectives, the Strathcona BIA has adopted multiple safety models on behalf of the over 800 business and property owners we represent across 44 city square blocks. We work closely with our community policing centre. We contract our own private safety patrol team which supports members seven days a week, 16 hours a day. We are also involved in investigating partnerships with others committed to addressing community concerns through human-centred design and new compassionate models. We see the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) as a partner and contributor to this work and these models moving forward.

We recognize that the Mayor and Council have the challenging task ahead in making decisions regarding the VPD budget. When reviewing the budget, we ask that you consider the following:

1. Adequate funding is critical to initiatives like *Project Landmark*, a pilot initiative launched in Strathcona to increase the number of residential and commercial address plates on the rear of homes and businesses that are visible from back laneways. With a major increase in recent years in cell phone usage, the VPD and other first responders are facing challenges responding to 9-1-1 service calls, especially when they need to enter from the lane. This extra time can often mean the difference between life and death.
2. The partnership the SBIA has with the Strathcona Community Policing Centre (SCPC) and the work it's doing to further investigate restorative justice and community volunteer models depends on VPD budget support. Our fear is that cuts to the budget may result in cuts to this powerful community model.
3. Finally, the officers themselves who work with us directly and respond to the businesses and residents of Strathcona are what make partnership and

STRAETHCONA

Hello.

collaboration in the name of community possible. From appointed neighbourhood officers to the beat officers who respond daily to business members, it's the actual people employed by the VPD who are committed to new ways of working on behalf of safety in the community.

All of these critical programs and considerations take financial resources as well as the attention and commitment of seasoned officers who are familiar with the community of Strathcona and the Downtown Eastside. We are an evolving community and it's difficult to see how the VPD can do its job if resources, which are already scarce, are not readily available.

Our city's safety models must continue to evolve, and the Strathcona BIA believes this must be done in partnership with the VPD and others. All those committed to safety and justice must also have access to the resources required to commit to this vision.

Thank you for your consideration as you approach these important budget decisions. Should you want to follow up on any of the details I've outlined here, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

In warmth and community,

Theodora Lamb

Executive Director, Strathcona Business Improvement Association

STRATHCONA

From: [Brian Homeniuk](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Police Budget 2021
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 9:18:44 PM

To the Vancouver Police Board and the Vancouver City Council,

I wish to add my support and for my voice to be heard in maintaining the current police budget for 2021 and for the council to not makes cuts to the existing budget.

I believe it is absolutely crucial to have a strong police presence in the downtown core and by cutting the budget and having less police officers downtown, crime will go up, people's safety will be at risk and Vancouver will become a dangerous place for the people that live here.

My finance is a bartender on one of the establishments on Granville street and I would be extremely worried about her getting home or leaving the bar after her shift with less police in the area.

I'm sure many of you reading this right now have children that are young adults that like to go out and have a good time with friends. Would you really want a less safe city that could personally affect you and your family?

I believe there are other ways to cut expenses in this tough time but it should not be at the expense of our community's safety nor should it come out of any of our first responders budgets.

Sincerely,

Brian Homeniuk

MARTHA STURDY

MARTHA STURDY INC

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Nov 26th, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to write in support of the Vancouver police department.

Lately I have felt that the police have been unfairly criticized. They are the first responders to critical issues in Vancouver such as homeless, domestic violence, and crime. There's a lot of good work the police do that is unseen. We should not be influenced by the American policing situation, which is irrelevant in regards to our own police force. In Canada we aim to have a balanced outlook, and although there is a need to fight systemic racism, defunding the police (who incidentally are racial diverse), is not an effective way to achieve those aims. Our city, is in crisis and we need the police to be out cleaning up our streets so that Vancouver citizens can live fearlessly in our neighborhoods and parks. Any institution, should be held accountable and accessed on a yearly basis, and the police should not be exempt. The police are dealing with problems that are not the result of their actions. The current government needs to step up their outdated policies and take care of the outrageous drug problem in the city which is causing crime to escalate and people to die of overdoses. The government is so focused on Covid, they are not dealing with the degradation of the fabric of neighborhoods due to drugs and crime.

We should not defund the police, but continue to educate them with training and practice for dealing with the social and mental problems that are spreading throughout the city...worse than this pandemic.

Sincerely

Martha Sturdy

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: [kennedy.stewart](#); colleen.hardwick@vancouver.ca; [sarah.kirby-yung](#); [jean.swanson](#); [pete.fry](#); michael.wiebe@vancouver.ca; [adriane.carr](#); [lisa.dominato](#); melissa.degenova@vancouver.ca; rebecca.bligh@vancouver.ca; [christine.boyle](#)
Cc: [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [PALMER, Adam](#)
Subject: Proposed VPD Budget Cut: Against
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 9:11:57 AM

Mayor and Council,

It is incomprehensible to me that with the continued increase in property taxes there is a proposed budget cut to the Vancouver Police Department.

Over the last several years the building I live in has had multiple break-ins causing thousands of dollars of damage. We have an ongoing issue with vagrants in our doorways and breaking into our actual building. As a single woman I feel unsafe walking in my area and often entering my building. These issues are also being experienced by my immediate neighbours.

At no time would I support a cut to the VPD's budget, but especially not now as crime throughout the city is on the rise.

It concerns me that city hall is so out of touch with what is happening in the city as to propose this cut while continuing to spend money in other areas.

As a long time resident of the city of Vancouver I have seen a drastic deterioration over the last several years coupled with outrageous tax increases.

Time for Vancouver to get back to basics starting with funding our police.

Sincerely,

Andrea Baxendale

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Devin Sharma](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRFry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-vung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLSwanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Re: Statement from Devin Sharma, I/Chief Administrative Officer, regarding Musqueam's relationship with the Vancouver Police Department
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 2:15:14 PM

Hello all,

The Vancouver Police Department works closely with Musqueam administration, especially our safety and security team, to ensure the Musqueam Reserve community feels protected. I deeply value our working relationship with the current VPD Musqueam Liaison Officer, Cst. John Gravengard, who continually demonstrates his dedication to Musqueam community members and has provided excellent support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The greatest challenge that Musqueam faces in regards to policing is the limits that exist with having only one VPD liaison. The value of Cst. Gravengard cannot be overstated, but he is only one officer policing over 1,400 residents. Musqueam would benefit from additional VPD support, and especially from multiple police liaisons so that officers can take time off and our community will still be directly supported by the VPD.

Thank you,



Devin Sharma

INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



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From: [Nicole Amoore](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRBiligh@vancouver.ca; CLRBoyle@vancouver.ca; CLRCarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRDominato@vancouver.ca; CLRFry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca; [CHOW, Howard \(VPD\)](#)
Subject: Regarding Police Budget cuts
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 10:27:08 AM

Good morning,

I would like to voice my opinion in opposition of the proposed police budget cuts.

As someone who has lived near the downtown east side for the past two years, I have seen first hand not only the escalation of crime in the area but also the number of new residents of the downtown east side and the increase in violent acts, theft and property damage.

If the reduced sanitary budget is any indication of what will happen with reduction to the budget of our police force, I am truly worried for specifically the downtown core and what it could become. If anything, we need more money for proper allocation for our police officers to be better trained in dealing with the uniqueness of our downtown community. This would benefit all members of our community including both the protection of our contributing members and those who are marginalized.

Thank you for your time,

Nicole Amoore

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Richard Flynn](#)
To: [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRBoyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [MANDER, Rajprit](#)
Subject: Response to Neighborhood Concerns
Date: Thursday, November 26, 2020 10:04:26 PM

Mayor Stewart and Vancouver City Councilors,

I am a Cambie Village resident concerned about crime that is radiating to all neighbourhoods including my own.

My concern is that the Vancouver Police Department took the time and made the effort to listen to the **concerns of citizens and business owners** before deploying the Neighborhood Response Teams (NRT).

I do not care for what is a popular sentiment on Twitter.
Nor do I want Vancouver counseled as such. Therefore, please:

- Stop trying to lower the Police budgets
- Stop attempting to block the efforts of NRTs

I applaud your efforts on trying to make this city a place where people want to live - specifically those 'green' initiatives that are centric to a sophisticated future state. Such would include the bike networks and the reduction of single passenger vehicle culture (through consumption 'taxes' and infrastructure reduction).

However, I do not support the enabling of thieves to smash car windows for 3\$ in the console, stealing of my friends and their childrens' bikes and the petty theft of anything that is not locked.

Enabling them is to ignore the voice of the citizens and interfere with the VPD and their NRTs.

Sincerely,

Richard Flynn

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



November 27 ,2020

Kris Szykowski
General Manager
Holiday Inn & Suites Vancouver Downtown

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

VANCOUVER CITY POLICE

I am writing to you today, as a concerned citizen and General Manager of the Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown, to express my concern regarding potential police budgetary reductions and how they may affect the availability of police services in the city.

Our hotel is located west of Yaletown at 1100 block of Howe Street one block west of Granville Street. Over the last few years, our area has seen an increase in homeless individuals and crime. In more recent months our areas experienced a significantly growing population of in need individuals; living in the area on social assistance or migrating to receive support. A healthy and well-funded police force is essential to manage our daily challenges, it is important for us to create a safe and secure business for our staff and guests navigating our community.

Community safety for our staff members and our guest is of paramount importance. In our view, the presence of police and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver, especially downtown Vancouver should at a minimum continue at its current levels to address the increased population of in need individuals living in Vancouver. In my view, the police presence assists in managing this fragile balance between all residents of our great city.

On behalf of the Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown, I understand the difficult financial situation the City of Vancouver finds itself in. We plead with you to strongly consider other budgetary avenues to save and/or raise money for Vancouver City Police funding and to please maintain current staffing levels for the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Kris Szykowski General Manager
Holiday Inn & Suites Vancouver Downtown

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [LINDA BLANKSTEIN](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Vancouver Police budget no cuts
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 10:05:39 AM

I work on Granville near Davie and I am very concerned about the general public's health and safety in this neighbourhood.

Now is not the right time to cut police budgets. I believe that mental health workers should work in tandem with police and this would require additional funding not cuts!

Try walking Granville Street and not see people lying on the sidewalks passed out or shooting up and intimidating the general public. If you have decided, which you have to support homelessness and drug problems in this neighbourhood then you must also be responsible for supporting the community that lives and works in this neighbourhood.

Linda Blankstein

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Gerry O'Neil](#)
To: [Kennedy Stewart](#); [CLRBligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRBoyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRCarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#)
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Vancouver Police Department 2021 Budget
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 2:55:08 PM

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council Members,

I am writing today as a Taxpayer, small business owner and proud supporter of the Vancouver Police Department. I have had the honor to provide a Horse-Drawn Carriage service to Stanley Park visitors, locals and tourists alike, for nearly 40 years. In all those years I have been lucky to be trusted by so many people to be part of their special day in the Park either that being a surprise proposal, graduation or a wedding. Also during all those years I have had the opportunity to collaborate with some of the Park Board representatives and the Mounted Squad members to better the Park in many different ways, just to list a few: we were asked a numerous of times to have our drivers be on the lookout when a child had been declared missing or to be an extra pairs of eyes for the Police when car break-ins had reached astonishing numbers.

Unfortunately, Stanley Park like many other areas of our city has had its challenges as far as criminal activities are concerned. Last year while one of our female drivers was adjusting a part of the harness on one of our horses out of nowhere someone came by and sucker punched her, knocked her down to the ground unconscious and sadly our staff member had to be out of work for months. Luckily a patrol car happened to be nearby, and the officers apprehended the suspect immediately preventing any further assaults, and it is my hope that the Court system provided this person with the help they clearly needed. In the last few weeks as I understand the Tea House Restaurant got broken in 3 times within about 10 days.

I understand that there seems to be a movement particularly south of the Canadian Borders that is calling for defunding of the Police Department. For the record, on a few occasions I have witnessed how professionally some of the Vancouver Mounted Unit members dealt with some members of the public that were acting extremely disrespectful toward the officers, yet the Squad members handled those situations with a lot of grace. Having had some family members of my own who had some mental challenges over many years, I certainly understand that it could be very intimidating when the Police shows up on mental illness related calls and, in some cases, it can escalate the problem very rapidly. However, it is my sincere hope that the City of Vancouver doesn't reduce their Police budget but instead reach out to the other levels of Government (Provincial and Federal) for more financial support that could be directed toward having more mental health care workers assigned to work hand in hand with the Police or/and inject more funding for officers training.

During this unprecedented time that we are in at the moment, I am sure that you more than ever have many pressing matters that are requiring a lot of your valuable time, therefore, I am very grateful to you for reading my email and considering it when finalizing the budget.

Kindest regards,

Stanley Park Horse-Drawn Tours

Gerry O'Neil
President

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s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

stanleypark.com

[youtube.com/AAAhorsecarriage](https://www.youtube.com/AAAhorsecarriage)



From: [Karen Tanaka](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; clrboyle@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrwiebe@vancouver.ca; clrfry@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrswanson@vancouver.ca
Cc: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [PALMER, Adam](#); [Sadhu Johnston](#)
Subject: Vancouver Police Department Budget Request Support
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 11:50:12 PM

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request, and to relay the positive impact that the VPD has had in our community. I work in Chinatown and see policing as an essential service that must be supported and maintained.

Chinatown and its neighbours have been especially hard hit during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chinatown, has been acknowledged by the City of Vancouver, for its significant historic and cultural importance. Even in pre-pandemic times, it faced significant challenges. These challenges have now been magnified to the point where the safety and security of people who live, work and visit here is of real concern. We are experiencing an increase in anti-Asian racism, vandalism and assaults. More than ever, we need the strong presence of police officers to ensure that Chinatown can survive and become a thriving community once again. People, like myself, who come to Chinatown need to know that it is safe to do so.

A visible VPD presence and its ability to react quickly to urgent situations is a necessity. The City Council has a responsibility and a duty to provide sufficient resources to ensure the public's safety. This has to be one of its top priorities. Please approve the VPD's 2021 budget request as submitted.

I hope this letter of support will be helpful for the Council to reach a decision that the VPD Budget should not be reduced. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,
Karen Tanaka

From: [Louise M](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget proposal
Date: Thursday, November 26, 2020 8:14:24 PM

Hello,

I am a Block Watch member & want to say most of the interaction I have had with a Vancouver Police officer has been very positive. I feel our police are doing an admirable job in trying to keep us safe and keeping order without many of the problems seen in other areas in the country, especially the USA.

Keeping our police officers safe is also a concern for me and I would not like to see an officer (other than if they are on traffic duty or perhaps on the motorcycle squad) working without a partner, particularly at nighttime and feel we should not cut money so that would happen.

I have experienced a situation where a social worker and a police officer attended together to diffuse a situation where there was a person with a mental health issue. Both the social worker and the officer appeared to be well trained to work in that type of situation and I believe there is a place for that in our society. I would like to see more resources targeted to facilitate that type of interaction because I believe safety of all parties is the ultimate goal in getting cooperation and compliance in volatile situations. I believe resources should be targeted to facilitate various groups learning to work together in situations such as this, especially given the call for change in policing due to the disconnect between what various groups see the role of the police and the job they are asked to perform especially what has been happening worldwide. I would like to see resources channeled into programs which try to safely mitigate the social vs the police role and the need for safety and order.

Thanks

Louise Marphis
Vancouver, BC

From: [Andrea Kynoch](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Cc: [Darren Simpson](#); [Hotel Association of Vancouver](#)
Subject: VPD 2021 Budget - Public Submission
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 10:47:38 AM

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Blue Horizon Hotel operating in Vancouver, to express our concerns regarding potential police budgetary reductions, and how that may affect the safety and well being of our team, customers and community.

Safety and quiet enjoyment of our space for our guests, team members and community is of paramount importance. In our view, the presence of community police officers and volunteers across the City of Vancouver is paramount to prevention of crimes. We especially appreciate the prevention programs in place and can tell that the Community Police Officers do know their neighbourhood and the people in it and try to foster relationships to benefit the entire community.

These are unprecedented times and we have had more need for assistance from the VPD in the last 8 months than ever before in the past. We depend on our relationships with our Community Policing Team, Hotel Liaison and the VPD to assist in creating a positive and safe environment for our team and customers. Their advice, guidance, presence, and assistance has been invaluable.

On behalf of the Blue Horizon Hotel, we recommend that funding is continued for these valuable programs.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kynoch

BLUE HORIZON HOTEL

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

A proud recipient of the Hotel Association of Canada (HAC) 4 Green Key ECOMmodation rating. Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [NORMAN MILLER](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca](#);
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: VPD Budget
Date: Thursday, November 26, 2020 5:51:20 PM

I am writing as a lifetime citizen of Vancouver.

One of the primary roles of civic government is to provide safety and security to all.

Never before have I seen needles on the corner of Hornby and Pender or next to my parking spot.

Crime rates are increasing as is the opioid crisis.

Cutting the police funding will only lead to our city becoming less safe and secure and less livable. Surely there are other areas to reduce spending.

Safety and security should be at the top of the list of priorities and not as I believe farther down the list.

Thank you

Norman Miller

To Mayor, City Councillors, Police Board, and Chief Adam Palmer

My name is Partap Sahota and I am the Executive Director of the Collingwood Community Policing Centre. I am also a property owner in the city of Vancouver. We are a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with the community, The Vancouver Police Department and other agencies to make Vancouver a safe and thriving city. We appreciate the chance to express our views. We have about 150,000 citizens in our catchment and over 200 dedicated volunteers. We fully support maintaining the funding for the Vancouver Police Department at status quo. With the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that the City of Vancouver maintain the high level of service that the citizens of Vancouver are used to.

We find that the Vancouver Police Department is at the forefront of the changes that communities want across Canada and the United States. While there has been a call to defund the Police by a vocal minority of people, it is important to point out that the Vancouver Police is very progressive and innovative and addresses many of the issues that are pointed out in other jurisdictions. For example, a prevalent issue that has been brought up is how officers from different police departments are not dealing effectively with calls that involve mental health issues or are not inclusive or sensitive in how they approach certain calls. However, we feel that the VPD already has some programming in place for policing issues that these other jurisdictions face, such like Car 86 (Youth at Risk), Car 87 (Mental Health Car), Bar Watch, and the Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations Section, just to name a few.

We realize that the Opioid Crisis and homelessness are major problems in Vancouver and in the province of British Columbia at this time. We completely support that the fact that these issues need to be addressed. This is why the Collingwood Community Policing Centre along with our VPD Neighbourhood Officers are participating in committees and providing support for multiple Social Housing Projects (Kingsway Continental, The Biltmore, Kwayatsut, Sarah Ross House, and Naomi Place). Given the level of involvement that the Vancouver Police Department has in the community through the various programs, we feel that taking funding away from the Vancouver Police Department is not the best course of action. We feel that cutting services at this time police will lead to more crime and public disorder. Compared to other catchments in the city of Vancouver, we feel fortunate that our most of our businesses are not boarded up like the ones on Hastings and Downtown. It is with the help of the officers that we work with that we have been able to maintain one of the lowest crime rates in our catchment in the city of Vancouver.

Currently, VPD is already understaffed and with the formation of the Surrey Police Department looming and more retirements coming in the next year, the number of officers would even be lower. We would hope that you would consider keeping the Police Budget at status quo. With our communication with the Community, crime and public safety is of major concern for many people at this time.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Partap Sahota



FALSE CREEK
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

November 20, 2020

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

The False Creek Residents Association is writing to urge the City of Vancouver to reject the proposal to cut the Vancouver Police Department budget by 1%. We are strong supporters of the Vancouver Police Department and now, more than ever, we need to help them do their job.

While we recognize that new strategies are needed in addition to policing to combat a crisis in mental health and homelessness, this should not be at the expense of the VPD. In fact, we need increased funding to support these new strategies, and City officials need to find other areas of the budget to fund these basic safety needs for the citizens of Vancouver.

We recently learned the following statistics from the Vancouver Police Department's Quarter 3, 2020 Year-to-Date Key Performance Indicators Report (October 13, 2020):

- *Every VPD Patrol District experienced an increase in serious assaults, as did 19 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods.*
- *Neighbourhoods that have attracted significant public and media attention over the past five months have continued to see increases in serious assaults. The Central Business District, Strathcona, and the West End account for 67% of all reported serious assaults in Vancouver, and these three neighbourhoods have seen a combined increase of 9.2% (the West End has seen a 45.8% increase), while Chinatown has seen a 13.9% increase.*
- *Intimate Partner Violence is at an all-time high, 4.6% higher than 2019 (previous highest year). These files are very time-consuming for patrol officers, often consuming an entire shift.*
- *Hate crimes incidents increased 116%, including anti-Asian hate crime incidents that rose by 878%*
- *In contrast, it is noteworthy that the three most serious types of property crime – B&E, arson, and fraud – have all increased. While 16 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods have seen a decrease in property crime due to the decline in TFAs (theft from auto) and other thefts, the majority of neighbourhoods (16 of 24) have seen an increase in violent crime and an increase in offensive weapons incidents (13 of 24 neighbourhoods). To address the observed increases in serious crime categories, the VPD has implemented a number of strategies to enhance public safety in Vancouver's neighbourhoods including: • Reallocation of police resources • Higher visibility of patrols (i.e., foot patrols, bicycle officers) in specific neighbourhoods • Deployment of public safety cameras in high crime areas • Patrol Division-based projects targeting problem locations and chronic offenders • Investigation Division-based projects targeting organized crime and violent offenders • Engaging community partners to enhance public safety awareness and prevention (i.e., with Business Improvement Associations, Community Policing Centres, and via social and mainstream media) • Embedded Crime Analysts examining specific neighbourhood crime trends for better resource deployment*



FALSE CREEK
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

We have serious concerns about community safety. It is one of the priorities of the FCRA's community focus. Many of the statistics noted above concern our residents who live within or border the Central Business District, Chinatown and Strathcona neighbourhoods. Our community is home to many people with various backgrounds, lifestyles and income levels. All of us are interested in building a life within the diverse culture we have created in northeast False Creek and we want to feel safe.

In addition to regular policing, we rely on VPD services such as Community Police Centres, school liaisons, youth services and many community engagement initiatives that help us blend together and feel comfortable on our streets, in our parks, public spaces and to and from our homes. We worry that with a funding cut, these will be at risk. This proactive work effectively prevents crime before it happens.

It is important to consider the VPD's role in education, prevention and safety to avoid higher costs due to crime in the future. We have concerns about citizens taking security matters into their own hands when a demand for help is not met.

We believe that the VPD funding needs to be managed appropriately with tightened city spending overall. Is this the time for unwarranted spending projects? This is an unprecedented time, but basic requirements associated with livability, mental health, homelessness and safety need to be prioritized. The VPD would be part of a set of expanded relationships with various support groups within the community to save lives and increase the overall wellbeing of the many intersecting communities in Vancouver.

The members of the FCRA, as voting residents of Vancouver and taxpayers, would like to count on the City of Vancouver to offer the full financial resources for the VPD to effectively do its job to reach a level of service that goes "beyond the call".

Sincerely

Patsy McMillan

Co-Chair

Mick Slivecko

Co-Chair

From: [Joe R.M.](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#);
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Concern about police budget cuts
Date: Friday, November 27, 2020 6:09:21 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

The rise in crime, street order and homeless encampments requires an adequately funded force to ensure public safety. We would like to oppose police budget cuts for year 2021 or near future. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly

Joe Zhang

From: [mara terriss](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: concerned citizen
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 9:52:58 PM

Hi, I am writing you in regards to cutting the Police Department's budget. I already do not feel enough to walk home alone, I do not support cutting the Police Department's budget. I don't believe I or anyone else will be safer with less police officers protecting our city.

Kind regards,
Concerned citizen

Sent from my Galaxy



November 17, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council and Vancouver Police Board

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Hotel Association of Vancouver Board of Directors in regards to the potential decrease in funding for policing as part of the 2021 Vancouver budget.

The Hotel Association of Vancouver represents 70+ hotels within the City of Vancouver, and over the course of 2020, our hotels have seen an overall increase in criminal activity in the downtown area.

As we are all aware, with the current pandemic situation, the tourism sector in the city has been financially decimated. In addition to the financial burden, our members regularly face issues such as blatant theft, aggression, vandalism, threats, and the overall sense of feeling unsafe. Anecdotally, our members and their guests have dealt with an increasing prevalence of these issues through the lockdown period to present. Police presence and visibility, as well as community police programming, are crucial in helping to curb these issues and provide an overall sense of safety not only for our members, but for our guests.

We are therefore very concerned regarding the suggested proposals being considered by City Council for the 2021 budget that would see a reduction in the overall police budget, stretching VPD resources even further. We urge you to not consider those options.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you require anything further from us, please do not hesitate to reach out to Debbie Morris at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential or myself at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Darren Simpson
Chair, Hotel Association of Vancouver

CC: Hotel Association Board of Directors



Frog Hollow

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE | SINCE 1968

www.froghollow.bc.ca

2131 Renfrew Street
Vancouver, BC V5M 4M5

T: 604.251.1225

F: 604.254.3764

E: contact@froghollow.bc.ca

November 16, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Hasting Sunrise Community Policing Centre

As you consider budgets for next year, we would like to support the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC) and the value it has for our community.

Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House (FHNH) has collaborated on numerous projects with the HSCPC over the past two decades or so. This collaboration has seen the staff and volunteers of both our organizations work on projects to support, in particular, seniors, youth and newcomers in our community. These projects help to build social networks, which are essential in building resilient communities through quality relationships based on trust and mutual respect.

Some of the activities that we have worked together on with the HSCPC have included seniors safety talks and ESL presentations, health fairs, wellness forums, our annual Pumpkin Patch event, harvest festivals and multiple community clean-ups with youth and seniors. HSCPC has worked closely with FHNH staff concerning safety concerns in and around Frog Hollow for many years.

It has been a true pleasure to work with the Executive Director, Clair MacGougan, who has been a consistent support and partner. Under his leadership, establishing and supporting strong and health community networks has been a priority for the HSCPC and FHNH shares these values. We particularly value the approach of the HSCPC in addressing crime and safety through a community engagement approach.

It our hope that you will continue to provide the necessary resources for the HSCPC to contribute to the life of the Hastings Sunrise community and to continue to work in collaboration with FHNH.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Gary Dobbin
Executive Director

Creating Our Community Together



November 17, 2020

Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Bligh
Councillor Boyle
Councillor Carr
Councillor De Genova
Councillor Dominato
Councillor Fry
Councillor Hardwick
Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Swanson
Councillor Wiebe

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Paul Mochrie, Deputy Manager, City of Vancouver

I am writing today on behalf of Hospitality Vancouver Association, which represents Liquor Primary establishments (nightclubs, bars, restaurants and pubs) throughout the Vancouver region. By way of background, our members employ a combined 10,000 British Columbians in a wide variety of jobs, from servers to bartenders to management personnel. Together, our estimated annual economic impact surpasses \$750 million.

The purpose of this letter is to express grave concerns on behalf of our membership about possible police budget restrictions and the impact they could have on community safety throughout the city.

Regardless of neighbourhood, community safety is the number one issue being expressed to me by our membership. Worsening vandalism, aggression, threats and theft continue to affect our neighbourhoods and businesses directly, while also contributing to a general feeling of the city becoming more and more unsafe.

Our members are extremely concerned that if the Vancouver Police Department is not properly resourced, the already urgent criminal issues facing our city will only grow. We recognize that the root cause of many of these issues relate to mental health, addictions and homelessness and these issues require significant attention and work – but not at the expense of safety. As such, we strongly believe and urge both the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council to maintain current funding levels to VPD. Our members feel that any reduction in funding would have a dire and potentially irrevocable effect on neighbourhoods throughout the city and the safety of our citizens.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss our key areas of concern, and any way which HVA could assist in the area of community safety in the future.

Respectfully,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Laura Ballance
Hospitality Vancouver Association



HOTEL BELMONT

654 Nelson Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1K4
604-605-4333 | HOTELBELMONT.CA

November 20th, 2020

The Vancouver Police Board
Vancouver City Council

Re: 2021 Police Budget

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen on behalf of Hotel Belmont Vancouver located at 654 Nelson Street, to express our concerns about possible police budgetary reductions, and the impact it could have on community safety in downtown Vancouver.

Community safety for our visitors, patrons, residents, and staff is regularly brought up as being a primary area of concern in the downtown core. Our business regularly faces issues such as blatant theft, aggression, vandalism, open drug use, threats, and the overall sense of feeling unsafe. Police presence and visibility, as well as community police programming, are crucial in helping to curb these issues and provide an overall sense of safety to everyone who lives, works, and visits here, as well as preserving Vancouver's status as one of the world's top leisure, entertainment, conference, and business travel destination.

While our hospitality business is already suffering from the devastating impact of Covid-19, we are extremely concerned that if the VPD is not adequately resourced, there will be a negative impact on the already prevalent issues that are occurring in Vancouver. Therefore, though our organization agrees that more needs to be done in the area of mental health and addiction services, we do not agree with any reduction to the current police budget.

Our business has had nothing but positive, cooperative relationship with the VPD and we envision that we would continue to preserve that to the best of our ability as long as we can survive this Covid-19 crisis. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns in more detail, as well as ways in which our organization can further cultivate our proactive relationship with the VPD.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Jéff Leung
General Manager, Hotel



溫哥華華埠商業促進會
Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society

106 Keefer St., Vancouver, BC, V6A 1X4
Email: vcbia@vancouver-chinatown.com

Tel: 604-632-3808 Fax: 604-632-3809
Web: www.vancouver-chinatown.com

November 20, 2020

Vancouver City Council
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Attention: His Worship Mayor Kennedy Stewart & Vancouver City Councillors

Dear Mayor & Councillors:

I am writing on behalf of our members in support of the work of the Vancouver Police Department and their strong importance to our neighbourhood.

The Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society represents 200+ property and 400+ business owners that affect the lives of countless more that work, live, and play in Chinatown.

Last year we appealed to Council with expressed concerns that centered on Health and Safety. In short we asked for:

- a) *More police presence and patrol of the streets and the alleys. Allow us to reclaim the commercial alleys for safe use, and*
- b) *Dedicated beat officers for Chinatown and foot patrols.*

With Covid-19 this need has become more acute with our location in the Downtown Eastside and as a visible ethnic community. We have experienced noticeable increase in anti-Asian hate crime and rise in commercial break and enters, vandalism- including broken store windows, and graffiti.

Our merchants are fearful of being victimized. The tourist traffic has disappeared, and our senior population that frequent Chinatown as their social hub does not feel safe because of the fear of violence, the increased homeless population, open drug use, and those facing mental health issues in our community.

Further deterioration of Chinatown is putting it on the tipping point that has already seen the decay of the retail landscape and disappearance of the business community along East Hastings Street and Powell Street- the historic centre of the Japanese community.



溫哥華華埠商業促進會
Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society

106 Keefer St., Vancouver, BC, V6A 1X4
Email: vcbia@vancouver-chinatown.com

Tel: 604-632-3808 Fax: 604-632-3809
Web: www.vancouver-chinatown.com

All levels of government have supported and committed human and financial resources to the community's aspiration for a UNESCO application to recognize the distinct and historic importance of this community.

VCBIA, with partners in the community, is already working to support the VPD with its own security foot patrol and the Chinatown Community Stewardship Program run by EMBERS Eastside Works. However, these programs do not replace the good work done by VPD to maintain social order for the safety of the community.

It is the City's responsible to ensure the safety of all its citizens. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to support the 2021 budget submission made by the Vancouver Police Department.

Yours truly,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Jordan Eng, President

Copy to:

Sadhu Johnston
City Manager

Adam Palmer
*Chief Constable
for the Vancouver Police Department*

Stephanie Johansen
Vancouver Police Board

From: [PALMER, Adam](#)
To: [JOHANSSON, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: FW: Cutting the police budget
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 9:10:58 AM

CHIEF ADAM PALMER
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | Beyond the Call
604.717.2950
adam.palmer@vpd.ca | vpd.ca

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-----Original Message-----

From: Lindsey Paul s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 10:27 PM
To: PALMER, Adam <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>
Subject: Cutting the police budget

Hello Adam,

My name is Lindsey and I have been living downtown in this beautiful city for seven years. I have loved every minute of it. I've always felt safe walking home by myself from the clubs(when they were opened) at 3 in the morning. Because of increasing crime in the area I feel that cutting the policing in the downtown area would be a mistake. All my friend and family and people who visit have always felt safe. Many friend who work out of town and have had their windows smashed very recent. It is a very beautiful and fun place for people to come to and enjoy this city. When the street gets closed for the summer weekend it is a vibe like no other. Not just because it is cool but because people feel safe a protected because there is brave police and community police everywhere. Please do not cut the police budget. It is the heart of the city and people need to have fun and feel safe when they live and come from out of town. Thank you for reading and be safe.

Thank you,
Lindsey

Sent from my iPhone



Re 2021 Police Budget

Att: Chief Palmer, Police Board, Mayor & Council, City & Deputy Manager

My name is Paul Dragan, owner of Reckless Bike Stores, with 3 downtown locations, within 1km of each other. 2021 will be my 35th year in business. My wife, son & I are residents of the "Beach District."

I am writing to express my concerns about reductions in the 2021 police budget.

From a business standpoint, within the past 3 years, we have witnessed:

- Marked increases in attempted break in's, shoplifting and theft of bikes from our sidewalk displays
- Increased socially & mentally challenged individuals frequenting our locations with the intent to steal.
- Anecdotal evidence from customers reporting stolen bikes, wheels, seats, lights and generally anything left on a bike; either inside locked buildings and/or on the streets
- Frequent viewings of bicycle "chop shops" operating openly in alleys and streets.

At my stores, within 12 months, we increased our theft prevention to include;

- Bikes locked INSIDE the store, day & night,
- Extra exterior locks; additional security gates,
- Increased cameras and surveillance equipment,
- Application to enforce the B.C Trespass Act

(All in addition to existing window bars, monitored alarms & cameras)

1810 Fir Street
Vancouver B.C. V6J 3B1
(604) 731-2420
firststreet@rektek.com

110 Davie Street
Vancouver B.C. V6Z 2V4
(604) 648-2600
davie@rektek.com

1357 Hornby Street
Vancouver B.C. V6Z 1W7
(604) 669-8311
hornby@rektek.com



Personally, within my own neighborhood, I have witnessed:

- needles, syringes, and drug evidence on the streets and park where I walk my dog
- theft from vehicles, including twice from my own, involving broken glass and/or forced locks
- thief from my front porch (town house) occurring in daylight
- increased foot traffic of mentally challenged individuals, with carts, bags, and Parks Board tote bins

As a resident of Vancouver for close to 40 years, having lived in Kits, Kerrisdale & downtown, I have NEVER felt unsafe or worried in ANY neighborhood, not even after my life threatening gunshot injury sustained in Yaletown, 2014.

Lately, within the past years, my perception of safety has changed:

I make wider births to pass individuals who are un-kept and/or mentally challenged,

I will not interfere or render assistance for fear of needles, weapons, or bodily harm.

My wife and I frequent taxis, rather than walking, at night when we patronize downtown restaurants.

I will no longer open my front door if I hear individuals in distress, or commotion on the street.

I am now uncomfortable in my own city.

1810 Fir Street
Vancouver B.C. V6J 3B1
(604) 731-2420
firststreet@rektek.com

110 Davie Street
Vancouver B.C. V6Z 2V4
(604) 648-2600
davie@rektek.com

1357 Hornby Street
Vancouver B.C. V6Z 1W7
(604) 669-8311
hornby@rektek.com

www.reckless.ca



I applaud the VPD Neighborhood Response Team program. Increased police presence dealing with "low-priority calls" is exactly what we need! "Boots on the ground" and police presence re-assure the public and send notice to the "low level criminals" that we are here; the neighborhood is safe, and crime will not go unnoticed.

I am aware of the current public infatuation to "defund the police". In certain North America cities this could be a necessary step. However, Vancouver is not a city with severe racial tension, or radical political divides. We are a city that welcomes and embraces diversity and concern for the individual's well-being.

This welcome, however, is a privilege extended to those who contribute to the common good, not to those who will take advantage the rights and safety of others. Vancouver citizens should not tolerate assaults or perceived assaults to their person or property. The under privileged, homeless, and mentally ill people do not have the right to steal, threaten safety, or cause harm. Yes, they need and deserve programs to help & assist them. There should be more of them. But infringing on the tax paying public, who, ironically, fund many of the programs they desperately need, cannot be encouraged nor tolerated.

In closing, I realize the need for prudent fiscal responsibility, and would expect all who manage and spend tax revenue from Vancouver citizens & business, to be vigilant and thorough with ALL budgets. The VPD is not exempt. But I question the reduction in operating budgets given the deterioration of public safety and increasing crime that I, and many others, have witnessed in the past years.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Paul Dragan,

a proud Vancouverite

1810 Fir Street
Vancouver B.C. V6J 3B1
(604) 731-2420
firststreet@rektek.com

110 Davie Street
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(604) 648-2600
davie@rektek.com

1357 Hornby Street
Vancouver B.C. V6Z 1W7
(604) 669-8311
hornby@rektek.com

www.reckless.ca

From: [PALMER, Adam](#)
To: [JOHANSSON, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: FW: Police Budget for Vancouver
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 9:10:22 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

CHIEF ADAM PALMER

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*
604.717.2950

adam.palmer@vpd.ca | vpd.ca



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From: J K s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 9:13 PM
Subject: Police Budget for Vancouver

My name is Joe Kennedy and I am an employee of a downtown Vancouver business. If budget cuts happened to the Vancouver Police it would drastically effect not only the safety of myself but that of the many clients we see on a daily basis. The professionalism of the police and patience to deal with a wide variety of situations is dependent on a well staffed and well trained police force that has the backing of it's city and institutions. The VPD are an asset to our internationally renowned city and it would be a disservice to us all to cut their funding.

Please do not cut the police budget.

--

Joe Kennedy



Motivating students so that they will become independent thinkers, leaders, and life-long learners, living an inspired, Torah-true life.

November 18, 2020

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope this letter finds you well in these trying times. With COVID a pervasive concern, growing trends of anti-Semitic crime distressing for those of us in the Jewish community, and the overall stress of life these days a challenge that educators everywhere are grappling with, the call for the defunding of police departments is that much more distressing.

As the Head of School of Shalhevet Girls High School, the only Orthodox Jewish high school in Vancouver, we have a warm relationship with the VPD. They have run drills with us, voluntarily come to do security checks on our building, and offered advice on security upgrades. When we found ourselves in a VTRA situation, the VPD was exceedingly helpful in guiding us through the proper protocol, ensuring we received the guidance we needed to help our students appropriately.

In addition, our School Resource Officer has been tremendously helpful in ensuring our school's security, both physical and emotional. He is currently planning a presentation for our students about internet safety, an issue that is at the forefront of teen struggles today.

As a member of the Orthodox Jewish community, the VPD has been a regular presence at community events. They have served to ensure our community's safety, and we are extraordinarily grateful for the work they do and have done for our community institutions. Running an institution that is markedly Jewish in times of open anti-Semitism is stressful. Knowing that the VPD is nearby and responsive, that they are working in concert with us, and that we can rely on them in an emergency (Gd forbid) makes my job just a bit less worrying. **In a time when anti-Semitic incidents are rising, the importance of the VPD cannot be overstated!**

As an educator, administrator, Jewish Canadian, and member of the Vancouver community, I strongly oppose the call to defund the police. I strongly support approving the VPD budget.

Thank you.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Meira Federgrun

Head of School

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



November 19, 2020

Vancouver City Council
Vancouver Police Board

To Whom It May Concern,

Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV) has been in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) since 1997. This long-standing collaboration between a non-profit social services organization and police has allowed our embedded Victim Services Workers to do what they do best, to focus most importantly on victim support in the aftermath of a crime, while police are able to focus on offender management. In particular, FSGV has worked together with the VPD's Special Investigation Section whose work targets those luring children, exploiting sex workers, and abusing the vulnerable. This partnership keeps victim safety as important as the priority of offender accountability.

After many years of experience in operating victim support programs, we know that these most vulnerable populations require great care and attention not only from community agencies, but also from police. VPD's partnership with FSGV within the Special Investigation Section provides a resourceful approach to enhancing public safety and supporting victims of crime. It allows both a police member and a community service provider to walk alongside the victim as they make their way through the criminal justice system. The responsiveness provided by Vancouver Police Department's detectives to the highest risk victims is commendable. Many detectives have gone beyond the call of duty to help victims feel as comfortable as possible while dealing with life-threatening injuries sustained during vicious assaults. VPD has played an integral supporting role in encouraging victims to continue and sustain their participation in the justice system despite suffering emotionally and physically from the traumas they have experienced. As one can see, the work of this partnership is unique and special and the services are essential.

FSGV supports the Vancouver Police Department's request for their proposed 2021 operational budget. We understand that this would sustain their current policing model and that would include maintaining many crucial programs and partnerships like the one the VPD operates within their Special investigation Section.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Maria Howard
Chief Executive Officer

Serving families and communities since 1928

www.fsgv.ca | 201-1638 E Broadway, Vancouver BC, V5N 1W1 | t: 604-731-4951 | f: 604-733-7009



November 19, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council and Vancouver Police Board

I am reaching out to you today as a concerned citizen on behalf of the Sylvia Hotel operating in Vancouver in regards to the potential decrease in funding for policing as part of the 2021 Vancouver budget.

As a landmark heritage property in Vancouver, The Sylvia Hotel has not been spared by the increased crime around our location of the Westend, Stanley Park and English Bay. As we are all aware, with the current pandemic situation, the tourism sector in the city has been financially decimated. In addition to the financial burden, We regularly face issues such as blatant theft, aggression, vandalism, threats, and the overall sense of feeling unsafe. Anecdotally, our employees and our guests have dealt with an increasing prevalence of these issues through the lockdown period to present.

As business operator, We stretched every expense to not compromise the safety of our employees and guests as much as protecting our building from all crimes. Reducing the police presence in our area would obligate the Sylvia Hotel to further security cost in a financial climate where our first priority is to keep our associates employed and to support the public health authorities recommendations to combat COVID-19 in every possible way.

Additionally, Police presence and visibility, as well as community police programming, are critical in helping to curb these issues and provide an overall sense of safety not only for our guests and employees, but for our local residents who are supporting us all through these difficult times.

Community safety for us is of paramount importance. We are therefore very concerned regarding the suggested proposals being considered by City Council for the 2021 budget that would see a reduction in the overall police budget, stretching VPD resources even further.

We urge you to not consider those options.

Sincerely,

Gaetan Bottier | General Manager

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

THE SYLVIA HOTEL on English Bay
1154 GILFORD STREET, VANCOUVER, BC, V6G 2P6
TEL: (604) 681-9321 FAX: (604)682-3551
WEB-SITE: www.sylviahotel.com



Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen on behalf of Ramada Limited Vancouver Downtown operating in Vancouver, to express our great concern regarding potential police budgetary reductions, and how that may affect our business, our staff and our guests perceived safety.

Community safety for is of paramount importance. In our view, the presence of police and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver is greatly needed in the downtown core, especially as you move east of Granville Street.

On behalf of our entire team here at Ramada, we are very concerned regarding the suggested proposals being considered by City Council for the 2021 budget that would see a reduction in the overall police budget, stretching VPD resources even further. We urge you to not consider those options.

Sincerely,
Paul Lamirande
General Manager
Ramada Limited Downtown Vancouver
gm@ramadadowntownvancouver.com

Ramada Limited Downtown Vancouver www.ramadadowntownvancouver.com

435 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1V2

T: 604.488.1088 / Fax: 604.488.1090

Days Hospitality a member of the Days Group of Companies www.dayshospitality.com

Ramada Plaza Calgary Downtown | Ramada Limited Downtown Vancouver | Holiday Inn West Kelowna | Ramada Plaza Prince George



Hastings North Business Improvement Association

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Hastings North BIA to convey our support for the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request, and to relay the positive impact that the VPD has had in our community. We believe that policing is an essential service especially at this time when we are facing increased issues with property crime, violence and public realm disruption in our City. For the economic recovery of our small businesses and our commercial streets we need the police department to continue to fulfill its role of enhancing public safety.

Our businesses are struggling to survive due to health restrictions, which we strongly support, but the recent survey citing that close to 80% of Vancouver citizens do not feel safe is reducing our ability to survive the pandemic and its repercussions. We strongly support our Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre and the community assistance provided by our neighbourhood police officer. We recently had an incident at the BIA/CPC office perpetrated by an individual who had a reaction to the drugs he took. This was handled with due diligence and great understanding by the VPD officers who attended the incident and helped bring the individual to hospital after a six-hour standoff. We also received a letter from the individual apologizing for the incident and thanking the police for their assistance.

Our business community relies on the response of VPD officers for both violent and non-violent interactions. We are east of the Downtown Eastside and although we may not have the number of incidents, we are seeing an increase in crime related activity. There are a number of our businesses who currently believe that there are not enough officers in Vancouver and any reduction in officers will hurt their ability to respond to issues in our area leaving the business and residential community at risk. We recognize the need for greater investment in mental health, drug addiction services and housing but respectfully note these should be financed by the province not by the Police budget.

We understand that this is a difficult time financially for the City but our commercial property and business owners pay increasing property taxes to the City and need to have the peace of mind that the safety of all Vancouverites and guests is a priority for Council. We therefore believe that providing adequate funding to our police department is as essential as ensuring that our roads, sidewalks, sewers etc. are maintained and that permit times are reduced. These and more are the elements of ensuring an economically viable City that can continue to provide employment and services to the residents of Vancouver.

Yours sincerely,

HASTINGS NORTH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Nyroze Tanious, President

2620 East Hastings Street | Vancouver BC | V5K 1Z6 | P: 604.215.2401 | F: 604.216.0991

November 16th, 2020

Dear Vancouver Police Department, and Vancouver City Council,

My name is Allan Rudzki, and I live in the West-End of Vancouver, BC.

I do not support Vancouver City Council's budget cut proposal towards the VPD because there have been many break-ins in Vancouver (<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/violent-crime-in-vancouver-some-areas-seeing-record-high-numbers-police-say-1.5109147>, <https://www.vancourier.com/news/first-seven-days-of-2020-see-258-car-break-ins-in-vancouver-1.24052323#:~:text=Break%2Dins%20to%20vehicles%20in,a%2099.8%20per%20cent%20increase.>), so police presence is necessary. Police visibility in general is helpful because it prevents delinquent behaviours. Many people are moving to Vancouver; therefore, it is important to have more police officers.

The cost of living is rising, so in order for police officers to do well on their jobs they need to be paid well.

Sincerely,

Allan



November 23, 2020

Dear Mayor, Council and Vancouver Police Board

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Marriott Hotels Business Council of British Columbia in regards to the potential decrease in funding for policing as part of the 2021 Vancouver budget.

The Business Council represents 9 hotels within the City of Vancouver, and over the course of 2020, our hotels have seen an overall increase in criminal activity in the downtown area.

As we are all aware, with the current pandemic situation, the tourism sector in the city has been financially decimated. In addition to the financial burden, our staff regularly deal with questions from guests about safety. We have to continuously remind our out of town guests that they cannot leave anything in their cars when parked in and around the downtown core, which includes an empty water bottle worth 10 cents. Guests do choose to leave Vancouver early if driving once they have checked out for fear of leaving anything in their car while seeing our sites.

We have staff members that live in the downcore that have walked to work and from work for years and no longer feel safe walking for early morning or late-night shifts. This summer one of our staff walked out of the hotel just before 7 am and was asked for her wallet and when she said "no" she was grabbed by the hair and the person let go when she screamed loudly but as you can imagine that shook both her and our entire team.

Below is a cut and past from one of our guest comments cards from October.

"Staff were very friendly and helpful; they were the highlight of our stay. The only issue we had while staying at this location was the surrounding area. The surrounding area does not feel very safe in terms of parking and walking. We feel terrible for the homeless community surrounding that area; however, it is a very prominent factor of the overall experience."

Police presence and visibility, as well as community police programming, are crucial in helping to curb these issues and provide an overall sense of safety not only for our staff, but for our guests.

We are therefore very concerned regarding the suggested proposals being considered by City Council for the 2021 budget that would see a reduction in the overall police budget, stretching VPD resources even further. We urge you to not consider those options.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you require anything further from us, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself at Barry. Johnson@deltahotels.com.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Barry Johnson
Chair, Marriott Hotels Business Council
General Manager
Delta Hotels by Marriott Vancouver Downtown Suites
550 West Hastings Street

November 20, 2020

Re: Letter of support for the Vancouver Police Department...defending our police

Dear Chief Palmer, Mayor Kennedy, City Counselors:

My name is Walter Mustapich. I am the co-founder of a foundation called The Boys Club Network www.boysclubnetwork.com We work with boys ages 13-21 in helping them to become positive, contributing members of society. We endeavor to help them find and develop their moral compass so they may make good decisions when interacting with women, family, friends, community and themselves. I am also a long time Vice Principal in the public education system having served as a Vice Principal in both Vancouver and North Vancouver. Personally, I grew up in East Vancouver in the early 1960's up until 2000 when we moved to North Vancouver. Many of my friends grew to become cops or robbers as we would like to joke. Of course there were many other vocations followed and successfully achieved but needless to say I have always seen the benefits of strong, professional policing in our communities and schools.

During my time as a Vice Principal in Vancouver Secondary Schools I came to appreciate the diverse nature of the various communities that exist within Vancouver. East Vancouver, South Vancouver, Kerrisdale, Point Grey, etc.. While diverse, these communities all shared a need to work with the local police department. Whether that was to speak to a law class, coach a basketball team or investigate a planned school shooting (true story. It was at my school at the time!) I always felt supported, safe and proud to have the police support my role as a Vice Principal to help make my school and community a safe place where kids could learn without fear, and in comfort.

Schools are a microcosim of our communities. While the vast majority of students are solid young citizens pursuing their goals, dreams and education there is always a disruptive percentage that engage in activities that are contrary to the purpose of public education....a safe place where young people can learn and thrive. Over the years I have confiscated machetes, knives, brass knuckles, and more. I worked with my school liaison officers, gang squad members, patrol officers to investigate and resolve conflicts, intruders, drug dealers, and more. Let's be clear....these were not daily events and in most schools rarely occurred but when they did there was nobody I wanted to see more than a member of the Vancouver Police Department!

In my interactions with local police I cannot recall a time, in the hundreds of times we connected, that they were anything but professional, serious about their work, compassionate and yes...often in possession of a wonderful sense of humour. The humour was critical when things seemed overwhelming. It was not mitigating a situation, it just made it more bearable at the time. Personally, and this is not a policy statement, the police are my friends, my brothers and sisters, an important part of my school team, an important part of my community, the ones I reach out to when danger or fear is present. We can never have too many police. We can only have too few.

All organizations need to review how they do their work. I remember getting the strap in grade 5. Needless to say think about what would happen today should that occur in a school. It doesn't because we continue to grow and evolve in our education system. Our police also continue to evolve, train, change to better serve our cities. I truly believe that. For those police who do not meet the standards of the VPD I am certain there are opportunities to upgrade their training, share their knowledge or when it's just not working be told to leave. This is not uncommon in most professions. Our police are not rogues, they are us. Police are people with families, they are coaches in our community, partners, neighbors. They chose their careers because they care. They run toward danger not away from it. They are smart and educated. They are key to all of us enjoying the right to feel safe in our homes, our work, our communities.

I recently asked a friend, who is a former gang member and is now completing a degree in family counselling, what the criminal community would think of defunding the police. He looked me straight in the eye and said criminals and bullies are smiling and licking their lips. This is a gift to them and their intentions. That in itself is terrifying. Is it also not obvious?

Defend our police, not defund them! Develop prevention programs for kids and young adults on the path to criminal activity, but retain the tools needed when the rogues in the criminal world decide they want something you have...your property, your family members well being, your well being, etc. Every one of us needs an advocate in a blue uniform, trained to ensure we will be protected. Post incident, should it be necessary, yes let's make sure there are opportunities for mental health support, correction, growth. That is a different topic for another day.

Thank you for all that you do to make Vancouver safe and a great place to live in your roles of Police Chief, Mayor, Counsellors and more. You lead often thankless jobs. I get it. I appreciate what you all do. Now please do the right thing and support our police. No defunding. 'Defending' and positive growth instead.

Sincerely,

Walter Mustapich
Co-Founder Westcoast Boys Club Network
Vice Principal

§.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Pete Mahony | Director
Mahony & Sons



discovermahony.com

I am writing on behalf of my downtown Vancouver business Mahony & Sons, with locations at the Vancouver Convention Centre and False Creek, to express my concerns about possible police budget restrictions and the impact that these restrictions could have on community safety in downtown Vancouver and the safety of my business, my staff and my guests.

I am also writing on behalf of myself, a born and raised Vancouver citizen, who on a personal level am extremely concerned with what I am seeing on the streets of what was our once safe city. Believe me that is no longer !

On a business level, in the past 12 months I have experienced more damage on our commercial property locations in attempted break ins, vandalism and theft than I have experienced in the previous past 10 years combined. Smashed windows, theft of product, costs of repairs all expenses I have had to absorb due to this, that as a small business owner, in these very tough times, I simply can not afford.

I have been so grateful for both the response time and assistance the VPD has shown my business when called upon. Unfortunately an all too common dialogue is how VPD are doing their best to keep up with everything however there is just simply too much crime on our streets and not enough resources to keep up. I have to agree as I have also had dialogue with many other business owners who have experienced the same damage to their business's that I have.

The crime issue is not only the safety of my commercial properties that has me very alarmed, it is also the safety of my staff and guests choosing to work and attend our restaurants. Daily opening duties for my convention centre location have for months now consisted of pleading with individuals to please vacate our patio spaces and subsequently cleaning and sweeping up after them of drug paraphernalia. Simply terrible for business. Situations like this for many years we

have not had to deal with around the convention centre and now it is a very common occurrence.

This letter is being written in support of the VPD and ensuring the 2021 VPD budget has the necessary resources included to combat the growing crime in our once safe city. The crime issues in Vancouver we have all been facing have been well documented and only seem to be worsening. Now is the time to be investing more into our VPD, not the opposite. Please invest the appropriate resources for 2021 budget and beyond into our VPD to ensure the citizens, guests, and business's of Vancouver remain safe.

Sincerely Pete Mahony

Vancouver business owner and resident for 44 years !



溫哥華華埠商會

Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association

508 Taylor Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 6M4

Phone: (604) 682-8998 Fax: (604) 682-8939

Email: vcma@vancouver-chinatown.com

November 17, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to express the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association's appreciation of the work of the Vancouver Police Department.

The Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association represents more than 130 member businesses in Chinatown. Our members are predominantly traditional, legacy businesses that help define the character of this National Historic Area. Our businesses now serve a broad cross section of Vancouver but they also serve the core local residents who include the Chinese seniors who are particularly vulnerable to the wide-spread disorder on Chinatown streets.

The Community has done what it can to augment the diminished resources of the VPD; the Vancouver Chinatown BIA contracts a security service to patrol, the Chinatown Community Policing advises on security matters and provides volunteer patrols and Chinatown Community Stewardship Program run by EMBERS Eastside Works provides invaluable conflict resolution service.

They all do good work but they cannot replace the confidence that the uniformed police officer will provide our members and their customers that they can go about their business free of harassment and threat. Their good work cannot replace the deterrence value of a uniformed police officer. Their good work cannot replace the training of a professional police officer to prevent and to avoid conflict on the streets.

Please give the VPD the resources to get back out to the community.

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Henry Tom
Vice-President,
Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association.



November 19, 2020

ATTENTION:

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Bligh
Councillor Boyle
Councillor Carr
Councillor De Genova
Councillor Dominato
Councillor Fry
Councillor Hardwick
Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Swanson
Councillor Wiebe

VIA EMAIL

RE: Police Budget Cuts and Safety for Citizens and Businesses in the City of Vancouver

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing today on behalf of the New Car Dealers Association of BC (NCDA), which represents 36 franchised new car and truck dealers in the City of Vancouver and hundreds of others in Greater Vancouver and around the province. Our members provide more than 30,000 family supporting jobs in BC, from automotive technicians to IT professionals, management, and sales personnel. NCDA Members are responsible for more than 19% of all retail sales in the province, contributing more than \$2.9 Billion in GDP and contributing more than \$675 Million in tax revenue to all three levels of government annually. The NCDA also owns and operates the Vancouver International Auto Show.

The purpose of this letter is to express grave concerns on behalf of our membership about possible police budget restrictions and the impact they could have on community safety throughout our city.

Regardless of neighbourhood, **community safety is a top issue** being expressed by our membership. Worsening vandalism, aggression, threats, and theft continue to affect our neighbourhoods and businesses directly, while also contributing to a general feeling of the city becoming less and less safe and secure.

Our members are extremely concerned that **if the Vancouver Police Department is not properly resourced, the already urgent criminal issues facing the City will only grow.** We recognize that the root cause of many of these issues relate to mental health, addictions and homelessness and these

issues do require significant attention and work – but not at the expense of safety. As such, we strongly urge both the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council to maintain current funding levels to the VPD. Our members feel that any reduction in funding would have a dire and potentially irrevocable effect on neighbourhoods throughout the city and the safety of its citizens and others working in or visiting the city.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss our key areas of concern, and any way in which the NCDCA and our members could assist in the area of community safety, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

NEW CAR DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF BC

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Blair Qualey
President & CEO

cc: Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board
Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Paul Mochrie, Deputy Manager, City of Vancouver

From: [Kristen](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Policing Cuts- Granville Street
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 4:37:31 PM

To Mayor Stewart, the Police, City Council Members and City Managers that it may concern.

I am writing this letter as a concerned resident and career-woman of downtown Vancouver, specifically the Entertainment District of Granville Street and Yaletown. It was brought to my attention that the City of Vancouver is contemplating cutting the 2021 Police Budget, which would result in losing 120 officers off the streets of Vancouver.

I have worked at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential since February 2014, and have lived in Yaletown (Richard & Helmcken) since the of age 25. Now as a 31 year old woman, who walks home in the late hours of the night, hearing that there is going to be less of a police presence in my area is extremely concerning. In Yaletown and the Entertainment District of Granville, there has been a large increase of crime in our area. This is the first time in over 6 years that I consistently feel unsafe in my own neighborhood. News stories of crime, including the woman at the Roundhouse station who was held at gun point and MANY other various crimes have made me take pause and reevaluate my living and work circumstance.

I am quickly trying to put my condominium on the market, as the Yaletown property values are very quickly declining. I have friends who live three blocks from me who cannot sell their apartment because of an influx of crime in their area.

The police are NEEDED in our area. Not just NEEDED, but based on the current increase of crime the city should be **INCREASING** the police presence! I implore you to PLEASE do not defund the police in our area! So many young families and the well-being of CHILDREN depend on this decision.

It is extremely sad to Emery Barnes Park full of everything EXCEPT joyful children. To hear of my friends who are young mothers who are afraid to take their infants for a stroller walk around the block, to be afraid to take my own dog out in the middle of the night! Increasing the police presence will provide peace of mind for so many people in our neighborhood.

If you require any further information on my end, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Kristen

Kristen Lindahl

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

H.G. PROJECTS INC.

November 18, 2020

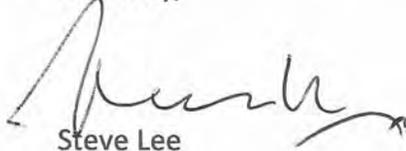
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Chinatown Centre Medical Centre I'm writing to convey our full support of the proposed increase for the Vancouver Police Department 2021 budget.

The VPD represents Chinatown's "only firewall" to the endemic and social problems we have in our society on a 24/7 basis and without them all the residential and commercial lives of the people who live, work and visit this neighbourhood could and would be eroded in a day; therefore on behalf of our doctors and medical staff and for all of our patients, we are writing to show our support and confidence of the VPD and urge this Council to fully support and approve the VPD's increase to the proposed budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Lee", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Lee

Cc: Sadhu Johnson, City of Vancouver Manager

Adam Palmer, Chief Vancouver Police Department

November 20, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the West End Business Improvement Association (WEBIA) Board of Directors, I have been asked to express their support for budget priorities that help support businesses and that are leveraged with investments that WEBIA makes on our members' behalf.

Budget priorities include fully funding the Vancouver Police Department, topping up engineering budget areas focused on maintaining clean, safe and revitalized commercial areas, and resources to ensure timely processing of permits and licenses.

WEBIA very much values the Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO) program and the Community Police Centre (CPC) network. We rely on these resource. We need a fully funded police service. For our part, we invest in private security to try to fill in gaps in police service but this can never replace the core functions the VPD provides. If anything, we need more police funding not the same or less.

Engineering is a critical department that supports businesses through a wide range of programs. A key focus needs to be on raising standards for maintaining clean and safe roads, sidewalks and laneways – sidewalk heaving is an ongoing safety concern and the newly named lanes in places like Davie Village are an embarrassment to be honest. WEBIA invests additional dollars to deal with litter on commercial sidewalks, illegal dumping in lanes, boulevard landscaping and to remove graffiti from commercial buildings. The basics need to be budget priorities. Beyond the basics, speciality programs like plaza stewardship, commercial patios, participatory budgeting and place making initiatives involving lighting suffer greatly as a result of annual budget uncertainty – we welcome a better way to coordinate and leverage City and BIA investments in these areas to create more synergy.

Permit and licensing process are critical for businesses opening and renovating/upgrading. The City should continue to fully support the streamlining of these processes.

If you would like further information or have any questions, I can be reached at **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential** or by telephone at **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential**.

Best regards,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Stephen Regan
Executive Director

cc: WEBIA Board of Directors, City Manager, GM Engineering, Executive Director VPD

ps: A small portion of parking meter revenues collected from commercial streets should be dedicated within the engineering operating budget to work with BIAs on specialty programs that invest directly back onto these same commercial streets – create a 'line of sight' between fees taken and benefits provided.



中國洪門民治黨駐加國溫哥華支部
THE CHINESE FREEMASONS VANCOUVER BRANCH

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

November 20, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of The Chinese Freemasons Vancouver Branch to convey our strong support for the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request, and to relay the positive impact that the VPD has had in our community.

Our goal in writing this letter is to advocate for policing as an essential service that must be supported and maintained. It is the responsibility of the municipality to ensure that the policing budget is protected, so that the Department can fulfill its role of enhancing public safety, and continue to protect the Citizens of Vancouver.

Conditions in Chinatown, where we are located, is at a critical stage, in terms of security and safety for the senior residents in our housing projects, and the the survival and viability of Chinatown's business community. We have continually advocated for stronger police presence, which will require additional funding for the VPD. We cannot emphasize this enough.

We therefore seek your support in approving the VPD 2021 budget request.

Sincerely,

Cecil Fung, President
The Chinese Freemasons Vancouver Branch

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential





KERRISDALE FIGURE SKATING CLUB

(MEMBER SKATE CANADA 1000044)

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

16 November 2020

To Vancouver Police Board, Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Council

We have been a very active skating club servicing our community since 1949. We felt the need to write to you to voice our concerns with an escalating crime problem in our neighbourhood, and the knowledge that the Vancouver Police Board is meeting to discuss reducing funding to the already under-funded Vancouver Police Department. We realize that these difficult times require cost cutting to many areas, however policing in our city should not be one of them.

In the past year and a half the crime around our arena, Kerrisdale Cyclone Taylor Arena, has become very concerning. We now have to check for needles every day near entrances where our children enter for skating lessons, parents have recently been pepper sprayed while waiting for their children to exit the arena. We have experienced car break ins in our parking lot, vandalism outside the arena, groups of young people publicly drinking in front of our young children, who are awaiting entry into the arena. While we realize these are not major crimes, they are escalating crimes that we have not experienced in the 35 years I have been involved with this skating club. On several occasions we have had to call the Vancouver Police for assistance, and it is difficult for them to get to us as there are more urgent matters that understandably take preference, and manpower is a concern.

As President, (and a committed community volunteer for several organizations for over 40 years), I have received letters of concern from our parents that the above problems are escalating, and asking what is being done about them. We feel with budget cuts to the VPD by the City our concerns will never be addressed. The VPD is doing a fantastic job at helping the best they can with the problems arising, but public safety and the safety of citizens of our community are a huge concern to us.

We hope before any decision is made that concerns like ours, and the safety of the citizens of our beautiful city, are paramount in any decision made toward budget cuts to the Vancouver Police Department. We are privileged to have such a dedicated and caring Chief Constable in Adam Palmer, but a budget cut would be insulting to his department and most certainly to the citizens of Vancouver.

Sincerely

Margot Delorme
President
Kerrisdale Figure Skating Club

Vancouver Police Board
Chief Constable Adam Palmer
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen

Dear Chief Constable Palmer,

It is with great concern that I write this letter. I am a 50+ year citizen of the Metro Vancouver area, never ever in my years have I witnessed the amount of crime, street dwellers, drug addiction, and general serious decay of our downtown core.

Vancouver especially since the 2010 Olympics, has had a shine, it was clean, safe and I proudly toured visitors and guests around the city while boasting Vancouver typically being named in the top three places in the world for livability, I can assure you that is not the case today.

Over the past two years or so, and I believe the reasons are obviously clear, the downtown core is quite frankly a gong show of zombie like characters walking around, screaming, putting up temporary shelters, sleeping on sidewalks, urinating and defecating on streets. These street issues are not new to Vancouver, however it was historically contained to one area on the city.

Today, it's as if the Mayor and Provincial government just sprinkled fairy dust over the entire city relocating hundreds of addicts and socially challenged people into once safe clean neighborhoods.

I fully understand that mental health, drugs and homelessness is a tough issue and real, however whoever in their right mind feels that the steps taken over the past few years are working, needs a reality check.

And then to further open a safe injection site across from a park in Yaletown? I am sorry though VPD resources will feel the effects of these poor decisions.

My office is in Yaletown, we own a commercial building, over the last 12 months I can report daily run ins with lunatics screaming and air punching, we have experienced multiple bike thefts from our parkade a break-in to one of our restaurant tenants, multiple individuals found in our building stairwells either, shooting up or passed out sleeping. Our calls to security are through the roof. I personally witnessed a women defecating on the street in front of the 7/11 on Homer Street, absolutely disgusting, I have never ever seen so much daily disorder on our streets.

I often visit a gym in the downtown core, my daily travels witness street people taking up shelter, our iconic Library building is surrounded by street people. Outside Hudson's Bay wrecks of urine as addicts freely take over sidewalks intimidating citizens.

I have never not felt safe in the city of Vancouver until now, it is not safe.

The sad reality is, these actions have destroyed our once beautiful city - the notion that COVID is destroying business is obviously somewhat true, however the truth is many business owners are closing up and many people are actually leaving neighborhoods such as Yaletown and Gastown due to this erosion of society.

I strongly encourage that Mayor and Council get out of their office and walk around downtown, visit these neighborhoods, and see for themselves what placing 600+ challenged individuals into regular society has done. The experiment has failed miserably, and the affects will be far reaching.

Such as the need for an increased policing budget to tackle all the petty crimes and bring order back to our streets.

Sincerely, a concerned business owner, employer, property owner and citizen.

Chris Sherry

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

CC: Mayor and COUNCIL
City Manager
Deputy Manager

TRIPLE J INVESTMENTS LTD

November 20, 2020

Vancouver Police Board

2120 Cambie Street

Vancouver BC V5Z 4N6

Executive Director: Stephanie Johanssen

Dear Vancouver Police Board members, Mayor and Council members:

My understanding is that the Vancouver Police Board is seeking letters from the community as they prepare their 2021 budget.

I would like to take this opportunity to share my views with the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council regarding the following concerns:

- the increase in crime, specifically in the Fairview neighborhood where I manage a small commercial office building with several tenant businesses;
- police presence and visibility;
- street disorder;
- community police programming; and
- overall public safety.

I can easily attest to the increased criminality and concerns for safety this year compared to previous years. Since the beginning of 2020, we have encountered the following to date:

- Regular occurrences of discarded syringes including debris relating to drug use by unknown individuals (i.e. near building entrance doors, on exterior stairs, along exterior walkways, on landscaping areas, and in tenant parking stalls);
- Our tenant staff seeing individuals “shooting up” in the parkade during weekday business hours. Understandably, certain tenant staff are concerned about their personal safety;
- Occasions of individuals loitering around the street level parkade during evening and early morning hours displaying erratic behaviour possibly related to mental health and/or addiction issues;

- An early morning trespassing event where an individual climbed over a concrete wall into a secured gated area of the property. More recently, during the middle of a work day, an individual jumped over a tall metal fence into the secured landscaped area where tenant staff bicycles are locked and remained onsite for approximately 20 minutes;
- Two separate incidents of vehicle break-ins within a six-day period during the month of April. Given Phase 1 of BC's COVID-19 response, these two events could be related to the reduced number of tenant staff working in the office (i.e. some regular tenant staff working from home) and the decreased neighbourhood pedestrian activity (i.e. opportunistic crimes);
- At least two occasions of an individual loitering around the parking lot during the evening and setting small fires in the parkade;
- Two unknown individuals attempting to access a secured utility room door of the building followed by one walking into two tenant offices uninvited and purported to be looking for someone by the name of "Mark". Hence, the possible "scouting" of offices given reduced tenant staffing in response to COVID-19 by businesses;
- One incident of an individual pulling items in/out of a recycling bin brought into our parkade early in the morning. A tenant staff asked him if he need help, but no coherent response. The individual urinates in a tenant parking stall during his stay. Also, a garbage bag including an empty syringe and related debris is discarded in the parkade upon leaving later that morning;
- An occasion of offensive graffiti written on a building wall and a second occasion of graffiti on a building wall along with graffiti on the metal door handle at a building entrance;
- A homeless individual sleeping on the stairs at the south side of the building during a Saturday morning in October and leaving behind fair amount of debris onsite;
- Earlier this week, an individual was "camped" behind an umbrella in an empty parking stall next to a tenant's parked vehicle. Hence, my ongoing concern is for the safety of tenant staff as they go to their vehicles at the end of the work day, but also the individual's safety if he is not seen by a vehicle attempting to park; and
- Other events not specifically mentioned above.

As the Board and Council deliberate the proposed 2021 police budget, I humbly submit that additional police presence and visibility is required given the increased criminality. It will contribute towards public safety, it will provide a sense of safety for our tenant staff, and it will mitigate the negative effects of criminality on our tenants' already challenged business operations during this pandemic and potential recovery during 2021.

Speaking from personal experience, the Kitsilano Fairview Community Policing Centre has been a vital communication and support component (by email and by phone) for our property management operations. For example:

- Several years ago, a neighbourhood VPD officer from the community policing centre put me in touch with a local non-profit organization to assist with attempts to connect a homeless person with one of their outreach workers; and

- Since Phase 2 and the re-opening the community policing centre, the recommencement of the weekday foot patrol team during business hours appears to be helping matters. Please kindly consider adding evening and weekend community patrols (i.e. foot, bicycle and/or vehicle) if not already considered in the current policing program of presence and visibility.

In summary, the community policing centre office staff have been an invaluable source of support with professional guidance on how to handle and report certain matters. Thus, the continued and enhanced funding towards the proactive development of community policing programs with the integration of relevant partners in order to respond to issues encountered by neighbourhood stakeholders in a timely manner will be greatly welcomed and appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at your convenience. Thank you.

Yours truly,

TRIPLE J INVESTMENTS LTD

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Jeffrey Jung

E-mail: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Jason Bonnell](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Please don't defund
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 12:55:37 AM

As a person that works downtown Vancouver I wish to add my support to maintaining the policing budget for 2021 and urge Council not to make any cuts because I don't feel that cutting the police budget will make me safer and reduce crime.

Thank you

Jason Bonnell

Sent from my iPhone

To the Mayor and City Council Members,

Regarding the 2021 Vancouver Police Department Budget

Please consider this letter to convey our strong support of the VPD's 2021 budget request. As citizens of Vancouver, we understand the importance, especially during these unsettling times, of maintaining essential police services so vital to our city. Frontline service and response to emergency situations must not be compromised, from lack of resources and personnel.

The pandemic situation has not only increased the burden for the VPD to adequately respond to:

- increased crime (including more violent and hate-motivated actions)
- managing mental health, drug abuse, theft and disturbances from relocated homeless persons throughout the city,
- increased domestic abuse
- increased commercial break-ins
- increased civil protests

It has also impacted the psychology and well-being of the Officers themselves, as evidenced in a huge increase of early retirees from the Force, as well as an increase of sick leave for mental health reasons. The VPD needs to be supported here, as much as for the services they provide.

We ask the government officials of Vancouver to stand behind our Police Force, and meet the budget request as described.

Thank-you, and Regards,

Bob Disbrow & Kim Kawaguchi

Vancouver residents

From: [General Manager Granville Strip](#)
Subject: VPD Funding
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 6:03:09 PM

Dear Vancouver Police Officials, Council Members and City Staff Officials,

I have owned hotels and clubs on Granville for more than 30 years as past owner of The Yale Hotel, The Cecil Hotel and The Hotel California, (renamed to The Howard Johnson and purchased by the city a few months ago).

In my opinion, Granville Street is a disaster, particularly now since Council has moved Openhiemer Park residents to Granville.

At present, I own the Granville Strip night club located at **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential**. We have been closed since March due to Covid. My building has been totally overrun with transients, pitching their tents at the front and back of my property, open drug use, -many with violent tendencies. Recently I found people keeping warm huddled around a small fire at the front door of my club and yesterday I had to extinguish a sizable fire at the rear door. The Vancouver Police have been amazing, always willing to help me. Their new trespassing program allowing them to remove trespasser, was very much needed and appreciated.

The Vancouver Police have been an integral part in keeping our streets and clubs safe- at all hours -including their participation in BarWatch and a speedy responsive Gang Squad.

I am very disappointed to hear Council is considering reducing our police force.

In my opinion our police force should be increased, not reduced. Please do not reduce VPD funding.

Sincerely,

Waide Luciak

Waide Luciak

Proprietor & General Manager

The Granville Strip

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Andrew Don](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD Assistance Crucial for Safety of All City Departments
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:25:25 PM

Good evening distinguished officials,

My name is Andrew Don, and I am a Supervisor in the Vancouver Park Ranger Department.

I am writing this email to voice my support of the VPD and it's officers, in hopes that there are no budget cuts, or any sort of "defunding" of the Police Department.

As a Park Ranger, I am on the front lines in the midst of the current opioid and housing crisis we have in Vancouver. Our work tends to require the assistance of the VPD on an ever increasing basis. The amount of crime and threats of violence we see in our communities and parks has increased exponentially since I began as a Ranger 8 years ago. We used to have a few violent incidents a year when interacting with the public and vulnerable populations, but this year alone, we are closing in on 50. These violent incidents include physical attacks, and charging at Rangers with weapons in hand. Without VPD assistance, we would not be able to keep parks safe for the public, as the safety threat levels would be too great for Rangers.

Almost every day I witness something illegal happening in our parks, that threatens the safety of the public. For starters, I have become numb to seeing uncapped needles carelessly disposed of around playgrounds, as a regular day has me picking up 50-100 needles. This should not be a "normal" day. A day also doesn't go by where my life isn't threatened in some way or another. The amount of people we are asked to interact with, who have knives, hatchets, or even a gun, is shocking.

Now this is not to say that we rely on VPD assistance to be heavy handed. In fact, the exact opposite is correct. With VPD assistance, the interactions are much more peaceful, allowing Rangers and outreach services to assist the vulnerable individuals with services they need, ranging from clothing and food, all the way to housing. The presence, or knowing that they are a quick phone call away, greatly deters any interaction Rangers have with the public from escalating.

In my first hand experience, I have always witnessed officers develop excellent relationships with our homeless and vulnerable individuals population. They take a very humane approach to their enforcement of drug possession and usage of drugs, and are always well informed as to services available to help these individuals.

To cut the VPD budget would not only make our city less safe for everyone, but you would also be removing an essential contact or connection to services for individuals in dire need of help.

If you would like to contact me for any further questions, comments, or statistics, my contact information is below.

Cheers,

Andrew Don
Lead Park Ranger

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From: [Sheryl Williamson](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca; office@vancouverpoliceboard.s
Cc: [Sheryl Williamson](#)
Subject: VPD Concerns
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 1:47:29 PM
Importance: High

To: Mayor and Council; Chief Palmer; VPB

Re: Community concerns as related to crime, safety and liveability

I write to you today to express grave concerns I have regarding the state of my community and the broader Vancouver area. I am a long-term resident of Vancouver's West End, having lived here since 1994. I have raised a family in this neighbourhood and have been an active and engaged citizen, having served on numerous boards and committees, including but not limited to: WECAN (West End Citizens' Action Network); Vancouver's Community Court; Project Civil City; Safer Parking Initiative; DVBI Safety and Security; and the Vancouver Police Board itself, where among other committees, I served as the first Community Policing Liaison. I list these to say that I am very well-versed, not just in the concerns of this city but also in the programs, processes and initiatives that have been implemented in an attempt to curtail some of our greatest challenges over the years.

It saddens me greatly to witness the state of this city in 2020, and I know I share the anxiety of my neighbours in believing that it has gotten so far out of hand that if we do not curtail the increasing street disorder and rising crime in our neighbourhoods now, we may never get back to any real sense of security in our own homes and on our streets. Now is NOT the time to cut funds to the Vancouver Police Department; it is time to continue to finance and support the Department in every way possible.

Vancouver has long been a leader in its policing initiatives, such as the Community Response Team's partnership with the Ministry for Children and Family in Car 86; and the Car 87 program, which proactively teams VPD members with Mental Health workers. Our Community Policing Centres provide critical programming and a vital link to our police resources when callboards mean VPD often cannot attend to residents' concerns; the visibility of CPC volunteers on our streets is a big part of our public safety plan. School Liaisons are needed more now than ever, with children expressing widespread angst and confusion. Now is the time to let communities know that these unique policing initiatives are recognized as invaluable resources to help us all through this heightened period of street disorder, property crime and overall lack of public safety.

I am also aware of the legal challenge which has been delivered to the Vancouver Police Board regarding this "new" Neighbourhood Response Unit. I find it absurd to allege "disproportionate and discriminatory" policing. We don't discriminate against criminals – we exercise the law to ensure our citizens (ALL citizens) and their property are safe. I share the opinion of many of my neighbours and members of WECAN in expressing support for the program, which brings us back closer to the community policing model we used to have when the City of Vancouver adequately funded the Police Department.

This is my urgent request that you do not vote to cut the Vancouver Police Department's budget. On top of everything else that we are weathering – the opioid crisis, COVID-19, alarming increases in crime, widespread unchecked mental illness and homelessness - our city simply cannot withstand another blow.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheryl Williamson

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Re: Outreach to Community for VPD Support.

Chief Constable Adam Palmer,

Mayor Kennedy Stewart, and Honorable City Council Members,

I am writing in full support of the VPD's ongoing efforts to keep our Olympic Village Community, safe and secure during the pandemic and more pressing opioid crisis. Now, more than ever, a police presence is required in our community.

I would urge City Council to re-prioritize their efforts in seeking budget cuts and look within their own bureaucracy and related inefficiencies for cost saving opportunities. There are many.

I foresee this budget cut consideration to reduce police efforts as a ploy by the City to further increase taxes – by letting crime escalate. In essence, our community is being held ransom by City council itself and their ineptitude to balance their budget. Further, in tandem, the City is also threatening our community with proposed encampments to address the “homeless issue” which is really a mental health and drug problem. The City wishes to further parade the opioid crisis in full view of our community, which has bore a significant brunt due to proximity to the Downtown East Side and our own outreach programs such as the temporary housing at Olympic Village Station, 1st Ave Housing, and the Sanford Housing complexes. This added sloppy measure is only to further serve the City's social experiments in an undetailed, unhumanitarian, and sweeping gesture of lumping a large number of people into a parking lot at Olympic Village Station; this is absolutely shameful.

If anything - more funding and assistance is required from mental health and addiction professionals, in partnership with Police to enable them to stay focused in their respective roles and maintain an active role in our community. This doubling down would also enable mental healthcare and paramedic workers to feel safe on the front line in a two-pronged effort to address this crisis. These groups need each other to succeed.

Currently, as with many frontline workers – Police are stretched beyond their limits. “Beyond the Call” the VPD's motto, has begun to carry the cruel irony of being over extended. How can we even fathom, doing more with less, and undermine the pillars of our community in this time of urgency?

Specific expertise, delegation of roles, and the appropriate funding needs to be allocated accordingly. To offer less is a complete disservice to the entire Vancouver community.

I have personally witnessed/ or been privy to the following scenarios which needlessly drag in unwilling participants, victimize the community, and further emphasize the need for additional community policing and mental health services.

- A severely addicted and known violent offender who assaulted a neighbourhood building manager, among other offences - bullied his way into our parking garage and caused no less than 3K in damages in under 10 minutes, as part of a break-in into a recycling room. The same individual did this no less than three times in our garage, verbally and physically threatening residents upon each unlawful entry. Once caught in-the-act on another property, I was invited by Police Constable Elliot Sequeira to attend a court hearing to provide a statement – which is a tremendous drain on our public / private resources and court system.
- A carjacking by another suspected addict, who was fortunately outwitted by the victim who was able to contact police. VPD responded within minutes. Is the City acknowledging a delay in response times with this proposed cutback?
- Package theft and unlawful entry, which occurred to our household and our neighbors; theft has been on the rise as a trend - which has been confirmed by our building manager in our council meetings.
- Petty crime – where an individual unseated an entire bike rack to make off with a locked bicycle attached. The city wants a bike friendly city – yet has the highest theft of bicycles per capita in Canada. What good is an extensive bike network if people are worried about leaving a bike unattended at their destination?
- Our family, including daughter of seven witnessed an overdose death at our feet on a walk to the park - which left a young man dead from cardiac arrest within ear shot of an active children’s playground, open palms, unresponsive, no pulse found, syringe strewn aside, in the middle of the path.
- Our neighbor a paramedic whom we met at Hinge Park after her exhausting shift serving the downtown east side, was again prompted into action to revive a potential heroin overdose on a park bench at the playground, during some “down time” after dinner.
- Another two overdoses within the last nine months in our alley, by relatively young people, one was fortunately revived with CPR from our neighbor a doctor carrying a Narcan kit, another a few days after was found deceased. The revived person was back in the lane shooting up, verbally abusing, and physically threatening their partner, within three days of the o.d incident and being taken away by ambulance.
- We are also seeing noise escalate and fighting/abuse scenarios as homeless enclaves, encampments congregate in our back alley. The screaming and bickering enough to waken us at times. These are the effects of the failed ongoing social experiment “kettling-over” from the downtown east side.
- Further, enabling treatment centres and proposing encampments for the “drug and mental health problem” masked as a “homelessness problem” for individuals with addiction to substance issues with a 1/500 chance of recovery, located within walking distance of one of the world’s most vibrant drug, sex, and black markets– seems to be the most futile and misguided funding effort imaginable. The City of Vancouver seems fixated on entrapping downtown east side residents in some bizarre statistical unit number exercise, all while becoming the end destination for the country’s seemingly ceaseless amount of homeless and addicted, creating a perfect scenario for the related crime that stems from this desperate and miserable situation.

I could go on and on – regarding the negative impacts of a reduced police presence and COV misdirected funding and would like to add some positive recommendations.

- Focus on those making a difference. Provide affordable housing for Frontline workers – to make Police, Paramedics, and Mental Healthcare workers an integral part of our community. There is risk of an appropriate disaster response as most of the front line are also commuters by bridge, tunnel, road infrastructure that will inevitably fail and be cut off from the downtown core in the event of a catastrophe. Shift work, commuting, and the related planning and family strains to facilitate this lifestyle - is completely unfair to essential workers and the City has been willfully complacent in this issue. There is risk of a continuing loss of a large populace of essential workers due to unrealistic living and wage conditions. They deserve better!
- An increased community presence for Police with known officers assigned to the community to engage with residents and businesses in a mutual support network.
- Deregulation of substances, testing, and provision of safe and police monitored injection sites.
- Community outreach from groups such as pharmacology students – who can test and verify for poisons in street narcotics with mobile testing units.
- Stronger protections of the social housing programs which seem to be targeted/ undermined by vagrants and drug peddlers lingering outside these premises.
- Treatment and housing, where the land, construction value, and location, is better realized to assist recovery scenarios rather than adjacent to destructive patterns and behaviours.

I would be more than willing to attend any discussion that vocalizes support for our valued members of the Vancouver Police Department and advocate for an increased presence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your service.

David O'Regan, Architect AIBC

5.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Vern Campbell](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Vancouver Police Budget
Date: Friday, November 06, 2020 9:06:09 AM

To: Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Mayor and Councilors City of Vancouver and Members Vancouver Police Board

I am a 78 year old residing in the False Creek area of Vancouver and have been a Vancouver resident and tax payer for the better part of my life. For most of that time I have found Vancouver to be a safe and friendly city welcoming visitors from Canada and around the world. In recent years there has been a rapid decline in actual safety of residents and also in the perception of safety in our community. The amount of homelessness and associated crime is getting out of control, and until governments develop initiatives to deal with the problems, they will get worse.

Governments have a difficult task in satisfying all of the needs of the community but one that is critical to the well-being of any community is the safety and security of its people. We have seen an increase in vigilante activity in the Lower Mainland, done mostly by good minded but misguided people feeling forced to do the job rightfully assigned to the police.

We are also witnessing unprecedented times with the spread of the COVID-19 virus which has created new challenges for emergency service providers and an increase in social unrest. These new and uncharted waters along with the day to day challenges police face dramatically illustrate that this is not the time to claw back police services. Like it or not police are the last line of defense protecting us from those who don't wish to conform to societal norms, laws and common decency.

If maintaining or improving the current level of safety in Vancouver is the goal of the Vancouver Police Board and the City of Vancouver then NOW is the time to increase the budget for policing. As an aging member of the Vancouver Community and having paid taxes for many years I would be very happy if you would invest some of my contribution in making the City be and feel safe again.

Thank you all for working hard to make Vancouver a better place for all citizens. And thank you in advance for taking the time to read this email.

Vern Campbell

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



VIA EMAIL: Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca

November 5, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council Members,

The Vancouver Police Foundation unequivocally supports the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request and implores you to do the same.

At a time of great uncertainty, and amidst alarming increases in crime and violent crime, now is not the time to cut policing services. Already the VPD is challenged to meet the public safety needs of Vancouver with fewer officers today than ten years ago.

Police are not only essential to making cities safe and livable, but they are incredible partners and key stakeholders in community building initiatives. Each year, the Vancouver Police Foundation funds VPD community-building and public safety initiatives that fall outside of the regular operating budget of the city. These are programs that officers themselves develop and run, based on needs they identify in every neighbourhood in Vancouver. The fact that VPD has a presence across this great city, makes them best placed to see first-hand the emerging issues and needs of citizens.

The reality, moreover, is that VPD officers care. They care about the well-being of people in this community – all people – and they act accordingly. VPD officers continue to show up and serve this city and its residents, despite being met with hostility, belligerence and rudeness from some individuals and groups. They volunteer their own time to help people choose a better path in life, learn how to avoid being victims of fraud or crime, support the most vulnerable and marginalized in our city and much, much more.

The VPD have led the development and implementation of best practices in community policing, citizen engagement, crime prevention and public safety programs for decades.

Since 1978, VPD has operated Car 87/88, a program that pairs a plain clothes officer with a registered nurse or registered psychiatric nurse to provide urgent assessment or intervention for individuals with mental health issues. This team provides support to patrol members and assists the crisis negotiation team with mental health backgrounds when required. The Assertive Outreach Team is a unique collaboration between VPD and health care professionals who support vulnerable and at-risk clients struggling with mental health issues and drug addiction. These programs were developed by VPD in response to what they were seeing in our city and in response to community

need. Today, many other police agencies are just now contemplating starting similar programs to address the sharp increase in these type of calls for service.

Every hour of every day, VPD officers are out on the streets of Vancouver, interacting with citizens, apprehending criminals, preventing crime. That hasn't changed since the coronavirus pandemic and in fact, they are busier than ever. VPD doesn't have the flexibility, some might even say luxury, to work from home or to meet via Zoom. They are dealing with stabbings, overdoses, homicides, suicides, sexual assaults and many more horrors that the rest of us can't even imagine. They are exposed to all manner of physical and mental threats, but they keep showing up – every hour of every day.

The police are essential to a safe, vibrant city. We are fortunate to have a diverse, effective, innovative and progressive police agency like the VPD.

The Vancouver Police Foundation does not, nor will it ever, fund essential policing services and operations. That is the responsibility of the City of Vancouver and its duty to its citizens, as well as its visitors and the people that work and run businesses here.

At a time when Vancouver's residents are struggling to stay afloat during this pandemic, economic recession and period of unrest, we need our Mayor and Council to take bold, decisive leadership and support our police service. Your support of VPD's budget request to maintain its current service level is not only the right thing to do in the face of the data provided to you, but it is the prudent and right thing to do for the future of Vancouver and the safety of its citizens. Your decision this year will have implications – positive or negative – for years to come. Please make the right one.

Yours truly,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Dr. Sherril Magee
Chair, Board of Directors

cc: VPD Chief Constable Adam Palmer
Vice Chair, Vancouver Police Board, Barj Dhahan

James & Mary Ann McGregor

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



November 18, 2020

The Vancouver Police Board,
Chief Constable Adam Palmer,
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen,
Mayor Kennedy Stewart,
Councilors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, De Genova, Dominato, Fry,
Councilors Hardwick, Kirby-Yung, Swanson, Wiebe,
City Manager S. Johnston, Deputy Manager P. Mochrie.

Re: 2021 BUDGET FOR VPD

We wish to add our names to the others who are in favour of an increased and visible police presence in our neighbourhood, Yaletown and downtown.

My husband and I are in our mid-seventies, Vancouver born and raised, and constant residents of this beautiful city. In 2003 we sold our Kerrisdale house and moved to this Yaletown condo and have enjoyed watching our city improve until it stopped. Unfortunately, some aspects of our beautiful city are deteriorating at a rapid rate and we believe that a more visible and active police presence would be a preventative measure to discourage crime, violence and property damage. Police in uniform, out and about around the city, walking or riding or wheeling or scootering or any way they want to observe and be observed in the various neighbourhoods would discourage unwanted behavior before it happens. Just yesterday a person on the seawall was apprehended after threatening others with a knife. The police responded quickly to a phone call as one of our neighbours witnessed the threat and called immediately. Yes, the police cannot be everywhere at once but when thugs know we have police, in pairs hopefully, monitoring the streets, it would contribute to keeping us safe.

We have worked hard all our lives, are still working to help others, voluntarily donating to charities, beside the taxes we have paid since we each began working in 1959, and the property taxes we have been paying since early 1960s. We are determined to not be frightened out of our final homes in our later years by those who break laws, intimidate, yet feel entitled or compelled to disrupt life for others. What else can we do to help? I dare say we have contributed as much as or more than many toward parks, streets, and all that we enjoy in this

city. We certainly don't begrudge paying our share of what it takes to keep our city safe and clean and beautiful -- but safety comes first. We believe our investment in our city, the funds we all pay to enjoy Vancouver, should first and foremost be sufficient to keep residents and visitors safe, safety being the most essential element to ensure good health and prosperity. Just to have the presence of police in uniform will discourage unwanted behavior. We hope that the budget is not reduced for the VPD as we need more of what our force provides, not less.

Yours truly,

Jim and Mary Ann McGregor

From: [Darci Swinton](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Defunding the VPD (Please Don't)
Date: Saturday, November 07, 2020 7:10:12 PM

To All Concerned,

Recently, I have heard the COV is contemplating a cut to the funding of the VPD. As a fairly active community member of Hastings Sunrise for the past 35 years, I would like to ask you NOT to cut the VPD budget for 2021. Our neighbourhood has noticed a steady increase in criminal activity over the past year and we work cooperatively with our community police force to stay on top of these crimes, protecting our district. We just cannot afford to cut VPD funding and thereby lose our chance to stay on top of it. Rather, the VPD needs MORE support, and education to safely handle these difficult circumstances. A big reason Vancouver is such a great place to live, work, and raise your family in, is in part, because our Police force do such hard work to keep us safe. We need to protect and support them.

Sincerely,
Darci Swinton
Vancouver

To Mayor Stewart

I am a current resident of the River District and grew up on the East side of Vancouver. I shop and visit friends in the Chinatown and Strathcona neighbourhoods. I cannot help but notice the significant deterioration of these neighbourhoods...as well as that of the DTES.

On numerous occasions, while taking my Mother to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. senior's programs or shopping in Chinatown, I have seen an increase in the number of addicts openly using drugs; aggressive panhandlers; homeless people sleeping on sidewalks/doorways; and mentally ill persons screaming. These problems are disconcerting for those who live, work and visit the area.

In the River District, the number of break in's and theft from autos are increasing to the point that many owners are no longer reporting these incidents to the police.

It is clear that more police presence is necessary to carry out proactive work.

I used to think Vancouver was a safe City, I no longer feel that way. I used to be proud of our City, but now many areas have become an embarrassing eyesore that is uncomfortable and unsafe to walk in.

The increase in hate and violent crimes, homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness, protests and CoVid-related issues are further increasing the need for more police officers.

DO NOT CUT the police budget. I strongly believe that a decrease in the police budget will detrimentally affect the safety of citizens and visitors alike, in Vancouver.

The VPD needs more police officers, not fewer, to make Vancouver a safer city.

Regards,

Sylvia Wallace

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From: [Alaleh Shah Ali](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Support for VPD Budget
Date: Monday, November 09, 2020 8:37:27 AM

Dear sir/madam,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to share the concerns that I have regarding any potential reduction in fundings for VPD.

I immigrated to Canada in 2014 with my family from Iran due to lack of social security and safety and political corruption in my home country and ever since have been working and living in beautiful Vancouver.

One of the most important parts of my life has been supporting my local community as a board member and volunteering with HSCPC, as an administrative coordinator in CICCC and other organizations to name a few.

I work with international students and as a mother of 2, safety is always a priority for me. I have noticed an unfortunate increase in crimes in the downtown area where I work full time and in the Hastings Sunrise area where I live and volunteer in the recent years.

Because I work closely with VPD and WVPD I know firsthand how vital their services are for everyone including the Persian community and cannot help worry about the fact that what would happen if there is not enough budget to support the services currently available in terms of crime prevention, public education and law enforcement.

On a personal level, because my 13 year old commutes with public transport, it is my daily concern whether or not she will get to school and come back home safely. Professionally, many of my students voice their fear of commuting after night shifts especially our Hospitality Management students who work in restaurants and hotels in the downtown area. Please note that these concerns are remarkably higher for females.

Also in the light of the challenges posed by Covid, mental health issues compounded by drug use, isolation and financial challenges have made people more nervous leading to harsher and less respectful social interactions unfortunately. Obviously, when assaults and aggressive behaviours happen, there is no one else, but our police officers who we can rely on to protect our wellbeing and at times, lives, literally.

Thus, I sincerely ask for support for VPD and advise against cutting the funds or else we will regret and go through more challenges in the near future.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions and I would be happy to elaborate.

Kind regards,

Alaleh Shah Ali

From: [Ted Yeomans](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Vancouver City Budget Comment
Date: Monday, November 09, 2020 1:46:08 PM

I am a long time Vancouver resident and tax payer.

With the succession of left wing and socialist City Mayors and Councillors over the past decade I have observed more and more Vancouver City taxes and resources being devoted to issues and causes that are not the responsibility of the City of Vancouver.

These issues and causes range from housing dysfunctional people from across the Province and Canada in City of Vancouver to squandering expensive resources and tax dollars on faint hope climate warming projects.

While these issues deserve attention it is not the responsibility of the Vancouver City Council to spend inordinate amounts of Vancouver City tax dollars on resources on these ideological issues.

These resolution and management of these issues lies with the Provincial and National Governments not with a Civic Government.

The Mayor and councillors of Vancouver were elected to look after the issues and affairs that directly affect the citizens, and taxpayers, of the City of Vancouver..

Those Civic responsibilities include funding emergency services such as Police and Fire. As well it is a Civic responsibility to maintain the infrastructure, livability and heritage of the City of Vancouver.

Unfortunately successive City Councils have neglected the responsibilities that they were elected to manage in favor of idealistic goals, beyond their elected mandate.

To continue focusing on goals, other than their Civic responsibility, will only allow the City of Vancouver to deteriorate into a third rate City with a continual dropping of its residents and taxpayers standard of living.

One only has to look at the spread of illegal camps occupying parks and growing into residential neighbourhoods to see the growing deterioration of the this City.

I would strongly urge the Vancouver Mayor and Councillors to focus and direct the necessary money and resources to City services for the citizens of Vancouver.

Now is not the time to fund issues that are not the purview of the City, at the expensive if Vancouver taxpayers.

Fund the services that work for the people of Vancouver, like Police and Fire, properly.

Ted Yeomans.
Vancouver resident.

From: [s.22\(1\) Personal and Confidential](#)
To: [Stewart, Kennedy](#); CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; [JOHANSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [PALMER, Adam](#)
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:51:53 PM

Dear Mayor and councillors;

With regard to upcoming discussions in council, I have 2 issues. First I would like to let you know I am a long time resident of Vancouver city and am currently living in the Champlain heights neighborhood.

With regard to proposals to cut the police budget. Now is absolutely not the time for that. The police are currently understaffed and as a result there is a noticeable lack of community policing. I myself have been a victim of theft bicycles stolen from my carport, thieves routinely patrol my town house complex looking for items to steal. Since that first theft a few years ago they have come by several times . Once being chased off by my neighbor 2 other times trying to steal our bikes but not being able to defeat the locks. 2 other times not being able to steal the bikes so they stole the seats saddle racks and other parts. This is a small part of street crimes occurring constantly.

As well the situation with the tent city at Strathcona park, It is clear these people are not just homeless (I am sure some are) but it seems from news reports and driving by seeing the goings on and piles of what appear to be stolen bike parts and other property that most are active criminals and anti police anarchists.

As a citizen it is easy to see there are not enough police to keep up with call load.

The average joe feels the city is not nearly as safe as it should be in spite of efforts by the police.

In short the police budget absolutely should not be cut but increased.

On top of this there is no doubt in my mind that the covid pandemic has caused a tremendous increased cost for the police.

Secondly I have read recently council is considering putting a toll in for vehicles going downtown. I am absolutely opposed to this for a number of reasons not the least of which is my wife is a nurse working at Vgh. She works shift work and should the tolls be in place She would have to take transit late at night. This is absolutely not safe. Not just for my Wife and daughter but for anyone using transit late at night.

Should these tolls come into effect I would vote against anybody on council that supported them, in the next election

James English

Dear Mayor Kennedy and Council,

I am submitting this letter with the utmost respect for all the recipients, and specifically, in regard to the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) funding for 2021 and beyond.

As a member of the community with ties to Vancouver, I have concerns over reducing the budget and funding for the VPD.

Vancouver is a world-renowned city for a host of reasons; the location as a beautiful port city with a backdrop of mountains, the abundant offerings of recreation and entertainment opportunities, the diversity of the population and livability through a sense of being safe while working and living here, along with other things not listed at this time.

While the VPD may not have any influence on making the city world-renowned by virtue of its location and beauty, or the recreation and entertainment offerings and the diversity of the population, it does have an tremendous influence on livability by allowing people to work in, live in and visit the city with an assurance that they can do so in safety.

Having mentioned safety, I need to state that I do believe that Vancouver is a very safe city when compared to other large cities nationally and internationally. However, it is evident that there is a growing perception within the public that the sense of being and feeling safe in Vancouver is diminishing.

Like Vancouver as a city, the VPD is a world-renowned police department that contributes heavily to everything that makes Vancouver great. They are a caring, concerned, progressive, and above all, capable police department that works very hard to address crime and safety issues in the city.

I can only believe that failing to continue strong funding for the VPD will affect their ability to deliver a policing model that will ensure that Vancouver continues to be a safe and liveable city.

I don't see how a reduction in funding cannot mean cuts to many things within the VPD that are vital to their success in serving the needs of Vancouver and the public, such as; programs designed to deal with crime and issues affecting the city, the acquisition and maintenance of equipment required to run programs and fight crime, the ability to hire and retain good police officers and many other things also not listed at this time.

I am sure that the points I have made may be argued by some suggesting that as compelling as they are, that it simply comes down to dollars and cents and that the City of Vancouver (COV) is struggling with a lack of funds in difficult times that can largely be attributed to the negative impact of Covid19.

While I appreciate that, I can't help but worry that another and perhaps more compelling notion may be present in the minds of some who think that funds should be taken from the VPD and directed elsewhere. That notion would, or at least could be fostered by the strong social movement in North America flowing directly out of the United States that has people believing without evidence to support those beliefs, that there are many things that could be done by others that police have been expected to be responsible for that can lead to a savings by reducing police budgets and redirecting those funds.

If the desire of Council is to preserve and then improve on everything that makes Vancouver a great city, I suggest that the COV needs to consider continuing funding the VPD accordingly. One thing is certain in policing, and that is the ever-increasing calls for service that place heavier demands every year on police agencies, and especially those in larger centers like Vancouver. Those calls for service and the pressure they place on policing need funding to fuel the programs and efforts of police departments to address them.

I don't believe that enough people understand the importance of the role that the VPD plays in making Vancouver a great and safe city for all.

It is easy to take many things in life for granted. In the case of the VPD and what they and other police departments offer the public despite what they are challenged with year after year, the safety and security that we all live comfortably in thanks to them, is one of the many things we all commonly take for granted.

In closing,

I urge Council to please continue funding the VPD in a manner that will allow them to continue providing the incredible level of service they do to Vancouver and all the people who live in, work in, and frequent the city.

Respectfully,

Dean Robinson.

Cc:

Chief Adam Palmer – Vancouver Police Department

Stephanie Johanssen – Vancouver Police Board

From: [Peter Wong](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Cc: [Peter Wong](#)
Subject: Supporting VPD's 2021 budget request
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:19:16 AM

November 11, 2020

Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver City Council

453 West 12th Avenue,

Vancouver, BC

V5Y 1V4

Re: Vancouver Police Department's 2021 Budget Request

Mayor and Council:

I am a long-time resident of Vancouver for the past 49 years, mostly in the Hastings Sunrise area. Over the years, I had seen many changes in our communities, some good and some bad as expected. As have many other neighbourhoods in Vancouver, over the past 2 years, we noticed a significant increase in reports of street disorder, homelessness, mental illness, drug use and property crime in the area. We regularly hear from community members frustrated with long waits to receive police attention, especially since it feels like crime and street disorder are getting worse.

The police play a significant role in not only making our community safer but also in improving individuals' quality of life and building social cohesion within our neighbourhoods. My family had first-hand experience dealing with the VPD. Case in point, about two months ago my son was mugged and assaulted on his way home from work. He was 5 houses from our home. It was in broad daylight at around 5 pm. No less than 7 police officers worked with him, from officers who answered the call, to detectives who worked on the case, to Victim Services who provided him emotional support. The paramedics were too busy answering fentanyl related calls on that day. The VPD officers took it upon themselves to drive my son to VGH Emergency and stayed with him there. It is really beyond the call of duty. Everyone involved at the VPD was very supportive and professional. I am glad my family had the support when we needed it.

If funding to VPD is further cut, we can expect to have less officers to keep our neighbourhood safe and less support to us when we really need help. It's imperative that the police are able to maintain services levels to meet the ever-growing challenges in our community. I therefore fully support the VPD's budget 2021 request.

Sincerely,

Peter Wong

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Beth Wolfe](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD Budget
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:32:24 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this as a concerned citizen of Vancouver. I understand that the City of Vancouver is considering reducing the budget of the Vancouver Police Department. I know this would have a detrimental impact on our neighborhood and the city as a whole and feel that it's important to speak up.

We are all living in challenging times with the pandemic adding increased stress and pressure at home and in the community. Our American neighbors have their own special issues but due to social media, their pains are felt by us north of the border as well. That's not to say we don't have our own problems, but their history, population size, and attitudes mean that their problems are magnified and influence our opinions here in Canada.

I disagree with the recent calls to "defund the police". Yes, there may be different and better ways to maintain public safety and support the community, particularly when it comes to mental health. I think mental health issues should be handled by a partnership of mental health professionals and the police. But "defunding the police" makes change difficult and could lead to chaos in our communities. I don't think the people calling for this realize how much things would change for the worse if it were to happen.

Living in Hastings Sunrise, we see police presence in our lives all the time, and all in positive ways. It might be a cruiser making sure all is ok in the neighborhood, checking on the Hell's Angels clubhouse just down the block, partnering with community organizations like Skeena House, and in our schools. Our School Liaison Officer was an active part of putting our son on a better path when he went through a troubled period at the beginning of high school. I've also called the Non-Emergency police line to report a Dial-a-Dope interaction and other suspicious vehicles and know an officer will come check on it. I love the helpful tips I get from the Hasting Sunrise Community Policing Centre and their involvement in the community. And I know when I see four or five cruisers with flashing lights in the McDonald's parking lot that there is a potentially serious issue and the police are handling it. If the illegal cannabis store around the corner could be shut down permanently, it would be even better.

I am lucky to live in a neighborhood with relatively low crime stats and that is due to police presence and the community watching out for each other. It's a partnership here. I live in a city, so it's not the kind of place I would leave my door unlocked at night. I take security precautions. But, I know that if I am walking on my own, or my children for that matter, that we have the police presence to keep us all safe. I would hate for our city to turn into a place where we have increased crime, public safety is compromised, and we lose the police services that provide extra value, all because there is no budget for it.

Sincerely,

Beth Wolfe

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Sharon Mohamed](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Subject: Support letter
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:10:46 AM

Dear Mayor and Council,

I have lived in Vancouver for over 40 years and I was born in Guyane, South America. I am a visible minority and a single mother. I am currently the President of the Skeena Terrace Tenants Association, located on one of the Vancouver's largest BC Housing sites. Some people would consider me to be a community activists, however, I just seem myself as someone who cares about her community and likes to help others. Over the years, I have volunteered with various community boards, programs and initiatives.

Our area, located on the far east side of Vancouver, is a diverse neighbourhood that experiences many social and economic issues. I am very concerned about the increase in mental illness, addiction, disengaged youth as well as isolated seniors who live in our community. Some residents distrust the police and government agencies. While the local community centre and the Skeena Terrace Residents Association play a significant role in the community, there are very few services or resources in the direct vicinity.

We have been very fortunate over the years to have such a strong partnership with the local community policing centre and the Vancouver Police Department. CPC staff, volunteers and the police, have attended and supported many of our events that has established positive relationships within our community. We have also received help and guidance in dealing with safety concerns on numerous occasions. I have been invited to participate in many CPC and VPD events and have always felt welcomed.

I understand there has been discussion about defunding the police. I strongly believe we need to maintain the current level of funding for police services in Vancouver while putting more resources into local community issues, especially mental illness and addiction. I would also like to see more services available for vulnerable people in the north-east corner of the city. Many of the services and funding often seem to go to the downtown east-side. While it's important that neighbourhood receives proper service levels, we can not forget about other neighbourhoods, especially on the far east-side of Vancouver.

I really value the relationships I have made with the CPC and Vancouver Police Department members and I am grateful for what they do. Please continue to fund them and support their work.

Your truly,

November 9, 2020

Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver City Council
453 West 12th Avenue,
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Re: Vancouver Police Department's 2021 Budget Request

Dear Mayor and Council:

On behalf of the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC), please accept this letter in support of the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 Budget Request.

The HSCPC is a community driven non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to improving safety in the Hastings Sunrise area through crime prevention and proactive community initiatives. Since 1999, we have worked in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), the City of Vancouver and various community agencies.

Over the past 21 years, we have had the opportunity to develop a strong working relationship with the VPD, collaborating with dozens, if not hundreds, of dedicated police members and civilians. For example, a community member recently called to thank the HSCPC and the VPD for the extraordinary care while he was experiencing a drug induced psychosis associated with violent behaviour outside the HSCPC. Six to eight police officers, over a period of six hours, safely secured the individual and escorted him to the hospital. Our staff, volunteers and neighbours, were also very appreciative of the remarkable outcomes achieved by the police officers involved.

Public safety continues to be a major concern for many residents and merchants in Hastings Sunrise, the experience of which is vital for community members' health and quality of life. We often receive complaints from people requesting more police presence. We regularly hear from community members frustrated with long waits to receive police attention, especially when it feels like crime and street disorder are getting worse.

Working together for a safe community

The Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre works in partnership with the Vancouver Police Department



Other Partners:





It is important that the City, provincial and federal governments do more to address mental illness and addiction, building novel and creative approaches and programs together with the VPD. We would like to see more resources go towards collaborative and integrated programs. One example is the Car 87 program, a partnership between the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Coastal Health's Access & Assessment Centre's Crisis Response Team. The program teams a VPD constable with a registered nurse or a registered psychiatric nurse to provide on-site assessments and intervention for people living with mental illness.

We also hope City Council will continue to support the important work of the community policing centres and provide sustainable funding. The VPD, City of Vancouver and community need to continue to work together, now more than ever, to address the on-going safety and quality of life issues that affect all Vancouverites, particularly the more vulnerable. The CPC's approach of addressing crime and safety concerns through meaningful community engagement while building social cohesion, has never been more important.

The police play a significant unique role in not only making our community safer but also in improving individuals' quality of life and networks of relationships within our neighbourhoods. Accordingly, it's imperative that the police are able to maintain service levels to meet the ever growing challenges in our community. We therefore urge you, the Mayor and City Council, to support the VPD's budget request.

We look forward to continuing our work with the VPD and City of Vancouver.

Please call if you require further information.

Sincerely,
Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Peter Wong, President
Board of Directors

CC: Chief Constable Adam Palmer
CC: Vancouver Police Board
CC: Mr. Sadhu Johnston, City Manager

From: [Jan Harse](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Budget
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 2:36:02 PM

In this time of uncertainty with covid. More than ever, we need to have police presence, not just for optics but controlling gatherings of the so called anti mask groups. Also, with mental health issues, drug and alcohol issues sky rocketing because of our uncertainties out there, we need trained officers to provide calmness and safety in our city. We need to increase the budget, not decrease it.

Jan Harse

Sent from my iPad

From: [Mike Morissette](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Urgent issue: potential policing cuts
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 7:29:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

I own and operate two businesses, one being in yaletown and the other on the 1200 block of Granville. I don't think a email can adequately describe the deterioration of these two neighbourhoods over the last 10 months. Our businesses are constantly being broken into and patrons no longer feel safe to walk after dark in Yaletown.

So to hear Council is contemplating defunding the police while windows are being boarded up from bankruptcies and we look for the police department to save our business community is alarming.

I hope more thought can go into these decisions then previous we are losing our beautiful city. Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Morissette

PM Entertainment

From: [Peter Green](#)
To: [Kennedy Stewart](#)
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRBoyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Budgetary concerns, particularly related to Security and Safety
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 5:10:35 PM

To the Vancouver Police Board

With regards to the 2021 budget (upcoming) I would like to voice my concerns and suggestions.

First and most important, we need to direct more of the City's budget to the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), the Fire Department, and Engineering.

With regards to City of Vancouver policing:

As the Mayor of Vancouver has pursued a policy of committing the bulk of resources to the Downtown East Side (DTES), the police presence in other parts of the city has had to decrease. This has led to increases in minor, malicious crimes in some parts of Vancouver, and to more serious increases in activity in other areas (such as Yaletown, Stanley Park with it's drug and mugs this last summer, and the terrorization of young women everywhere there's a Skytrain station).

Crime builds up, and it springs from opportunities. Small crimes in Kitsilano (cars keyed, vandalism, b&e) give rise over time to more serious crimes such as rape, assault, and armed robbery. As we look to an expansion of the Sky Train system up Broadway, terminating near a number of schools, an increased police presence, building a reputation for the neighborhood, could well deter future more serious crime.

The DTES itself is a quagmire. Funds redirected to the VPD could be used in part to develop an effective mental health intervention team under their oversight. To set up such a team independently will either result in a number of injured and traumatized health workers, or with more corruption, with no results seen for the taxpayers' money as has been the case to date. Any progress (not seen to date) in this no-go part of Vancouver would pay benefits in releasing police, fire department, and paramedic resources needed elsewhere in the City.

Policing is one of the pillars of civic society. People need to know that there is help at hand in the event of trouble, and that the people who pay the taxes have some security in place. I and many others pay significant property taxes every year (\$10k+) and Public Security and Safety, as delivered through the VPD is one of our top needs.

We need to ensure that the VPD, the Fire Department, and Engineering have the funds available to ensure that Vancouver can function. To fail to do so would only lead to either vigilantism, or the hollowing out of Vancouver, as has happened in American cities such as Detroit and Buffalo (and many others).

Life in Vancouver is not improving. A change in focus on what really matters is needed.

Peter Green

From: [Matt Corker](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD 2021 budget - request for input
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:16:08 PM

Hi all,

As a member of my neighbourhood's Block Watch community, Staff Sergeant #1878 Kevin Bernadrin sent us a request for input on the Vancouver Police Budget for 2021.

I would like to share two considerations:

1) Personal stories

As a new resident of my neighbourhood **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential** I asked the neighbours about safety. Kids are often playing on the sidewalk and street together, and there is a true sense of community on our block.

They mentioned one instance where there was someone with an obvious mental illness or substance issue came into the neighbourhood. The police were called and arrived on scene. From their perspective, the police escalated the situation both with the aggressive way they came into the neighbourhood and the approach they took with the man. They mentioned their kids were more scared of the police than of the strange man in their neighbourhood based on their entry into the neighbourhood, presence once there, and the fact they were carrying weapons that could harm them.

Another story...

I attended an outdoor event last year when someone fainted in the crowd and started having convulsions. The crowd quickly started yelling for medical support and onsite first-aiders were quick to the scene. The crowd backed away and formed a large circle around the situation to ensure first-aid attendees and the person requiring help had lots of room.

When it was requested to make an opening in the crowd to get an ambulance through, the crowd parted - and stayed parted for 30 minutes - before the paramedics arrived on site.

I was so impressed with how well the crowd of a loud and large gathering was able to take one person's medical situation into consideration.

When the ambulance arrived, so did three police officers wearing neon vests overtop their usual uniform. The police officers got very stern with the crowd telling us to back up and make room - which we had already done and had been doing. They were rude, aggressive, and made people that were in a supportive space feel unsafe.

In both of these stories, I hope you can see examples of where police presence on the scene actually created more fear and hostility, than doing the opposite. And both of these stories taking place in spaces that were arguably quite safe to begin with.

2) The police are tasked with too much responsibility.

An argument can be made that the increase of calls the VPD receives warrants more funding. The problem with this argument is that the VPD is that 911 is a number to call with emergencies - and the VPD are asked to respond to them because the other services that would be better suited to respond have been underfunded and disconnected from these emergency calls. You have already heard from social services, mental health professionals, and other

experts in addiction and homelessness ... asking the VPD to become experts in these areas is not logical.

The police have been abundantly funded (especially during COVID).
The call from the community to reallocate resources to other services is consistent and clear.
The police have been using the rhetoric that they are the cause of "public safety" and that simply is an exaggeration and a protection mechanism that has worked for too long.

Please consider reducing the VPD budget so that taxpayers don't need to pay more taxes for a service that isn't working for Vancouverites.

Thank you,

Matt

--

Matt Corker, MBA, E-RYT 200
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Pronouns: he/him/his

From: [Dianne W](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Granville street police budget
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 6:37:55 PM

When I'm downtown I feel its personally unsafe to walk around or park my car. I do not support cutting The Police Department's budget.
I don't believe I or anyone else will be safer with less police officers protecting our city.

Dianne Williamson
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Sent from my iPhone



November 16, 2020

Vancouver City Hall
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver BC
V5Y 1V4

Attention: Mayor Kennedy Stewart

Dear Mr. Mayor Kennedy,

I am writing in regard to an important issue that is top of mind to our business. As you continue plans for the city's budget in 2021, I hope you will keep the importance of public safety and the services provided by Vancouver Police as a priority. Given the difficulties of the pandemic, ensuring that our citizens, businesses, and properties are secure should continue to be a high priority for the City. Vancouver City Council includes "Quality Core Services" and "Protecting and Building our Economy" as priorities in your major initiatives approved in July of 2020.

As a business in Vancouver, we are glad to support and have positive interactions with the City in any way that we can. I believe it is important to continue these priorities so we can attract and keep employees working in and enjoying this beautiful city. The social issues facing North America and Vancouver specifically are complex, but I believe we need to continue investing in our police services, rather than cut funding for these important services.

Regardless of where you stand on the issues within our society, we can likely all agree that there is a need for police reform and policies to combat existing discrimination in our community and country. However, defunding the police and stripping them of the resources they need to properly do their jobs will almost inevitably take us to a place where victims of crime and the vulnerable are left without the help they need.

Sincerely,

Mark Patric
General Manager
93 7 JR Country / 102 7 THE PEAK

cc. Stephanie Johannsen, City Council



From: [PALMER, Adam](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: FW: Police Board Meeting
Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020 6:22:16 PM

CHIEF ADAM PALMER
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | Beyond the Call
604.717.2950
adam.palmer@vpd.ca | vpd.ca

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-----Original Message-----

From: Danny Gelmon s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:39 AM
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Cc: CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; PALMER, Adam <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police Board Meeting

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

November 12, 2020

Dear Ladies/Sirs:

As a Life long citizen of Vancouver, I am writing to you now regarding the upcoming police board meeting. I urge you to NOT remove any funds from the

VPD budget for the upcoming year.

There is so much street disorder in the city, rampant bike thefts, costs the police dept. many thousands of dollars in labor, to collect the bikes, inventory

Them, and hopefully return the bikes to the rightful owners. I see tents, and people sleeping on the streets in the south Granville neighborhood where I

Live, to tents on west Broadway in front of vacant shops.

I only see police officers when they pass by my residence with sirens trying to get to the other end of our district. I do not ever see beat cops walking the

Streets, even when I go downtown. If Mr. Nordsrrom would have walked from the 900 block to the 600 block on Granville Street he would never have

Built a store in Vancouver.

People do not feel safe in the city, my own neighbors complain about noisy vehicles, and the punishment never fits the crime, if they are assaulted

Or their homes are broken into.

Community policing needs to be very much improved, and noticed by the public, I don't even know if there are neighborhood police in my area.

Thank you for listening to my issues, and I trust that you will increase the budget for our officers, instead of decreasing the allowance.

Yours very truly,

Danny Gelmon

Michael Nagel

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

November 15, 2020

Police Board, Vancouver City Council and enclosed:

adam.palmer@vpd.ca; Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca;
kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca;
CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca;
CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

Reference: 2021 Vancouver Police Department Budget

Dear Leaders of Vancouver,

As per my intro, I live and work in Southeast False Creek, within a block or two of the City/Police parking lot and 2 minutes from VPD offices (2120 Cambie). Apart my various volunteer initiatives, I am also a Co-Captain of our Spyglass Block Watch. I try to contribute to my neighborhood and remain informed.

I love Vancouver and my neighborhood, but it has changed so dramatically by default and design. I suggest it will continue to change likely for the worse. Petty and Major Crime, Vandalism, Tenting, Graffiti and Garbage have increased incrementally year over year.

I admit to you that there are times when I am afraid to take out the recycling/garbage or even walk the street after hours. We live on the second floor and a home break in, my car was vandalized when parked on Spyglass, and further broken into at our secure garage.

The crime activity is staggering in petty crime, home / attempted break ins, bike thefts and I can go on and on. Personally, I been verbally abused and threatened multiple times by individuals trying to break into the Recycling/Garbage! As well, when observing/calling in suspicious individuals.

There is a new criminal that is active, opportunistic, brazen, unafraid of authority, limited respect for public/private property and exhibits a high degree of street disorder. Plus, the disrespectful day events of urinating / defecating on our street and entrance, not to forget "shooting" up in our entrances.

That slogan of "Vancouver as the Safest City" is not current anymore. In light, of COVID-19, the growing crime will continue to escalate and effect our resident mental health, increased fear of the unknown and growing distrust of unfamiliar people in the neighborhood.

So, what do I think is the cause? I suggest the very visual "homeless" individuals and the growing tent enclaves. Having volunteered in the homeless count, I am also aware of a growing population from other cities and other provinces/territories. So, it is partly an imported problem.

We are so generous in this city; it is natural to come here. And to supplement the benefits from the City, crime seems to be natural to steal anything that is not secure. I draw this high-level conclusion from my samples of crime inflicted on myself and my community plus the VPD GeoDASH Map.

We must continue to merge low cost housing and homeless housing (emergency, temporary and/or permanent) but also with caution. In False Creek South this model this may also be at a maximum. There is a notion this community may not be providing transition or medical or therapy services.

So back to the root cause. How do we manage this new and growing element with more Security, more Health Care, and more Accommodations? How do our many new community residents break way from bad habits, unhealthy relations and become positive contributors to the neighborhood?

To close a shout out to 311. We post "a lot"! And the City is just fantastic is cleaning up the garbage and junk from tents, graffiti, and the needles. Additionally, THANK YOU VPD for taking my real 911 calls and non-emergency to address a multiple of crime events in the False Creek South community.

Thanks for the opportunity to give you this perspective

Yours sincerely

Michael Nagel

Michael Nagel

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



To: Honourable Mayor and Council Members
Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police
Ms. Stephanie Johanssen, Executive Director
Members, Vancouver Police Board
Mr. Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Mr. Paul Mochrie, Deputy Manager

Date: November 14, 2020

From: Teresa MacGregor

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Re: *Plea to Maintain Police Budget and Invest in Community Policing*

Since 2019, I have been coordinating an effort on behalf of my neighbourhood including community members who surround a “three block alley” between 37th and 38th Avenues, east of Manitoba Street and west of Main Street. Like our fellow citizens elsewhere in Vancouver, we had been experiencing a sudden and dramatic uptick in crime when a TMH unit was first located in our neighbourhood. Because of that, over a year ago now, we wrote a letter (signed by 54 residents) to the Police, the Mayor and City Council, Vancouver City staff, BC Housing, and Coast Mental Health requesting assistance.

Within a very short time we heard back from Sgt. Terry Yung from the Vancouver City Police department (and sadly, no one else, until the Police coordinated a very constructive meeting with all relevant stakeholders). Across the past year, officers from the Police Department have worked tirelessly to support our community and to help us all feel more safe.

I want to emphasize that we support the City’s efforts to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents, including those who are struggling with addiction and mental health challenges. At the same time, it is imperative that city leadership NOT LOSE SIGHT of your responsibility to support all of Vancouver’s citizens. The strategies you are implementing to address homelessness are undeniably also spreading crime across the city (as a criminal element follows vulnerable citizens and further victimizes them and others in the vicinity). As a result, what we need are approaches that are coordinated to **both** address homelessness **AND** *honestly* recognize and address the impact on all of Vancouver’s citizens.

In our case, because of Community Police officers like Sgt. Michael Tsok and Sgt. James Hooper (as well as their colleagues), we have been able to develop a proactive, collaborative approach to enhancing our neighbourhood’s safety. When we experience any issues, we have people we can reach out to who can actually make a difference for us, using the tools they have in hand (for example, development of strategies for supporting neighbourhood safety, like Blockwatch; quick apprehension of someone breaking in to cars on one occasion; catching a drug dealer on another; increasing police presence strategically; coordinating meetings with our TMH manager to problem-solve together).

Our community members, many of whom have traditionally shied away from connecting with police (given their cultural experiences elsewhere), are now actually willing to report problems to the Police (as happened as recently as this past week), since we have developed a trusting relationship.

So, PLEASE **do not** conceptualize our current collective challenges as requiring a “trade-off” between funding efforts to support homelessness OR providing funding to Police. It is imperative not to forget how important community safety is for everyone, including our seniors/elders, families with children, and all of those struggling with Vancouver’s high costs. Please make sure that you continue to fully fund our Vancouver Police Department. All of Vancouver’s citizens deserve to live in communities that are SAFE.

Thank you for your attention.

From: [Dawn Van Vliet](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Increasing crime in Yaletown
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2020 8:54:33 PM

Subject: Increasing crime in Yaletown

Dear Ms. Johansen

My husband and I have lived at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential for 17 years. We have always enjoyed our neighborhood, and felt safe and happy in our home here. We have noticed the crime gradually increasing over the past few years, but it has gotten to horrendous levels and we have become very concerned.

Many of our neighbours have had their apartments broken into, and we have witnessed multiple incidents of unpredictable and violent behaviour in our neighbourhood. We no longer feel safe in our own community.

Today, November 15th 2020 we looked out our apartment window to see a man welding an exacto knife on the seawall and waving it at passersby. We called the police. Within minutes, four officers arrived, retrieved the knife from the man, and had him down and in handcuffs. Due to their swift response, no one appeared to have been injured. As we watched everything unfold out our living room window we were relieved to see the situation handled so quickly and professionally. If it were not for this new team of officers being able to respond so quickly, the outcome might have been tragic.

We support the police effort in trying to help clean up the downtown core, and to make Yaletown the lovely and safe neighbourhood it once was.

In talking to many of our neighbours and friends who live in this area we can assure you at they all support this initiative and we all agree how VERY important it is to see this pilot project continued.

Kind Regards,
Dawn and Ken Tremblett

From: [Bill Degrazio](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD budget.
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 10:54:42 AM

While my organization agrees more needs to be done in the area of mental health and addiction services, we don't agree with any cuts to the current police budget. I have personally witnessed a deteriorating situation over the last 12 months, resulting in my staff and patrons being aggressively panhandled, cars being broken into, open drug use...

I wish to add my support to maintaining the policing budget for 2021 and urge Council not to make any cuts.

Thank you

Bill Degrazio
Dir of Operations
Granville Entertainment Group

5.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Ron Orr](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: 2021 Policing Bidjet
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:04:32 PM

To all concerned,

I am writing in support of maintaining the police budget for 2021.

As a principal in downtown businesses, I have witnessed the continual decline of safety and security in the downtown core which has had a detrimental impact on business viability and liveability. The situation has deteriorated rapidly and is now at a crisis level. While we have been dealing with the street nuisance issues (overt drug use, panhandling, auto break-ins, assault, etc.) for years, the proliferation of issues to all corners of the city is now extremely problematic.

Despite the economic hardships imposed on the city and all businesses, now is not the time to be cutting back on police enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ron Orr
Chief Financial Officer
Granville Entertainment Group
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Jim Werner](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Yaletown-Safety
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 1:54:38 PM

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

My wife and I have lived downtown since 1996, first on Hornby Street and on Marinaside Crescent. We have always enjoyed living downtown as it has felt like a neighborhood and has always felt safe, We have noticed crime gradually increasing over the past few years, but it is now at horrendous levels and we are very concerned. I personally know of two people, one from Marinaside Crescent and another from the Fairmont Residences who recently moved away from the city because of their concerns. Despite the fact that our taxes keep going up the City is not doing enough to protect the area from homeless people who are moving into our area. Many of our neighbours have had their apartments broken into, and we have witnessed multiple incidents of unpredictable, violent behaviour in our neighbourhood.

There was an incident just yesterday with a man with an exacto knife on the seawall waving it at people on the seawall in a threatening manner. The police were called and within minutes, four officers arrived, retrieved the knife from the man, and had him down and in handcuffs. Due to their swift response, no one appeared to have been injured.

We support the police and the Community Outreach Program which will assist in keeping crime down in the our area. This program will assist in keeping the area safe but the City councilors have an obligation to do more to keep our City safe or risk seeing more people move out of downtown core.

Regards,

Jim Werner

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Lee Massey](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Vancouver Police Department 2021 Budget
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 1:59:03 PM

Re: Vancouver Police Department 2021 Budget

I am in favour of the Vancouver Police Department 2021 Budget being increased. The police cannot be expected to continue carrying out their duties within a reduced budget.

The population of the City of Vancouver is increasing. It is alarming to see the high number of high rises under construction – but as these are meant to house residents (although not the ‘homeless’) –the police will be called upon to come to the aid of even more people.

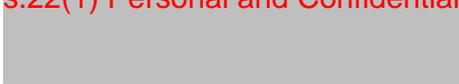
Block Watch is a program which should be maintained. This connects neighbour with neighbour which, in turn, helps keep crime low.

Please ensure that you provide the Vancouver Police Department with the funds they need to keep Vancouver safe.

Thank you

Lee Massey

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Nico Slobinsky](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Public Safety in our City
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 2:21:03 PM

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

My name is Nico Slobinsky, I am a resident of Vancouver and a member of a minority community. **I am writing in support of public safety in Vancouver.**

There have been alarming increases in crime in neighbourhoods across the city to the point that people no longer feel safe. The budget for the Vancouver Police Department needs to be maintained. **I do not support decreasing the police budget.** A decrease in funding would directly undermine the efforts and much needed steps that must be taken to ensure everyone feels safe again in our City.

Vancouver has serious social issues and we need our senior levels of government to increase investment in and access to mental health and addictions treatment for those in need. These services are important and it will take time for those investments to be made by the Province and Federal Government. But the City cannot compromise safety for all our residents by reducing policing; particularly at a time in which crime, hate motivated crime, and break-ins are at an all time high.

Policing keeps people safe, including the most vulnerable. As a Council, you both have the obligation to improve the lives of everyone in this city, and keep all Vancouver residents safe.

--

Best Regards,

Nicolas Slobinsky
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: 5.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: [PALMER, Adam](mailto:PALMER.Adam); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](mailto:JOHANSSSEN.Stephanie); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Support for the VPD
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 2:30:30 PM

Dear all

I am writing to show my support for the VPD and to urge the City to NOT make this a lawless City!

The increased street disorder and crime in neighbourhoods, particularly on the eastside, is unacceptable. Drug addiction and mental health are at the core of these problems and these problems are NOT being addressed. Letting them do whatever they want on the streets and in our parks putting the tax-paying, law-abiding residents at risk is abhorrent.

Please know that PIVOT, VANDU and others are advocating for a lawless city. One where tax-paying, law-abiding citizens are at the mercy of drug addicts and those with mental health challenges. This absolutely cannot be what the City wants, surely!

Surely the City wants to protect its residents from petty crime, assault and street disorder. Can you imagine what it will do to tourism and to our reputation when tourists return? How can that possibly be a City you are proud of? It's not possible.

While you may receive lots of emails from PIVOT and others, please note that tax-paying, law-abiding residents are not able to advocate for safe streets as intensely, as we are all working to pay our taxes - taxes which keep going up while we sit back and watch our City become unsafe, unsanitary and undesirable. Maybe members of PIVOT and VANDU don't mind being assaulted on the streets, being victims of petty crime and having their property damaged, but you can be sure that everyone else does - even if you don't receive thousands of emails from them. We don't have time to send email after email and go to the press, we are too busy working!

Please make this a City we can be proud to call home again by giving the VPD a budget where they can keep our streets and neighbourhoods safe. Anything else is not really an option, is it?

From: [Allan H. Kennedy](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca
Cc: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](mailto:JOHANSEN.Stephane@vancouver.ca); adam.palmer@vancouver.ca
Subject: Letter Regarding the VPD Budget
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 2:34:06 PM

Al Heinemann

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

November 16, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am both a resident and business owner in East Vancouver. As such, and as a concerned community member, I have had many interactions with members of the Vancouver Police Department.

A recent example: during the summer I observed a large shirtless male at East Hastings near Victoria who was flailing his arms and clearly in either drug-induced or mental health related distress. He entered the roadway and before I knew it he had jumped onto the hood of a vehicle which was attempting to drive by and began pounding on the car. I immediately called the police and waited for their arrival. To make a long story short, the officers handled themselves in an exemplary fashion despite being repeatedly sworn at, having gender-based slurs thrown at them, negative comments made by passersby, and physical resistance from the subject who was being detained.

Apart from reporting that I have had many positive interactions with and observations of VPD members, I would like to comment on the state of the neighbourhood around Hastings Sunrise and Commercial Drive. I am observing more evidence and incidents of intoxication, open drug use, graffiti, property crime, and general disorder than I ever have before in my 14 years of living in the neighbourhood. Residents whom I speak with frequently mention the sad state of things in our neighbourhood and a desire for more police presence and proactive measures. Personally I am concerned as to the vulnerability of the elderly, my two daughters, and other children who live in or frequent the neighbourhood, especially the busier commercial areas such as E Hastings Street and Commercial Drive.

I am strongly in favour of an increased emphasis on a police patrol presence and also a focus on community policing and other proactive steps. To achieve this I believe that the VPD budget should not be cut. In fact, I believe that it should be increased in order for it to do even better work at the community level. The elements of the VPD that make it a good police agency and undertakings that would make it better all require a generous funding

model.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Regards,
Al Heinemann

From: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca
Cc: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; PALMER, Adam; JOHANSEN, Stephanie (Police Board)
Subject: City Council/VPD
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 3:06:52 PM

November 16,2020

Attention: Mayor and Council:

My name is Elaine Barbour. My life's experiences have been fulfilling. We lived on Trinity Street in the Hastings Sunrise area for 45 years and I assisted in forming the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre. I was the captain of my Block Watch for over 25 years. When I was on the HSCPC Board I was the Community Outreach Worker. I had a passion and responsibility to educate our community on the role of the HSCPC and the value of creating and becoming members of Block Watch. I feel that the VPD needs our support to help them in the challenging role they have to enhance safety and dealing with serious concerns in Vancouver. I attended the VPD board meetings, got to know the members, and expressed the importance of supporting and assisting the VPD in their challenging and demanding role.

I had a long career as a VSB Family Support Worker for inner city schools. The last school was Grandview Elementary. My partnership with the VPD school liaison worker was excellent. We had sessions with the youth and families to discuss bullying and neighbourhood safety. Conveying the message that VPD are here to help us and not fear or disrespect police officers. When I retired I was hired by UBC Faculty of Dentistry to create a free dental clinic for inner city children, Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver hired me to reach out to needy families who lacked strong role models, and I volunteered with CLICK(Contributing to Lives of Inner City Kids). My passion has always been to give back.

Overall public safety is a huge undertaking and we know the VPD needs our involvement and support to achieve this goal. I support City Council to provide the VPD with the necessary funding they need to provide safety for the citizens in our Vancouver communities. I am very concerned if their budget is reduced and what negative impact this would have in our quality of life.

The HSCPC has committed volunteers to help VPD and citizens embrace this huge responsibility for many years.

Five years ago we bought a condo in Yale Town and I am the co-captain of our Block Watch. Safety is a huge concern in this neighbourhood and we need full capacity of the VPD. If you would like to meet to discuss this further, I am keen to do so.

Thank you

Elaine Barbour

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

A solid grey rectangular box redacting the text below the 's.22(1) Personal and Confidential' label.

From: [Blaine Culling](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD Budget
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 4:05:33 PM

I would like to add my support for to maintain the policing budget for 2021. I live and work in the downtown and while my organization agrees more needs to be done in the area of mental health and addiction services, we don't agree with any cuts to the current police budget. I have personally witnessed a deteriorating situation over the last 12 months, resulting in my staff and patrons being aggressively panhandled, cars being broken into, open drug use...

I wish to add my support to maintaining the policing budget for 2021 and urge Council not to make any cuts.

Blaine Culling
President
Granville Entertainment Corp
Roxy Cabaret and Legacy Liquor store.

From: [Paige Stewart](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Urgent Issue: Potential Policing Cuts
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 5:00:51 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

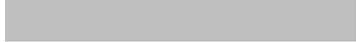
Upon hearing the news that the Council is thinking about defunding the police it raises many concerns. Currently, I am a General Manager in Yaletown, and speaking on behalf of myself and all my staff - It is often that I feel unsafe to walk on own to my car at the end of a shift. We are regularly calling regarding people with open needles at our doorsteps. Sometimes myself and my staff have to take different routes while walking down the street to feel safe. With our hours going late, it is important that everyone feels safe in the surrounding areas.

Specifically the bar watch unit has helped our restaurant on many occasions and is critical to bar and restaurant safety. They truly help ensure our staff and guests feel safe dining with us.

Thank you for taking the time.

Paige Stewart
General Manager West Oak Restaurant

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Peter W. Webster](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); Kennedy.Stewart@vancouver.ca
Cc: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police Budget requests
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 4:35:14 PM

Dear Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Council

As a former VPD Board member as well as Board Chair, Transit Authority Police Service I continue to have a keen interest in the policing of our City. It is apparent Chief Adams and his colleagues are faced with mounting demands and I am comforted they are responding to the challenge. Their research/analysis, employment of technology, and the development of a comprehensive strategic plan has clearly advanced their cost effectiveness from my days on the Board.

In speaking with officers I meet in the community they tell me of the intensive training received in areas such as mental health and how they feel more capable in doing their jobs.

I recall the issues we dealt with in negotiating with City Hall in hammering out an annual budget and as salaries make up such a large percentage the debate normally boiled down to the number of police engaged. While tense at times I viewed this to be a healthy exercise. From what I hear this continues to be the case only the City's budget is under immense pressure due to COVID 19.

At the same time citizens need more police services due to the impact of the virus. I recall an in-depth independent organizational review undertaken while I served. A number of sound recommendations flowed from the report and were subsequently adopted. I understand since then a second review was commissioned to ensure the VPD continued to be relevant and highly efficient. I don't envy the multitude of important demands you and your Council must have to weigh but there is no debating the fact policing is an essential service. I believe you have access to the information necessary to be satisfied the VPD is highly functional and cherished by our fellow citizens.

I respectfully, but strongly request, they be given the financial resources required to keep the public safe and maintain the high reputation the City has

justifiably earned over the years.

Sincerely,

Peter W Webster

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Wes Fung](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: "Re-fund the Police"
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:03:48 PM

This is not so much a letter as it is a commentary on City Council's call to defund our Police Department...The Mayor and Council have an extremely difficult task always trying to reconcile the many conflicting issues in our diverse community...it's often a thankless job and only the very few possess the courage and the capability to put themselves out there everyday taking the applause and the jeers. Regardless of my opinion I applaud each of you for your passion and commitment...Wes Fung.

RE-FUND THE POLICE

It's ironic that Mayor Stewart is entertaining calls to defund the Vancouver Police Department when it's the City's pattern of capitulation to the vocal minority of anti Police radicals that has triggered a surge in crime.

By permitting Strathcona Park to be a haven for thugs and drugs, by supporting the banning of Police street checks, by raising unproven allegations of systemic racism in his Police Department and now by calling to defund the Police, the Mayor has emboldened the malcontents in our midst to act with impunity. Swayed by the strained relationship between Police and Community in the United States, he has allowed their toxic politics to seep into his ideology. The unfortunate consequences being law abiding citizens feeling increasingly unsafe in their once quiet neighbourhoods and a greater burden on Police resources already stretched thin.

Mayor Stewart recently stated he was "gobsmacked" by the City receiving far less money than was expected from the Province. Perhaps Premier Horgan was also frustrated by the Mayor's repeated inability or unwillingness to address difficult social issues head on, preferring to use the Province, the Federal Government and now the VPD as scapegoats.

If City Council took a more assertive stance in creating constructive solutions to tackle the scourge of addiction, mental illness, homelessness and crime, the Province and the Feds would fulfill their obligations and make good on their promise to deliver more capital. It would be considered money well invested. In all likelihood the senior levels of government currently view the socialist politics of City Council as akin to an addict...regardless of the amount of money given most of it is injected into their veins before they return pleading for another handout which will again be squandered.

It's within this political tumult of his making that Mayor Stewart wants to reduce the Police budget. This at a time when an effective, properly funded Police force is needed most, particularly as we are dealing with the physical and emotional turmoil from the COVID 19 pandemic.

This is also a defining test of his abilities as leader. Anyone can lead during good times but the real challenge is how one responds during a crisis. Sometimes tough decisions must be made that will raise the ire of many but must be made to the benefit of most. Thus far Mayor Stewart has continually indulged the demands of fringe groups whose sole purpose is to preserve the status quo at the expense of his City and its' most vulnerable citizens. Instead of embracing "the buck stops here" attitude and taking some responsibility for his ineffective strategies he passes the buck, this time onto the desk of the Police Chief.

Given City Council's abysmal performance in addressing public safety concerns, Vancouver taxpayers should demand a partial reimbursement of their municipal taxes to be diverted to the VPD. Instead of calls to "defund the Police" it should be "Re-fund the Police"! The buck literally stops here.

One thing's for certain, Mayor Kennedy Stewart makes alot of folks wish for the return of Gregor...and the irony continues.

Wes Fung

From: [Caio Mendonca Macedo](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: 2021 Police Budget Proposal - Letter from Civilian
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:01:12 PM

Good evening,

My name is Caio Mendonca Macedo. I am, through this email, expressing my oversight as an attempt to assist the preparation of the 2021 budget.

It is visible that community involvement in policing is gradually increasing with the creation of opportunities and initiatives designed to build a cooperative relationship between police and society. I highly recommend the investment in community-based policing as a substantial mechanism for enhancing procedural justice, expanding the perceptions of police legitimacy, and building public trust. When police departments engage all members of society in activities and programs, such as community policing centers, civilian oversight opportunities, community-oriented policing, and crime prevention programs, they are not only improving the public relationship with law enforcement but shaping a more diverse and inclusive police force. In fact, these options to approach the public are an effective way to give voice to those who are considered minorities in our society; consequently, police agencies receive more constructive feedback from these groups in order to shape an organization that attends everyone equally and respectfully.

The new allocation of budget concerns me. The failure to provide this connection with the community will make it harder for the officers to identify the needs of the public. The unmet needs of the minorities and the general public might generate anger towards the criminal justice system and suggest further allocations of budget or reformations within the department.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to express our opinions.

Respectfully,
Caio Macedo.

From: [diana safarik](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [Kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [clrblich@vancouver.ca](#); [clrboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [clrcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [clrdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [clrdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [clrfry@vancouver.ca](#); [clrswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [clrwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Fw: 2021 VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD BUDGET
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:18:27 PM

From: diana safarik **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential**

Sent: November 16, 2020 6:24 PM

To: [Adam.palmer@vpd.ca](#) <[Adam.palmer@vpd.ca](#)>;
[Stephaine.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca](#)
<[Stephaine.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca](#)>; [Kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#)
<[Kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#)>; [clrblich@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrblich@vancouver.ca](#)>;
[clrboyle@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrboyle@vancouver.ca](#)>; [clrcarr@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrcarr@vancouver.ca](#)>;
[clrdegenova@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrdegenova@vancouver.ca](#)>; [clrdominato@vancouver.ca](#)
<[clrdominato@vancouver.ca](#)>; [clrfry@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrfry@vancouver.ca](#)>;
[clrhardwick@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrhardwick@vancouver.ca](#)>; [clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#)>;
[clrswanson@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrswanson@vancouver.ca](#)>;
[clrwiebe@vancouver.ca](#) <[clrwiebe@vancouver.ca](#)>; [sadu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#)
<[sadu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#)>; [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#) <[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)>;

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Subject: Re: 2021 VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD BUDGET

I am writing to support an increase in funding for the 2021 VPD budget. I am Edward A Safarik, president of the Kayak Council and member of the Olympic Village Presidents Council.

I am an original resident of the Olympic Village Complex. I have spent my entire life working and living in SE False Creek and the lower east side. It is important to have a strong police presence in our neighbourhood which is both visible and available.

We are pleased that SE False Creek has always been a safe place, day and night for residents and visitors. However, there is a change which has been accelerated with the closure of Oppenheimer Park and the covid-19 pandemic. Our family walks our dog 3-4 times per day between 6 am and 12 pm so we have a good handle on the activity in the Olympic Village.

Lately our neighbourhood is less secure.

There are more people milling around sleeping, urination and defecating in the green spaces, doorways, and parkades. There are daily intrusions in our building and parking areas. Often feces need to be picked up before the children can use the playground.

Now is not the time to defund the VPD. We need more police services not less. It is not appropriate to apply the "defund the police movement" to the current circumstances of policing in Vancouver. We are differentiated from policing in the USA.

Yes, our police community must put in protocols where officers handle problems with less use of force and be trained to deescalate conflicts in other ways. There needs to be a better recognition of mental health situations which need special interventions. However, we have escalating problems which need immediate police services.

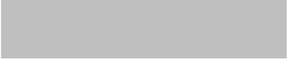
We need a revamp of mental health services and safe drug supplies to deal with the opioid drug crises. These are matters predominately under the jurisdiction of the provinces and the federal government.

A lesser police presence will be detrimental to the safety of our community. We are very appreciative of the police liaison office in the Creekside Community Centre.

Thank you, Ed Safarik, Kayak Strata Council and Presidents Council, Olympic Village

Ed Safarik

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Nina Ng](#)
To: [Nina Ng](#)
Subject: Increase Police Funding
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 10:10:54 PM

Vancouver Police Board,

As President of the Strata Council for the Wall Centre False Creek representing 300 owners, I am writing to request an **increase** in funding to the Vancouver Poice Department. I've lived in the Olympic Village for seven years now, and over the last two years, we have seen an exponential increase in homelessness, crime and drug use exacerbated by the pandemic. We should not be reducing the budget, we should be increasing the budget for the police.

This year alone, our building has seen a 100 percent increase in violators to our building along with theft. We also saw three overdoses and one death in a span of one week. A senior citizen was held at knifepoint and women in this area have been victims of attempted abductions. This is unacceptable given that many young families with young children and retired seniors live in this community.

While I agree that police are not necessarily the authorities that should be handling those with drug or mental health issues, there needs to be coordination between them and healthcare workers. A health care worker would not have been able to alone handle the person holding the senior at knifepoint.

Every day, we hear police and/or ambulance sirens attending to the social housing project on 2nd Avenue. There are needles, and garbage left throughout the neighbourhood making it unsafe for children and pets, in particular, to go outside in our own community. People do not feel safe here anymore and our city has deteriorated from a world-class city to one that resembles the Bronx.

If you're looking for funding, stop building bike lanes and focus on safety first. Maslow's hierarchy of needs starts with food, shelter water and safety. If we don't have these life basics, there's no point in putting anything else in place.

The Olympic Village needs the support of the police to keep our community safe. Their presence is critical to mitigating crime in this neighbourhood.

Thanks for your consideration.

Nina Ng

November 17th, 2020

Hi there,

I would like to share my thoughts for the consideration of the police budget this upcoming year. I have been a volunteer with the West-End Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre for close to two years now. Originally, I wanted to volunteer with CPC because I have an educational background in Police Foundations, and I wanted to immerse myself more within my community. I have found that volunteering with CPC has not only met my expectations but exceeded them as well. Our local community police officers are known to the public surrounding the West-End and Coal Harbour area. Patrons come into the office or see them on the street and know them by name, and vice versa – this is SO important. Additionally, we participate in community engagement events that educate the public on issues within the surrounding area and what we do as volunteers for CPC. During this time, officers are there with us to help answer questions and educate the volunteers as well (who most of them want to pursue a career in policing). Additionally, the volunteers at CPC also go out in the community and perform clean-ups and monitor dumping, perform speed-watches and cell-watches, have a general presence within the community to deter anyone from poor behavior, and many other activities. Again, all of this is volunteer based, however without the organization from the Community Police Centre *employees*, none of this would be possible. Please consider not succumbing to the media's "Defund the Police" idiocracy. We need the VPD and community policing services, especially during a time like this.

Thank you,

Allison Calder

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Carolyn Laporte](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Re: Help Decide the Vancouver Police 2021 Budget
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 1:16:44 AM

Dear Chief Palmer, Police Board Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Mayor and Council:

As a Vancouver resident, I have great concerns surrounding safety and increased crime in my neighbourhood. I live in the False Creek North Community of Yaletown. I am often out walking with my husband and dog, and have never had to worry about my safety or the state of this neighbourhood until a short while ago. This particular area has always been clean, calm, and without any crime (or at least very little crime, to my knowledge). Over the past 8 to 12 months, many fellow neighbours have moved away due to their concerns of crime and homelessness in this area. Not to mention that there are also many families with young children who live here. It is not right that parents of young children need to worry about these issues in an area that should be clean and safe!

We have had an increase in car thefts on Beach Crescent, an increase in thefts from townhouse patios, attempted break-ins, homeless people entering my building and being found in the stairwell and lobby, needles found in the park across the street (George Wainborn Park) and on the sidewalk, including right outside the front door of my building, bikes stolen, increased garbage in the parks, people sleeping in the park, etc. While walking my dog alone a few weeks ago, an individual was doing what I believe to be crystal meth next door to the King's Landing building. I alerted the Concierge and she promptly took pictures and told the person to leave immediately, to which the individual began yelling at her. The Concierge told me that she has become frustrated with the huge increase in such incidents.

A few months ago, I saw a bin marked "hazardous" along the edge of False Creek. Had the tide been high, this bin would have washed right into the ocean. I contacted "311" and they indicated this was a bin most likely containing needles, given the description I provided of the bin's exterior. The "Needle Van" organization was then contacted and fortunately they picked up this bin within an hour or two. I had never, in the 10+ years that I have lived in this area, seen such a bin around here. And for some careless person to simply dump it along the edge of the shore is incredibly careless and beyond concerning. All this to say, our neighbourhood that we wish to call 'home', has quickly become notorious for disorder, noise (there are often firecrackers being launched in George Wainborn Park), and homelessness. I have become quite tired of seeing human feces in the park when walking my dog. It is not the clean, lovely area that it once was. I believe we can get it back (I hope) to how things used to be, but this is where I believe VPD needs added support so that additional officers can patrol this area, or perhaps additional programs can be created in order to address the homeless issue here.

Understandably with COVID-19, these are not easy times for anyone, but there must be more that can be done to address the homeless issue + drug use problem, and general crime, that has suddenly sky-rocketed in this particular area.

- Share your feelings on any police budget reductions.
- Speak to the importance of public safety and the safety of citizens of your community.
- Outline any concerns that there may be if the VPD is not adequately resourced.

Your letter or email can be forwarded to the following distribution list which includes Chief Palmer, Police Board Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Mayor and Council along with the City Manager:

adam.palmer@vpd.ca; Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca;
kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca;
CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca;
CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

Your input is greatly valued. Thank you for continued commitment to make Vancouver the Safest City in Canada!

Kevin

STAFF SERGEANT #1878 KEVIN BERNARDIN

OPERATIONS DIVISION | TRAFFIC SECTION

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

3585 GRAVELEY STREET, VANCOUVER BC V5K 5J5

D: 604-717-2988 | E: kevin.bernardin@vpd.ca | www.vpd.ca

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From: [Ron Aloni](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Help the Vancouver Police Board decide the 2021 Vancouver Police Department budget by sharing your voice.
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 7:23:25 PM

To whom it may concern,

Our block watch captain has asked us to share our feelings and ideas and expectations with you about what we would like from our police department.

I've lived in Vancouver for 50 years and I don't actually feel like you do much to support me, my family, my friends, our businesses or fellow citizens...

1) I don't even bother reporting property crime, for example my car gets broken into at least 2x per year, because nothing happens. The VPD just takes notes. No action ever. I have at least one street person try to sneak onto my property a year. I just chase him away, because I've learned if I call the VPD they never show up. and if they do they do nothing.

2) The mayor doesn't care about crime. He just cares about issues that are under the Provincial jurisdiction like housing and mental health. These things have nothing to do with the city. Most Vancouverites can't stand the Mayor. He doesn't care about the city or its citizens. He just wants to support the fringe while we all live in his mess. I want the police to uphold the law. I want people arrested and charged for public intoxication. I want people in tents in our public parks arrested and moved to jails or places out of the city where they will cause less trouble. I want the rules upheld. I want people arrested for using illegal substances in public places. I want my city cleaned up.

3) I coach children and have on and off for over 30 years. What is the message we are sending these kids. That people are allowed to behave this way in public?

4) My son and I were in the store 2 weeks ago buying fireworks. At Alma and Broadway. One of your officers was inside the store fraternizing with the staff. He wasn't wearing a mask. My son asked me why isn't the police officer wearing a mask. I told him I guess the VPD doesn't care about public safety. This is how my police department behaves. And this is what kids see.

I could go on. I'm not a defund the police guy. I would advocate that like most of the citizens of this city, (which your polls that show the VPD are respected and trusted get wrong), we feel the VPD are busy harassing honest people about nothing and protecting criminals and doing not much else. That's why I don't bother calling you guys anymore.

I will say that I have seen the odd excellent police officer, but for the amount of money we spend it's too infrequent.

Get the officers out of the cars, off those horrible ATVs and onto bikes and on their feet. Arrest these people that are ruining our city. Street crime has no place here anymore. Take our city back. Wear masks during a pandemic

Behave in such a way that our children want to model after you.
Make your law abiding citizens feel like you are really there to serve their community.

Best Regards

Ron Aloni

From: [Tamara Fraess](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRCarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSE VPD Budget
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 5:44:45 PM

I understand that there is a meeting this week to discuss the 2021 VPD budget and possible budget cuts.

I would like to express my concerns and request that NO further cuts be made to the VPD. Crime - especially violent crimes - are increasing over the past few months and now is not the time to cut services to VPD.

I am sure each and everyone of you have never heard such an outcry from the community as you have in recent months. Society functions based on law and order and the laws must be respected and enforced.

It would appear that there is a very well-organized group of advocates/activists that act in concert with Pivot, Vandu and the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society to restrict the powers of the VPD, which in turn puts families, women, children and seniors in harm's way.

I have lived in DT/Yaletown for over 20 years, I have always felt safe until this year. I am afraid when I leave my home to walk to / from work. I don't even feel safe standing outside of places like the DT Costco after picking up some groceries. There have been 3 home invasions in recent months against women in YT.

Crime is at an all time high, we need more police NOT less.
Residents in Vancouver depend on the VPD to keep us safe.

City managers just got salary raises at a time when thousands of people have lost their jobs and their businesses.
In addition, city hall is doing a multi-million dollar renovation with top of the line furnishings. The optics are terrible.

DO NOT cut the budget to the VPD - the one resource in this city that residents can rely on.

Lastly, I do not feel that important issues that impact the city so strongly are being disclosed in a timely fashion or at all to residents. I would like to request that this change. Going forward, how can high level issues like this be made aware to residents in Vancouver? Can you publish this information well in advance on a number of different platforms so community engagement and feedback can be done fairly? Is it possible to have someone from COV follow up on this with me?

Many thanks, Tamara

From: [Jade Lee](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Policing Budget
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:46:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

While my organization agrees more needs to be done in the area of mental health and addiction services, we don't agree with any cuts to the current police budget. I have personally witnessed a deteriorating situation over the last 12 months, resulting in my staff and patrons being aggressively panhandled, cars being broken into, open drug use...

I wish to add my support to maintaining the policing budget for 2021 and urge Council not to make any cuts.

Regards,

Jade Lee | Executive Assistant to Azim Jamal, President and CEO
D: 604-633-2039 | [s.22\(1\) Personal and Confidential](#) | F: 604-608-9497
1818-701 W. Georgia Street | PO Box 10126 | Vancouver, BC | V7Y 1C6
www.pacificreach.com



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purpose, nor disclose any of its contents to any other person.

From: [Heather Allen](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Thank you! Appreciation for the VPD's Neighbourhood Response Team
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:54:20 AM

When neighbours and I read this (*ridiculous*) bi-line from the CBC, "Advocates for vulnerable people in Vancouver have filed a complaint to the city's police board asking that a new policing unit aimed at responding to low-level crime and street disorder be halted," we are countering this by writing to you.

We want the VPD to know there is an appreciation for the job being done. Days in I noticed my Crosstown streets safer. Seeing police cars patrolling the neighbourhood has titled this neighbourhood upright.

It is not ok for me to run red lights, steal from a neighbour, park at a meter without paying so I don't know why it was ever ok to loiter in a doorway, smoke crack openingly at Andy Livingstone Park, camp on sidewalks and tennis courts, be able to bust car windows, creep into the school area of Crosstown Elementary.

Thank you for coming in hard and I only hope that when warmer weather arrives you'll still be strictly enforcing the laws. Everyone should be able to enjoy the streets, parks and community. No one should be above the law.

Heather,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Carolyn Laporte](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Re: Help Decide the Vancouver Police 2021 Budget
Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 1:16:44 AM

Dear Chief Palmer, Police Board Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Mayor and Council:

As a Vancouver resident, I have great concerns surrounding safety and increased crime in my neighbourhood. I live in the False Creek North Community of Yaletown. I am often out walking with my husband and dog, and have never had to worry about my safety or the state of this neighbourhood until a short while ago. This particular area has always been clean, calm, and without any crime (or at least very little crime, to my knowledge). Over the past 8 to 12 months, many fellow neighbours have moved away due to their concerns of crime and homelessness in this area. Not to mention that there are also many families with young children who live here. It is not right that parents of young children need to worry about these issues in an area that should be clean and safe!

We have had an increase in car thefts on Beach Crescent, an increase in thefts from townhouse patios, attempted break-ins, homeless people entering my building and being found in the stairwell and lobby, needles found in the park across the street (George Wainborn Park) and on the sidewalk, including right outside the front door of my building, bikes stolen, increased garbage in the parks, people sleeping in the park, etc. While walking my dog alone a few weeks ago, an individual was doing what I believe to be crystal meth next door to the King's Landing building. I alerted the Concierge and she promptly took pictures and told the person to leave immediately, to which the individual began yelling at her. The Concierge told me that she has become frustrated with the huge increase in such incidents.

A few months ago, I saw a bin marked "hazardous" along the edge of False Creek. Had the tide been high, this bin would have washed right into the ocean. I contacted "311" and they indicated this was a bin most likely containing needles, given the description I provided of the bin's exterior. The "Needle Van" organization was then contacted and fortunately they picked up this bin within an hour or two. I had never, in the 10+ years that I have lived in this area, seen such a bin around here. And for some careless person to simply dump it along the edge of the shore is incredibly careless and beyond concerning. All this to say, our neighbourhood that we wish to call 'home', has quickly become notorious for disorder, noise (there are often firecrackers being launched in George Wainborn Park), and homelessness. I have become quite tired of seeing human feces in the park when walking my dog. It is not the clean, lovely area that it once was. I believe we can get it back (I hope) to how things used to be, but this is where I believe VPD needs added support so that additional officers can patrol this area, or perhaps additional programs can be created in order to address the homeless issue here.

Understandably with COVID-19, these are not easy times for anyone, but there must be more that can be done to address the homeless issue + drug use problem, and general crime, that has suddenly sky-rocketed in this particular area.

From: [Stephanie von Dehn](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police Budget--citizen input
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 11:02:26 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to share my personal experiences of living in Mount Pleasant as well as speaking as Block Watch captain for my neighbourhood (FV57). I have lived in this area since 2009 and have seen the neighbourhood change throughout our 11 years here. When we first moved in, we would see drug deals occurring in front of our home, and on the streets neighbouring it, fairly frequently. At that time, I decided to become a member of block watch so I could be involved in my community. My neighbours and I started ensuring that we contacted the non-emergency number to report any suspicious activity, thefts or break-ins and I felt that things improved slightly in those first few years. We had an officer who was our VPD Block Watch liaison (Constable Krenz) and he was very responsive and helpful when we had issues in our neighbourhood.

Over the last few years, several non-DTES low-barrier housing complexes were opened in Mount Pleasant (The Marguerite Ford, the Biltmore, the modular housing at Terminal and Main, Cambie and 2nd to name a few), I noticed a lot more crime in our area as reported by my block watch participants (by then I was captain). I will provide a sampling of some of the crime events in our area over the last few years. There was a home invasion just south of my home that was stopped when plain clothes police officers responded to a tip from a neighbour about someone acting suspiciously in the area. There have been men looking in windows of basement apartments exposing themselves. There was a break in where someone climbed through a window while the occupants were at home and sleeping. There were two citizen's arrests involving two of my block watch participants. One stopped a bike theft in progress in his underground garage, another participant stopped a break-in in progress (while the owner was home and yelled for help) and held the intruder. There have been many bike thefts, too many to remember, many items stolen off of front porches and decks, and drug paraphernalia being left behind dumpsters and in stairwells of apartment buildings. One member was able to retrieve two stolen bikes taken from their underground garage by going to the Biltmore and locating the bikes locked to the racks there. It is worth noting that when he went to recover the bikes, he contacted the VPD and had to wait 2 hours until an officer could arrive to help him liberate the bikes (which were marked with identification). While waiting there, the staff at the Biltmore became confrontational, yelling at him to get off their private property (he stood his ground so he could recover his bikes).

As for us personally, we have had our sheds broken into and had one of our bikes stolen. One time an intruder tried to saw through our deck to get the bike that was locked to the rafters with a heavy-duty chain. We have had our cars rifled through, caught people on our house cameras prowling our backyard and going up on our deck to look in windows and checking our car door handles (one incident was at 11:30 at night when we were awake and all the lights were on). This same person

also defecated in our backyard right next to our house which was not pleasant to deal with. We have had someone take a bag of clothes (I left out for charity pick up) at 8:30 at night, again, while we were home and all up watching TV. I now feel unsafe even taking the dog out at night to go to the bathroom, worried that I may surprise an intruder around my property.

The people living in low-barrier housing are likely dealing with a combination of trauma, mental illness and drug addiction which leads to many of the challenges we are seeing in the Mount Pleasant area. There is a connection between drug addiction and crime as people are desperate for ways to obtain more drugs. One of my daughters attends Simon Fraser Elementary around the corner and despite the custodian being tasked with daily needle sweeps, a syringe was missed and she discovered this while playing with her friends. There are people sleeping under covered areas, as well as the ramps to the portables where her classroom is located. Often discarded needles and human feces are left behind. When my older daughter started at that school 8 years ago, things were definitely not this dire.

I am concerned that with more cuts to police resources, we will not have the police presence that is required to help deal with the break-ins, mischief and thefts in our area. With the majority of non-DTES, low-barrier housing being located in Mount Pleasant, we require more resources, not less, to deal with the trickledown effect of drug addiction and the associated crime cycle that we have witnessed firsthand. We need the VPD to have the resources to support neighbourhoods facing these challenges and to ideally work collaboratively with the staff and residents at the low-barrier housing complexes.

If you require any more information, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at this email or by phone at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential.

Sincerely,

Stephanie von Dehn
Block Watch Captain FV57

- Share your feelings on any police budget reductions.
- Speak to the importance of public safety and the safety of citizens of your community.
- Outline any concerns that there may be if the VPD is not adequately resourced.

Your letter or email can be forwarded to the following distribution list which includes Chief Palmer, Police Board Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Mayor and Council along with the City Manager:

adam.palmer@vpd.ca; Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca;
kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca;
CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca;
CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

Your input is greatly valued. Thank you for continued commitment to make Vancouver the Safest City in Canada!

Kevin

STAFF SERGEANT #1878 KEVIN BERNARDIN

OPERATIONS DIVISION | TRAFFIC SECTION

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

3585 GRAVELEY STREET, VANCOUVER BC V5K 5J5

D: 604-717-2988 | E: kevin.bernardin@vpd.ca | www.vpd.ca

CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: [Andrea Zimmerman](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Yaletown safety concerns
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 12:44:57 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrea Zimmerman** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 12:39 PM
Subject: Yaletown safety concerns
To: <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>
Cc: <Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca>, <kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca>, <CLRbligh@vancouver.ca>, <CLRboyle@vancouver.ca>, <CLRcarr@vancouver.ca>, <CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca>, <CLRdominato@vancouver.ca>, <CLRfry@vancouver.ca>, <CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca>, <CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca>, <CLRswanson@vancouver.ca>, <CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca>, <sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca>, <paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Executive Director Stephanie Johansen, Mayor Stewart and Vancouver City Council,

I have lived in the Yaletown neighbourhood since 2011 and am very concerned with how the area has deteriorated over time. Walking to Pacific Center along either Seymour or Granville Streets no longer feels comfortable. I am concerned that adequate funding is not available to provide a strong police presence so that people who live in the neighbourhood feel safe.

Numerous times I have witnessed homeless men urinating in George Wainborn Park and young men shooting up in doorways along Seymour street. One of our neighbours recently found a homeless person sleeping on their patio.

There should be no decrease in funding to the VPD, if anything more resources need to be allocated.

Thank you
Andrea Zimmerman

From: [iris.Dayson](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRFry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirbyyung@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhujohnston@vancouver.ca](#);
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: VPD
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:37:21 AM

Please do not defund the Police Department, it may not be perfect but it does good work, often at personal risk . What would Vancouver be like without the VPD ? Why have the Defunding movement proposed this idea ?

I am confident that you will all vote for what is best for our City rather than support a movement with somewhat cloudy aims.

Thank you,
Iris Dayson

From: [Linda McLean](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRCarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRFry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#);
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: VPD Budget Restrictions
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 1:51:11 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Marpole for 33 years, I have been an active community volunteer for the past 25 years. During this period of time, I have noticed an increase in property crime and street disorder in our neighborhood. I am disheartened that the CoV has decided to reduce the VPD's Budget for 2021 by 20%. While I am sensitive to the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the economy drastically, I feel that it is mandatory that the VPD budget be sufficient in order to maintain essential services that will keep our community & citizens safe.

As VPD Chief Constable Adam Palmer has pointed out throughout the pandemic, the police have been on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. putting themselves at risk in order to keep the city safe. The dedication and commitment from the VPD that has been selflessly displayed while serving the citizens of Vancouver is second to none. As a private citizen, I would ask that you reconsider your decision to reduce the VPD's budget. While I understand that this is a substantial request, the citizens of Vancouver would benefit from a strong, visible police presence. Our community has witnessed a huge rise in crime since the start of COVID-19.

Respectfully yours,

Linda J. McLean

From: [Lyll D. Knott Q.C.](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: VPD
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 4:25:18 PM

Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board:

I am writing in support of public safety in Vancouver.

There have been alarming increases in crime in neighbourhoods across the city to the point that people no longer feel safe.

The budget for the Vancouver Police Department needs to be maintained. I do not support decreasing the police budget.

We have serious social issues and need our senior levels of government to increase investment in and access to mental health and addictions treatment for those in need. These services are important and it will take time for those investments to be made by the Province and Federal Government. But the City cannot compromise safety for all our residents by reducing policing.

Regards,

Lyll Knott, Q.C. | Clark Wilson LLP

Incorporated Partner

900-885 West Georgia Street | Vancouver, BC | V6C 3H1

Tel: 604.643.3129 | Fax: 604.687.6314 | Email: LKnott@cwilson.com

* Lyll D. Knott Law Corporation

www.cwilson.com | [Contact Information](#) | [Profile](#)



Our services at Clark Wilson LLP remain uninterrupted as our lawyers and staff continue to work both from the office and remotely. We have created a [COVID-19 Resource](#) page where you can find our response to the pandemic, and other related information and resources. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly. We remain here to support and assist you.

This e-mail may be confidential. Unauthorised use is prohibited. Unintended recipients are asked to return and delete this message. E-mail is inherently vulnerable to interception and we will use alternate means upon request.

From: [BERNARDIN, Kevin](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: FW: VPD support
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 4:40:59 PM

Kevin

S/SGT. KEVIN BERNARDIN #1878
OPERATIONS DIVISION | TRAFFIC SECTION
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
D: 604-717-2988

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter and Wendy white s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 3:12 PM
To: PALMER, Adam <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>
Subject: VPD support

Hello Adam, thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for the VPD and the new VPD initiative to address street disorder and crime . I am fully in support if this initiative

I am a 53 yr old black male with bi-racial children and have lived in Grandview-Woodlands for over 16 years. The VPD have always been respectful and professional when I have had interactions with them. They have helped our neighbourhood with many problem drug dealing and prostitution residences and helped protect woodland park . There are many children and families that use this park. And these are First Nation children as well.

The level of street disorder has been appalling recently with the nearby Strathcona tent city and I have been concerned about my daughter who walks home from school. The fact that Strathcona school erected a fence around the school to protect children as a necessary precaution should be sufficient to elicit action. In addition the safety, mental health and future of the people who are responsible for this street disorder should not be discounted . By allowing this behaviour, these individuals continue on a path of self destruction without positive intervention . The VPD is doing a fantastic job with restraint and common sense . Bravo and keep up the good work. Absolutely not to defunding the VPD .

Peter White

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Resident of Grandview-Woodlands

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Peter Austin](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Defunding Police.
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6:07:06 PM

i strongly disagree with reducing funding for the police. Law and order is a prime requirement for a community. Reducing funding can only have a negative affect on our community. The social and economic costs from reduced policing will far outweigh the costs that the City propose to cut.

Sincerely

Peter Austin

From: [Gordon Cherry](#)
To: [Gordon Cherry](#)
Subject: Keep up the support for our great police force
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:27:19 PM

I am writing in support of public safety in Vancouver as a resident since 1980.

The budget for the Vancouver Police Department needs to be maintained. I do not support decreasing the police budget. Our police need their training constantly upgraded, which can include members who have a specialty with mental health and addictions. Now is the time to increase funding to our police and not decrease it.

We have serious social issues and all levels of government need to increase the resources needed for mental health and addictions treatment. But the City cannot compromise safety for all our residents by reducing policing.

Sincerely,

Gordon Cherry

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Esther Moses](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Support for Vancouver Police Department
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:44:47 AM

To Mayor Stewart and members of council

As a resident of Vancouver, I am writing to you today to oppose the call of certain advocacy groups to defund the Vancouver Police Department (VPD). The VPD provides important and responsive services to the majority of citizens and organizations in Vancouver and handles numerous complex issues in a highly professional manner.

I recognize the very legitimate concerns that indigenous people and people of colour have regarding systemic racism embedded in our local institutions ranging from corporate board rooms to sports teams. As a member of the Jewish community and a person of colour who has experienced my own instances of prejudice and discrimination, I deeply empathize with those who have been targeted or have been victims of verbal abuse or physical assault. However, these are systemic issues and not exclusive to any one profession or institution. We all have a responsibility to address such attitudes and behaviours.

The VPD has provided the Jewish Community with their expertise and guidance as we tackle anti-Semitism on a regular basis. When the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue took place in Pittsburgh it was our VPD that stepped up and offered their support and assistance to all Jewish institutes in Vancouver.

Over the past many years, there have been significant cuts to social services while there has been an increase in the number of people struggling with mental health and addictions issues. The police have stepped in to provide emergency services in situations where trained mental health professionals should have been provided. This has led to tragic consequences.

Defunding the VPD will benefit no one. Instead of heeding the call to defund the police, this council should be instead advocating with the province to expand mental health services and increase the number of psychiatric beds to people can get the resources and services they need.

Sincerely,

Esther Moses-Wood

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Paul Timperley](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: 2021 Vancouver Police Department (VPD) budget
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:57:13 AM

Vancouver Police Board:

Chief Constable: Adam Palmer

Executive Director: Stephanie Johanssen

Mayor and Council:

Mayor Stewart

Councillor Bligh

Councillor Boyle

Councillor Carr

Councillor De Genova

Councillor Dominato

Councillor Fry

Councillor Hardwick

Councillor Kirby-Yung

Councillor Swanson

Councillor Wiebe

City Manager: Mr. Sadhu Johnston

Deputy Manager: Mr. Paul Mochrie

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council, and Vancouver Police Board

We understand that the Police Board is currently in the process of considering the 2021 Vancouver Police Department (VPD) budget. We would like to provide input to Council and the Board in support of the VPD, particularly as their work pertains to the issues that residents and stratas are currently dealing with in the Olympic Village area.

Strata's around the Olympic Village square and plaza have raised concerns for some time

with the VPD, and City of Vancouver Council and management regarding ongoing crime, noise and drinking in the plaza, drug use and loitering in the area.

As Council is aware, the Olympic Village is constantly presented and referred to as a unique urban living environment, showcasing mixed use, mixed density and an excellent example of transit-oriented development in the city. However, the area is now becoming a destination for transients and groups of people from outside the area who congregate to drink, use drugs, and party into the early hours of the morning. The increase in this type of activity and crime in recent years is impacting the lives of people that live and work in the area, and for visitors. Many older residents and young families have expressed concern about the aggressive nature of transients and people congregating to drink and party, and are reluctant to venture into the square, particularly at night.

Another issue resulting from this activity is sanitation. On a daily basis we are left to clean up needles, garbage, feces and urine from transient people who do their business in our doorways, on beaches, in the plaza area, under the pedestrian 'canoe' bridge and along the seawall pathway. These are areas where children play, and residents and visitors come to recreate. This is also occurring in our building parkades and in fire escape corridors on a daily basis.

The VPD, in particular District 4 management and Community Policing, as well as individual City Councillors, and Engineering Department management have acknowledged our concerns. Both Police and City Councillors have met with the Olympic Village Presidents' Council, a body that comprises the Strata Presidents of many of the Olympic Village Residential buildings. This has led to a strong working relationship with the VPD to develop and implement strategies to address the criminal and nuisance activities in the area.

As a result of our work with the VPD, the area is becoming noticeably safer and residents are beginning to feel somewhat more secure. This is very much a work-in-progress and it is essential to continue with the programs being put in place. In particular, continuing the active presence and visibility of police in the area, and implementation of the community police programming is imperative to maintain public safety and community liveability.

As the elected representatives and guardians of our community, we ask that Vancouver City Council and the Police Board, in considering the 2021 police budget proposal, recognise our request that VPD continues to be adequately resourced to maintain public safety in our community. We support the critical role of the VPD in helping us reduce crime and improper activity in our community, and request that there be no further reductions in police budgets that will jeopardize the livability of our community and the excellent work being done by the VPD.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the Olympic Village Presidents' Council,

Paul Timperley

President, Shoreline Strata BCS 3849

From: [Chris Thomas](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police Board Deliberations
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:12:19 AM

Dear Mayor, Councillors, City Managers, and Chief Constable,

I understand that the Police Board will be meeting to discuss the 2021 police budget proposal on 21 November and, as a concerned citizen, I respectfully wish to make the following points.

First, I am very concerned that the “defund the police” movement, which has rightly attracted so much public attention and discussion in the United States, has been unthinkingly applied to very different circumstances in Canada. I do not support the assumption that that movement automatically applies in Canada for number of reasons. First, Canadian police forces, such as the VPD, are more rigorously trained and disciplined than many American police forces. Secondly, the racial disparity in the composition of American police forces and the overt prejudice against Black Americans, which has driven the “defund the police” movement, is not directly relevant to the Canadian situation. This is not to say that there is no racial prejudice in Canada; it is to say that the challenges that Canada faces reflect different historical, social, economic and political factors than those which prevail in the United States. Obviously, we can all do more to promote social harmony, and policing is a big part of that, but it is a mistake to think that because there have been terrible incidents of police violence in the United States, that this somehow is automatically transferable to the situation in Canada, and specifically in Vancouver.

Second, although I have not had much experience with the VPD, that which I have had has been positive. I recently reported an incident where a driver ran two consecutive stop signs and a very late amber traffic light, all in a row. I was concerned about the competence of this particular driver, and had my wife take a picture of the vehicle’s license plate. I sent it off to the VPD and received a detailed reply from a member of the force who undertook to go to the driver’s home and give an oral and/or written warning. My wife, who was a television reporter for many years, had extensive dealings with the police, particularly the Odd Squad and their work in the downtown east side. She has very positive things to say generally about her interaction with the VPD. No police force is perfect, but we have a good one by international standards and we ought to be supporting it.

I understand that there is some movement to reduce the budget. This is a major mistake. As I understand it, the police budget has not been increased for some time, while at the same time the population of Vancouver has grown. We are regularly told in the local press but some 80% of Vancouverites consider that crime is becoming an increasing problem in their neighborhoods. As someone who lived abroad for six years and returned to Vancouver a few years ago, I’ve been struck at how driving behaviors have seriously deteriorated in Vancouver, with people doing U-turns in the middle of busy streets like 41st Ave., running red lights, etc.

In short, we ought to be *increasing* the budget to deal with increased demands on the police force, not decreasing it. And we ought to be supporting measures which increase the visibility of the force throughout the city.

Sincerely,

Chris Thomas

From: [Lana Marks Pulver](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: VPD Budget
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:05:12 PM

Dear Mayor Stewart,

I'm sending this email to advocate against defunding the police. It is imperative, particularly at this point in time (with escalating crime) that our VPD budget is approved.

While the City of Vancouver must reevaluate all its costs and look for ways to reduce them, cutting back the VPD budget is not the place. We pay an extremely high rate of property taxes in this city, and expect to be able to feel safe in return. The VPD ensures our safety and security.

I implore you to be fiscally prudent and cut back unnecessary expenses, operate more efficiently and be transparent. Simultaneously, I recommend you look at alternative ways to cut spending and leave the VPD budget alone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lana Pulver

From: [Stephen Darling](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD 2021 Budget - Public Submission
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:09:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council;

I am writing today as a concerned citizen of Vancouver, on behalf of my business, Stephen Darling Hospitality Consulting Inc, plus myself personally, to express my great concerns regarding potential police budgetary reductions, and how that may affect not only our residents and employees in Vancouver; but equally, our visitors to Vancouver.

Community safety for our residents, employees and visitors is of paramount importance. In my view, the presence of police and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver is critical to maintain the safe and secure environment that we have worked so hard over the years to nurture. It is one of the most important attributes that visitors and potential employees seek when making a decision as to where to work, visit and live.

On behalf of my business and myself personally, as a 37-year resident home owner in Vancouver, I ask that you find alternatives to achieve a reasonable reduction in the VPD's budget, without impacting or compromising the excellent work that our police department is known for.

Sincerely,

Stephen M Darling

Corporate Director & Hospitality Consultant

Vancouver, Canada

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Cayuga Hospitality Consultants

The International Network of Hospitality Consulting Professionals

www.CayugaHospitality.com



From: [Peter Brown](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Vancouver Police Department
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:19:49 PM

Chief Constable Adam Palmer
Executive Director, Stephanie Johanssen
Vancouver Police Board
Mayor Stewart and Council
City Manager, Sadhu Johnston
Deputy Manager, Paul Mochrie

As a way of introduction, I am the past Chairman of the Vancouver Police Foundation and was proud to be an Honorary Chief of Police for a three-year term. In this capacity, we came to realize that with municipal budgets, being what they were, we needed to bring in public partners to help provide the force with much needed equipment such as the mobile command vehicle. I would like to think we were successful and added to the capability of an outstanding police force.

In that period, the entire board of the foundation and myself came to the conclusion that Vancouver was, and is, fortunate to have what we felt was the finest urban police force in the country – both in terms of the security of our citizens and their emphasis on community policing. This is a message that we worked hard to promote through our activities including two of the city’s largest fundraising galas. These galas allowed for the funding of the VPD Cadet Program which we are all very proud of.

I have been asked to write this letter because there is some sentiment that we should follow a view held in some US cities in reducing the police budgets or “defunding”.

As I understand it, the current budget is, in part, linked to the size of the population in Vancouver proper and, as in the case of coastal health, it does not take into account some of the serious work that the VPD has traditionally done in support of other communities in the lower mainland. Having spent a number of years trying to increase police support, I observed that this dedicated personnel achieved remarkable results despite working with the difficulties of continual financial restraint.

I believe that every citizen of Vancouver is proud that Vancouver is a very livable, world class city. There is no question in my mind that you cannot be a world class city without a first-class police department which we are fortunate to have. I hope that when the City Council is considering budget reductions, they realize that they are tampering with an institution that is very important to our citizen’s security and well-being and, importantly, to our international reputation.

Yours truly,

Peter M. Brown

S.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Lynne Forbes](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: 2021 VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD BUDGET
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:47:01 PM

My name is Lynne Forbes and I am the President of the Sails Council at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential as well as a member of the Olympic Village Presidents Council.

As residents of the Olympic Village for 7 years, my husband and I wish to register our strong support for the maintenance of budgets required to provide the current level of services by the VPD in our area.

We totally understand that times are challenging and budgets are tight, however, compromising these vital services has the potential to dramatically negatively affect the quality of life for thousands of resident tax payers.

We have undergone a significant metamorphosis in the past 5 years as the population has ballooned and new construction continues to bring residents to the village. With that increased density has come businesses and services to support the community and makes this area a desirable destination for families, seniors and others who are drawn to the lifestyle that living here provides. However, the unfortunate reality is that with the urban challenges of homelessness and crime the city is facing, this segment of the population has also been migrating to our area. The closure of Oppenheimer Park and subsequent occupation of Strathcona Park, along with six temporary modular housing projects within a short walk of our neighbourhood has unfortunately resulted in a significant increase in calls for service to the VPD from our postal code. Aside from the break and enter, theft from vehicle and other property crimes, residents in our area have been subjected to intimidation, discarded garbage and drug paraphernalia, human excrement and a significant increase in late night rowdy behaviour.

Based on the relationship that the Strata Councils in the Village have developed with the VPD, mitigation of these elements has been evolving, and although there are still issues to deal with, we feel like their presence in our neighbourhood has helped immensely in managing the challenges presented by this evolution.

Cutting the VPD budget jeopardizes the progress we have made in this area and we feel that the establishment of programs like the VPD liaison office in our Creekside Community Centre and Neighbourhood Response teams, (which, as you know, resulted in the confiscation of more than 30 weapons in the first 10 days of operation), can help provide the kinds of alternative solutions needed to help maintain a level of peace and livability in the city. We fear that any cuts to budgets would put these innovative programs in peril, resulting in a loss of our progress and compromise the ability to enjoy the quality of life that has drawn us into the city to live.

Thank you for considering our position in this matter.

Lynne Forbes
Sails Strata Council President
Olympic Village President Council

From: [Sam Feldman](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); "[kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRBoyle@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#)"; "[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)"
Subject: Vancouver Police Department Budget
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:59:31 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am shocked that any right-minded person would consider defunding the Vancouver Police Department. For that matter, I'm equally as surprised that there is not a letter being circulated in support of increasing the budget for the Vancouver Police Department.

As a longtime Vancouver resident (i.e.: 69 years), I have seen nothing but exemplary communication skills and outstanding policing from the Vancouver Police Department. The only gap that ever existed has been as a direct result of time restrictions created by staff and resource shortages. For any Vancouver citizen who gets out of their own neighborhood and particularly into downtown Vancouver, it's clear that our streets are starting to emulate the worst of what we've seen in major metropolitan cities in the United States. It is criminal to see these negative changes creeping into the fabric of Vancouver, a pristine city that has always been considered one of the greatest places in the world to both live and visit.

I am personally in full support of an increase to the Vancouver Police Department's budget to be spent on both continuing education and policing. There can be no valid reason for a reduction.

Sincerely,
Sam Feldman

From: [Tamara Fraess](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: I strongly OPPOSE VPD budget cut. We need MORE police, Not LESS
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 3:06:53 PM

I understand that there is a meeting this week to discuss the 2021 VPD budget and possible budget cuts.

I would like to express my concerns and request that NO further cuts be made to the VPD. Crime - especially violent crimes - are increasing over the past few months and now is not the time to cut services to VPD.

I am sure each and everyone of you have never heard such an outcry from the community as you have in recent months. Society functions based on law and order and the laws must be respected and enforced.

It would appear that there is a very well-organized group of advocates/activists that act in concert with Pivot, Vandu and the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society to restrict the powers of the VPD, which in turn puts families, women, children and seniors in harm's way.

I have lived in DT/Yaletown for over 20 years, I have always felt safe until this year. I am afraid when I leave my home to walk to / from work. I don't even feel safe standing outside of places like the DT Costco after picking up some groceries. There have been 3 home invasions in recent months against women in Yaletown.

Crime is at an all time high, we need MORE police NOT less.
Residents in Vancouver depend on the VPD to keep us safe.

City managers just got salary raises at a time when thousands of people have lost their jobs and their businesses. In addition, city hall is doing a multi-million dollar renovation with top of the line furnishings. The optics are terrible.

DO NOT cut the budget to the VPD - the one resource in this city that residents can rely on.

Lastly, I do not feel that important issues that impact the city so strongly are being disclosed in a timely fashion or at all to residents. I would like to request that this change. Going forward, how can high level issues like this be made aware to residents in Vancouver? Can you publish this information well in advance on a number of different platforms so community engagement and feedback can be done fairly? Is it possible to have someone from COV follow up on this with me?

Many thanks, Tamara

From: [Noemi Gal-Or](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [Stewart Kennedy](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Cc: [Shelley Rivkin](#)
Subject: Support for VPD
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 3:56:57 PM

This is to express my support for the VPD.

During the years 1996-2001, I served as the representative of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region, on the VPD's Chief Constable's Diversity Advisory Committee (first ever in Canada) . I know first hand how critically important is the service provided by the VPD to the Vancouver community. Therefore, funding for the VPD should not be cut. On the contrary, funding should be allocated to agencies providing services that are imperative if the VPD is to be able to successfully and fully perform its tasks and achieve its mandate as expected by Vancouverites. This includes provision by both the City of Vancouver and the Province of BC of adequate mental health services so that police officers are not put in a position of having to intervene in cases for which they have insufficient training and capacity such as, but not limited to, involving individuals suffering a mental health crisis.

We must provide encouragement to our police officers by emphasising that we are supporting them and their work, recognising that, often, they put their, including their families', life on the line for our ipersonal and collective social safety and well-being. Only by respecting our police force will we be able to continue and maintain the invaluable mutual high trust we have in our police force, and which the police put in us.

Sincererely,

--

Dr. Noemi Gal-Or

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From: [Shawna Little Calderwood](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Resident opposition to police budgetary reductions
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:30:15 PM

Good Evening,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen regarding potential police budgetary reductions, and how that may affect safety within my community of Killarney-Fraserview.

Community safety is of paramount importance to me. Crime has been growing in my neighbourhood during COVID-19. I feel the presence of police and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver contributes to public safety. I have personally called the police within the past month regarding property crime, waited on hold on the non-emergency line and then not received a timely response. Other members of my community have reported the same issue in the past few months. Our neighbourhood is frustrated to hear that there are now plans to reduce the police budget when we are not feeling we are getting adequate policing.

I respect the desire to find alternatives that deal with mental health but I feel this step is premature. I do not think we should reduce policing until alternative plans are in place to deal with the issues many of your citizens are facing in their communities.

Sincerely,

Shawna Calderwood

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [WENDY LEE](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Police Presence in the West End
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:33:56 PM

Good evening,

I wanted to let you know that the police presence we have in the West End is greatly appreciated by those who live here. We are the silent majority who support the calming presence of the police and the help they give to whomever needs it.

Yours sincerely,
Wendy Lee

From: [Cynthia Wong](#)
To: [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [PALMER, Adam](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Outreach Message to the Vancouver Police Board
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:10:40 PM

To the Vancouver Police Board:

My husband and I have been Vancouver residents for 25+ years, residing in the River District for the past 7 years. We generally feel safe in our community but we do not feel safe enough to walk alone at night.

We are also concerned about the current road and traffic safety. In the last few years, we have noticed an increase in drivers violating traffic laws i.e. speeding and the use of an electronic device while driving. This impacts how safe we feel even as pedestrians. We would welcome increased enforcement to address these infractions.

Please keep all volunteer programs going strong. We have been Citizen's Crime Watch members for more than 10 years and we understand how important it is to keep volunteers engaged and wanting to make a difference in their communities. A few words of appreciation from an official goes a long way in legitimizing these programs and continuing their legacies.

Thank you for hearing our concerns.

Cynthia and Jack

To Mayor Stewart and members of council

As a resident of Vancouver, I am writing to you to oppose the call of certain advocacy groups to defund the VPD. The VPD provides important and responsive services to the majority of citizens in Vancouver and handles numerous complex issues in a highly professional manner. Over the past 20 years, there have been significant cuts to social services at the same as there has been an increase in the number of people struggling with mental health and addictions issues. The police have stepped in to provide emergency services in situations where trained mental health professionals should have been provided. This has led to tragic consequences.

I also recognize the very legitimate concerns that indigenous people and people of colour have regarding systemic racism embedded in our local institutions ranging from corporate board rooms to sports teams. As a member of the Jewish community who has experienced my own instances of prejudice and discrimination, I deeply empathize with those who have been targeted or have been victims of verbal abuse or physical assault. However, these are systemic issues and not exclusive to any one profession or institution. We all have a responsibility to address such attitudes and behaviours.

Instead of heeding the call to defund the police, this council should be instead advocating with the province to expand mental health services and increase the number of psychiatric beds to people can get the resources and services they need.

Sincerely,

Shelley Rivkin

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From: [Jones, Huguette](#)
To: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Letter of support for the VPD
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:42:17 PM

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to convey my strong support for the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request. I am a long time resident of Yaletown, and I feel our public safety has never been more in jeopardy. My goal in writing this letter is to advocate for policing as an essential service that must be supported and maintained. I am deeply concerned that if the police budget is cut, that the safety of citizens will be in jeopardy. I feel if anything, the budget should be increased! We have seen a significant rise in crime in our neighbourhood, and I feel we need a strong VPD presence more than ever.

I'm aware that the VPD is considered the top police force in North America; they have a broad representation of visible minorities and women, they are inclusive and very community oriented. I'm proud of all the great work they do. I took the women's personal safety course – a free service provided by the VPD – which I feel has had a major impact on many lives. I recommend this course to every woman I know.

It is the responsibility of the municipality to ensure that the policing budget is protected, so that the Department can fulfill its role of enhancing public safety, and continue to protect the Citizens of Vancouver.

Best regards,

Huguette

Huguette Jones
Hematology Medical Science Liaison, Western Canada
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

www.novartis.com

From: [Janice Masur](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: re Police Budget
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:12:59 PM

Dear Stephanie

With our growing Lower Mainland population and the need for Police to do everything from guiding traffic to house calls, mental health and addictions intervention and heavy crime and everything else in-between you must not decrease the budget for the VPD .

Please maintain or add funds to the police department

sincerely
janice masur



Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen on behalf of Ramada Limited Vancouver Downtown operating in Vancouver, to express our great concern regarding potential police budgetary reductions, and how that may affect our business, our staff and our guests perceived safety.

Community safety for is of paramount importance. In our view, the presence of police and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver is greatly needed in the downtown core, especially as you move east of Granville Street.

On behalf of our entire team here at Ramada, we are very concerned regarding the suggested proposals being considered by City Council for the 2021 budget that would see a reduction in the overall police budget, stretching VPD resources even further. We urge you to not consider those options.

Sincerely,
Paul Lamirande
General Manager
Ramada Limited Downtown Vancouver
gm@ramadadowntownvancouver.com

Ramada Limited Downtown Vancouver www.ramadadowntownvancouver.com

435 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1V2

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Days Hospitality a member of the Days Group of Companies www.dayshospitality.com

Ramada Plaza Calgary Downtown | Ramada Limited Downtown Vancouver | Holiday Inn West Kelowna | Ramada Plaza Prince George

From: [Keith Shikatani](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Cc: CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police Budget Proposal
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:12:19 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of the City of Vancouver. It seems that whenever there is a news report, it speaks to an increase in crime in our neighbourhoods. Whether it's a result of Covid-19 fatigue or opportunistic criminals, crime is on the increase in our city. Based on January 2020 to September 2020 data from the VPD, there are more sexual assaults, robberies, break and enters, vehicle thefts, offensive weapons and general mischief. On the plus side, there were fewer arsons, fewer thefts from vehicles (although still high) and assaults. It was recently reported on GLOBAL News that domestic violence and hate crimes have increased. This is not a time to reduce funding to the police department.

The Police play a vital role in the community keeping its citizens safe by their presence, visibility and all the behind closed doors work that the public never or rarely sees. Reducing funding would impact all the fine work that they do. For every negative that gets reported about the Police, there are probably hundreds if not thousands of positives that we either don't hear about or quickly forget about. We, as a society, are so focused on the negative and just don't celebrate the good that gets done.

Another area where I fear the defunding of the VPD could affect is the Community Policing Centres. I was a volunteer for two years with the West End Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre (WECHCPC) where I spent the majority of my time on foot patrols. Our presence was appreciated by the people who stopped and talked with us. We found stolen vehicles, vehicles which had been vandalized and or broken into, we watched for suspicious persons and activities, participated in speed watch programs and numerous community events including senior's events. The CPC was staffed primarily by volunteers from the neighbourhood who were concerned about the resident's safety and wanted to make a difference.

I am well aware of the "Black Lives Matter" movement and the call to "defund the Police has initiated the call for budgetary reduction to law enforcement. I feel that this is an amazing opportunity for the Police Department to enhance the skills of the officers with additional training so they can deal with mental health issues on the streets. I am not suggesting that Police officers become mental health experts but honing their skills so that they can de-escalate situations better and faster without the use of deadly force. Body cams also could be deployed to counter the public's thirst for incomplete cell phone video.

In conclusion, in a city where the general population, homelessness, mental health issues and crime is ever increasing, it could only be detrimental to the public's safety if funding were to be reduced. The citizens of this city are the ones who are paying for the Police and deserve to have a safe community. I say hire more, train better and equip better. If we lived in a utopian state then we wouldn't need as many Police. Sadly, we don't live in such a state.

Yours truly,

Keith Shikatani

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Joshua Murdoch](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD 2021 Budget - Public Submission
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 9:26:49 AM
Attachments: [Josh E-sig photo \(2\).png](#)

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen on behalf of Toonie Tours operating in Vancouver, to express our concern with the negative consequences regarding potential police budgetary reductions, and how that may affect violence on the streets and an unsafe place to perform business.

Community safety for our staff and customers is of paramount importance as our tours are conducted on the streets of Vancouver. We have already found a severe lack of police presence within the community. In our view, the presence of police and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver is a positive contribution to the communities and helps conduct business in a safe and reliable manner.

On behalf of Toonie Tours, we recommend considering other options including increasing the budget for the VPD before moving forward with any of the three options currently proposed.

Sincerely,

--



Joshua Murdoch

Guide, Coach, & Co-Founder

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W: www.toonietours.ca



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From: [Janice Masur](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: re Police Budget
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:12:59 PM

Dear Stephanie

With our growing Lower Mainland population and the need for Police to do everything from guiding traffic to house calls, mental health and addictions intervention and heavy crime and everything else in-between you must not decrease the budget for the VPD .

Please maintain or add funds to the police department

sincerely
janice masur

From: [Chelsea webster](#)
To: adam.palmer@vpd.ca; [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](mailto:JOHANSEN, Stephanie (Police Board)); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD Budget Cut
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:31:57 AM

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen and employee of Tourism Vancouver, to express my support regarding potential police budgetary reductions.

Community safety is important; however, police action is not the only way to protect people and businesses. It is of paramount importance that the VPD budget is cut to make way for more spending on the much-needed health and shelter services for the most vulnerable in the city - who are more at risk now that winter is approaching and COVID-19 levels are increasing.

In my view, the presence of police and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver does not negate from the issues faced in the Downtown East Side, nor does it offer increased safety to businesses, visitors and locals. Getting the people of the DTES off the streets and provided with stability is a far better preventative method for increased safety in the city. Therefore, I support the reduction in police budget and recommend the money is designated to preventative measures for homelessness, addiction, and mental health services.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Webster

From: [Pal Taylor](#)
To: [k.smedley.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhigh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRCarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominalo@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRFry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby_yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRWatson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRWelsh@vancouver.ca](#); [JDHANSEN_Stephanie_\(Police_Board\)](#); [PALMER_Adam](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#); [sashu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#)
Cc: [Pal Taylor](#); [Steve Hart](#)
Subject: Review of 2021 Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Budget
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:37:06 PM

November 19, 2020

Dear Mayor, Council, City Manager, Deputy Manager, Chief Constable Palmer and Executive Director Johanssen as Members of the Vancouver Police Board

We write in reference to the City Council's and the Police Board's upcoming consideration of funding for the 2021 VPD budget. We are residents of Olympic Village and together are Strata Council Co-Chairs for the **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential**. We write on behalf of our Strata Council.

We encourage you to increase the funding of the VPD budget relating to making our community more safe. The project for better and more police presence in the Olympic Village recently received attention to the point where residents, in particular our older residents and our young families, see some results. We ask you to continue the program. We do not support defunding the police. We support the continued efforts of the VPD to make our community even more safe for both our residents and the many visitors that come to the Olympic Village to see an example of how a former Olympic Athletes Village is now a vibrant home to many.

The City describes our community to the public as "one of the greenest communities in the world, making Vancouver a leader in sustainable development." Further, the City claims the Olympic Village "development aligns with the City's goals, addressing environmental, economic, and social issues." This vision is commendable. However, such a goal requires a strong police presence in our neighbourhood which is both visible and available to assist as we strive to make the Village a safe place, day and night for residents and visitors. Our proximity to the DTES and the closure of Oppenheimer Park together with the Covid-19 pandemic could rapidly alter the results of the work so far. We have noticed lately our neighbourhood is less secure.

From: [Mike Collins](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:43:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I am writing today as a Auto Dealer / Destination Mazda of the New Car Dealers Association of BC (NCDAs), which represents franchised new car and truck dealers in the City of Vancouver region. Our members employ indirectly or directly, more than 30,000 British Columbians in family supporting jobs in a wide variety of roles, from automotive technicians to IT professionals, management and sales personnel. NCDAs Members are responsible for more than 19% of all retail sales in the province, generating more than \$2.9 Billion in GDP and contributing more than \$675 Million in tax revenue to all three levels of government annually. The NCDAs also owns and operates the Vancouver International Auto Show.

The purpose of this letter is to express grave concerns on behalf of our membership about possible police budget restrictions and the impact they could have on community safety throughout our city.

Regardless of neighbourhood, **community safety is a top issue** being expressed by our membership. Worsening vandalism, aggression, threats and theft continue to affect our neighbourhoods and businesses directly, while also contributing to a general feeling of the city becoming less and less safe and secure.

Our members / Dealerships are extremely concerned that **if the Vancouver Police Department is not properly resourced, the already urgent criminal issues facing our city will only grow.** We recognize that the root cause of many of these issues relate to mental health, addictions and homelessness and these issues do require significant attention and work – but not at the expense of safety. As such, we strongly believe and urge both the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council to maintain current funding levels to VPD. Our members feel that any reduction in funding would have a dire and potentially irrevocable effect on neighbourhoods throughout the city and the safety of our citizens.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss our key areas of concern, and any way which the NCDAs could assist in the area of community safety now and in the future.

Sincerely,

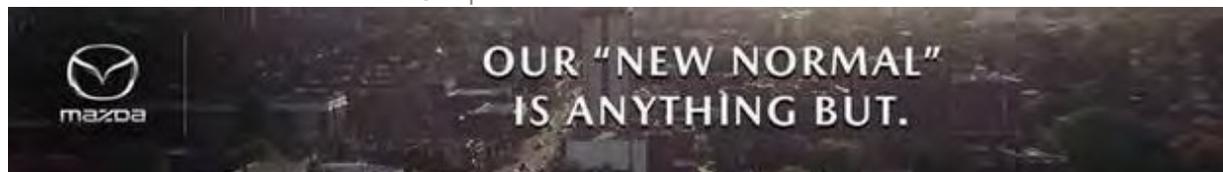
Mike Collins
GM Destination Mazda Vancouver
New Car Dealership Association Member (NCDAs)

Mike Collins
General Manager

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Proud member of the Destination Auto Group



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From: [Evoone Strohwald](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD 2021 Budget - Public Submission
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 2:53:26 PM

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I work in the DTES and am writing to you today as I see on a daily basis the need for our police to be seen and active in this area. I heard that there are considerations to cut the budget and I see this as very short sighted and as a knee jerk reaction that will have long and costly impacts to our community.

Cutting the budget is NOT the answer to our social and community issues in Vancouver. For those who have never had to call the police, or who don't walk and work in this area (I work at Vancouver Community College), there seems to be a disconnect to the reality that thousands of people (like me) see and live each day.

I hope that common sense and clear heads prevail in your decision making process to not cut the VPD 2021 budget. And find another way to reduce the City of Vancouver Budget woes that does not impact our society the same way.

Kind regards,

Evoone Strohwald

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Evelyn Vollet](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Cc: [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: In Support of the Vancouver Police Department Budget
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:18:42 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

How during these critical times can there even be a consideration to cutting anything from the Vancouver Police Department's (VPD) already approved budget?

The VPD provides services to the many citizen across the city and of particular interest are those targeted to protect vulnerable women and children from sexual exploitation. I have worked many years with new immigrants and refugees who arrive in Canada escaping violence and horrible injustices in their countries. One of the first comments they make upon arriving to Vancouver is on how safe they feel and that our police are such a source of support.

If there is a lack of funding to support enforcement of laws that protect women and children against predatory forces that continue to prevail upon them, we will look more like the countries these vulnerable people have left and loose this amazing freedom they have and feel in Vancouver.

Sexual violence against women and youth is on the rise in Vancouver, with an alarming increase in the targeting of children. My fear is that these young vulnerable girls/youth, who do live in lower income families, are "easy prey" for those that will seek to lure them every day.

I completely disagree with any reduction of budget. Please prioritize funding and services to women's services, youth outreach, education in the schools regarding gangs and trafficking.

We have a committed police force that protects and serves our community. I would like to thank them for their ongoing dedicated and faithful service.

Thank you,

Evelyn Vollet
Vancouver (Kitsilano)

From: [Cb Wong](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Concerns for crime and safety in Vancouver
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 3:35:41 PM

Hello! Mayor Stewart and Ms. Johanssen,

I am a member of the Seniors' Advisory Committee for the City of Vancouver and I am a volunteer at the Community Policing Center. I am a long time resident of Vancouver and I am really concerned about the undesirable changes I have seen in Vancouver in the past year which I believe is at least partly due to the pandemic.

We do need adequate frontline police officers to be visible in our community and to deal with the increasing criminal activities in our City. I understand that there is a budget deficit in the City, but any cuts to the VPD budget will have significant negative impact in the health and safety of us citizens and taxpayers living in this amazing livable City.

As a visible minority senior, I am very hesitant to go down to Chinatown since the beginning of this year and even go walking in the evening around my City Hall neighborhood because of all the increased racial incidents that had happened in the City this year. My building's 'secured' parking garage was broken into recently and that had not happened for years.

I worked in the CPC office most of the time. In the past, officers will come in to have their lunch/dinner, do their reports and use the washroom. During the past several months, I seldom see officers coming into the office and the ones that do come in just use the washroom in our building and then they are gone. It is my understanding that they are very busy answering different calls in the City.

As a taxpayer and registered voter, I am quite willing to pay a bit more taxes to help address the City's deficit. I have talked to several seniors and they share my point of view. Health, safety and quality of life are our priorities and I do believe VPD help to preserve that in our City.

Thank you for your attention,

Callie Wong
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Randy Milner](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#);
[CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#);
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Do not cut the VPD budget
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:19:44 PM

I do not want the VPD budget decreased at this time.

This city has serious public safety issues. Indeed, as the new Broadway subway line is developed, I expect that the public safety issues associated with it will grow in a westward direction towards Arbutus Street, near where I live.

I acknowledge that serious social issues connected with mental health and addictions exist and the city should endeavour to address these. But not by compromising policing or by “defunding the police.”.

Randy Milner

From: [steacy_alexander](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: no cut
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:30:31 PM

I am strongly not in favour of cutting the police budget. There is a lot of property and drug crime in a growing city and we need a strong police force.

Steady Alexander

From: [Sheppard, Anthony F.](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Opposed to budget cuts
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 5:48:04 PM

I live in the Dunbar area close to a gangland shooting at 39th and Dunbar. I thought the police handled the attempted escape of the suspects very well. Three machine gun carrying police officers came through my backyard and another one was on the street outside my house. The assassins were captured at the end of my block without further harm to anyone. Crime is rampant and can occur anywhere in Vancouver. The city politicians have lost sight of the core services that must be provided versus the nonessential or even frivolous expenses, when they cut the police budget, even to redirect funds to community policing. Even worse to finance office renovations and salary increases to staff that perform nonessential tasks. Police protection and law and order are so essential as government function as to be the last places to cut. Technological advances create new crimes and new opportunities for criminals, unless police budgets enable the police to keep up with the savy criminals. Priorities have gone awry when “defund the police” comes to Vancouver.

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From: [s.22\(1\) Personal and Confidential](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: support for not cutting the police budget
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:49:46 PM

To whom it may concern,

I understand that the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council are considering a budget cut to our police department. I am writing to oppose those cuts for the reasons that crime has increased for a department that is understaffed. Pulling that budget to allocate it for other purposes is either ill advised or not jurisdictionally correct.

The VPD like any institution isn't perfect but much of the negative press is in my opinion based on continental and national beliefs that are not really applicable to the VPD. For example, so many protestors claim that the VPD isn't prepared to deal with mental health when in fact the Car 86 mental health program has been in operation for decades. I have personally experienced it in operation with a relative that was experiencing mental health issues resulting in a call to VPD due to the quickly escalating situation. The problem lies in the lack of the four pillars being used because there are missing pillars that are under the provincial health jurisdiction. Pulling a police budget to allocate to functions within the province's jurisdiction is illogical.

As many in the affordable housing advocacy realm point to, Vancouver has a growing population of both housed and unhoused residents. On a basic numbers game, if our population increases, the amount of crimes committed will increase even if the per capita rate doesn't increase. That translates to a need if anything to increase the police budget to keep in step with the growing population and the growing number of crimes committed.

For our unhoused residents, we have a troubling balance that needs to be managed. Within Camp KT are marginalized residents, some with mental health and addictions issues, career protestors, and bad actors. It is in my opinion the later group that is of the greatest concern to all housed and unhoused residents of Vancouver. It is noted that the homeless are 19 times more likely to be a victim of crime. Clearly that is true as the reports of violent crimes committed in Camp KT are rising with some that have resulted in permanent injuries to residents that necessitated limb amputation. These crimes were committed by bad actors who have been shielded by the political narrative of protecting the marginalized. Having been a former resident of Strathcona I can attest to the community's openness to helping the truly marginalized while not protecting the bad actors. I was part of that activity, calling in crime reports while helping those who needed help with a no questions asked policy. Yes, housing the homeless is a huge problem but worldwide data and basic observation suggests that while homelessness may elevate crimes of opportunity for a variety of daily needs, in countries like Japan where homelessness is apparently the lowest in the world, crime still exists. So if crime will exist regardless of the number of homeless, it is illogical to cut a crime enforcement budget for other purposes that won't eliminate crime. Any use of budgets as far as residents benefit is concerned should have an equal or better ability to reduce crime or that allocation isn't warranted.

The VPD appears to be evolving to manage the city's changing needs with the new

Neighbourhood Response Team which was formed to address the increasing numbers of calls from residents for help. It is a more pro-active policing service to address problems specific to high risk neighbourhoods. Again, the increasing crime rate in Vancouver and the changing nature of calls for service generally call for maintaining the VPD budget and not reducing it.

It has also been noted that the VPD has been pro-active in supporting safe supply and decriminalizing the possession of narcotics for personal use as there have apparently been no charges for possession in quite a while. In my opinion there is a lot of political bravado to throw the VPD under the bus using narratives that they are completely antiquated when in reality they are more progressive than these narratives give them credit for.

When we look at other pro-active programs like school Liaison Officers, these too have come under fire but in my opinion not deservedly. As a youth I had some troubles that frankly the school liaison officer was part of the reason why I didn't explore options with Asian youth gangs. I understand that the image of VPD might automatically instill fear among some but if we continue to have a distorted view and presumption of what every officer is like, then we create a self-fulfilling prophecy. I remember a tweet where a father and child were riding past a VPD officer who was helping out a senior and the child extorted to the officer "nobody likes you". That seed thought is what starts the path to negative interactions. For officers that want to inspire kids to stay out of trouble and succeed, liaison and volunteer activities are positive interactions with students in a controlled setting with lots of witnesses. If anything schools are a much better environment to break down barriers and to get mutual understandings of each other with the hopes to avoid a negative interaction on the street in the future regardless of who instigated the problem.

In summation, I oppose any budget cuts to the VPD especially in a time where crime is rising and both the housed and unhoused residents want our communities to be safe for all.

warm regards

David Chen
former ProVancouver mayor candidate
former Strathcona PAC chair
active concerned citizen

From: [Allan Belzberg](#)
To: [Bonnie Belzberg](#); [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Vancouver Police Funding
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:47:45 PM

I am writing in support of public safety in Vancouver.

The budget for the Vancouver Police Department needs to be maintained. I do not support decreasing the police budget.

We have serious social issues and all levels of government need to increase the resources needed for mental health and addictions treatment. But the City cannot compromise safety for all our residents by reducing policing.

Allan and Bonnie Belzberg

From: [jerzy motyka](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 8:54:37 PM

I would like to let you know that lately, in less than six weeks, my car was vandilzed twice on a parking lot in Vancouver. Nothing of value was stolen because there was nothing in my car what should atract thives. From the video images it looks like it was done in the middle of night by people who do this not only without any regard for private property but also do this with transgration and with impunity. So far it cost me \$600 to replace two smashed windows and a lot more for ICBC to cover total cost. My question is when or what is going to take, to take this people off the street of Vancouver, so people can feel safe and secure here. I hope you will use your powers to improve the situation on our streets and this kind of incidents will not escalate but diminish. Respectfully. Jerzy Motyka.

From: [Joanne Burns Millar](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD 2021 Budget - Public Submission
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 6:05:11 PM
Attachments: [image155876.png](#)
[image590180.png](#)
[image289343.png](#)
[image534904.png](#)
[image622004.png](#)
[image851301.png](#)

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

It has been brought to my attention that budget reductions are being considered for the VPD which may in turn result in a reduced presence on the streets of Vancouver.

I own and operate and corporate event management and production company that produces meetings, incentive programs and events for international corporate groups coming to Vancouver. Typically, COVID-19 aside, our small company alone welcomes thousands of delegates a year to the downtown core for their events. Vancouver welcomes millions of visitors in a year, generating \$Billions in economic impact. These visitors are investing in our city and we in turn need to ensure we are investing in their safety, and the safety of our citizens.

Vancouver in the past has had a reputation of being a safe city but in recent years, the impression from our attendees has been that they do not always feel safe shopping, or wandering the streets, and have reported various unnerving situations and interactions. With COVID-19 devastating the tourism industry in our province, and hitting Vancouver very hard, we need to do all we can to position our city as a safe and desirable city to meet in and visit, in preparation for effective recovery.

I do not believe that decreasing presence in our downtown street will help meet this objective. The cost savings would be significantly off-set but losses due to a negative reputation of our city being unsafe.

I ask that you reconsider reducing street presence, and include a budget to protect both residents and visitors of our city so they feel safe and protected while walking the downtown core.

Thank you,

Joanne Burns Millar

CEO

Pacific Destination Services Inc.

[Watch behind-the-scenes of a live broadcasted global conference](#)

Joanne Burns Millar
CEO

From: [Kevin Yeung](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Re: 2021 VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD BUDGET
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:15:37 PM

Dear Mayor Stuart, City Council and Vancouver Police Board,
I am writing as a proud Vancouverite in further support of my fellow council colleagues below. My family has resided in Vancouver for over four generations since the early 1900s and I have lived in or close to Mount Pleasant the majority of my life. Over the years, I have witnessed first hand how the neighbourhood and SE False Creek has grown and evolved over the years from one that used to be populated with abandoned warehouses, rampant drug dealing and prostitution to the thriving urban neighbourhood it has now become. I am one of the original residents in the Olympic Village having lived here since June 2010 and have been on the Sails Strata Council since inception.

I echo all the sentiments already shared below. I realize that these are challenging times for all. In recognizing this, now is not the time to consider reducing and defunding the current policing budget. Over the last few years, there has been a steady erosion to the safety of the neighbourhood and increase in petty crime, aggressive behaviour of vagrants due to increased problems with homelessness and a significant increase in obvious and open drug use and instances of discarded needles and other paraphernalia. After years of progression, the last few years it feels like the neighbourhood is beginning to unfortunately regress. This is especially concerning with the number of young families now living in the area, concerns for their safety, not withstanding the safety of all residents in the neighbourhood.

I fear that decreasing the budget for policing would further accelerate the associated problems the city is facing and would overwhelm already taxed infrastructure and support programs in light of all the challenges with mental health, the opioid crisis, and homelessness that is further complicated with the current pandemic.

I hope that the concerns voiced by myself and my colleagues below are given serious consideration when debating on the upcoming VPD budget. Thank you for your consideration in maintaining or increasing the existing budget levels.

Sincerely,
Kevin Yeung
Sails Strata Council Member

From: Lynne Forbes s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Subject: 2021 VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD BUDGET
Date: November 18, 2020 at 2:46:52 PM PST
To: adam.palmer@vpd.ca, Stephanie.JOHANSSSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca, kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca, CLRbligh@vancouver.ca, CLRboyle@vancouver.ca, CLRcarr@vancouver.ca, CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca, CLRdominato@vancouver.ca, CLRfry@vancouver.ca, CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca, CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca, CLRswanson@vancouver.ca, CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca, sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca, paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

My name is Lynne Forbes and I am the President of the Sails Council at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential as well as a member of the Olympic Village Presidents Council.
As residents of the Olympic Village for 7 years, my husband and I wish to register our strong support for the maintenance of budgets required to provide the current level of services by the VPD in our area.

We totally understand that times are challenging and budgets are tight, however, compromising these vital services has the potential to dramatically negatively affect the quality of life for thousands of resident tax payers.

We have undergone a significant metamorphosis in the past 5 years as the population has ballooned and new construction continues to bring residents to the village. With that increased density has come businesses and services to support the community and makes this area a desirable destination for families, seniors and others who are drawn to the lifestyle that living here provides. However, the unfortunate reality is that with the urban challenges of homelessness and crime the city is facing, this segment of the population has also been migrating to our area. The closure of Oppenheimer Park and subsequent occupation of Strathcona Park, along with six temporary modular housing projects within a short walk of our neighbourhood has unfortunately resulted in a significant increase in calls for service to the VPD from our postal code. Aside from the break and enter, theft from vehicle and other property crimes, residents in our area have been subjected to intimidation, discarded garbage and drug paraphernalia, human excrement and a significant increase in late night rowdy behaviour.

Based on the relationship that the Strata Councils in the Village have developed with the VPD, mitigation of these elements has been evolving, and although there are still issues to deal with, we feel like their presence in our neighbourhood has helped immensely in managing the challenges presented by this evolution.

Cutting the VPD budget jeopardizes the progress we have made in this area and we feel that the establishment of programs like the VPD liaison office in our Creekside Community Centre and Neighbourhood Response teams, (which, as you know, resulted in the confiscation of more than 30 weapons in the first 10 days of operation), can help provide the kinds of alternative solutions needed to help maintain a level of peace and livability in the city. We fear that any cuts to budgets would put these innovative programs in peril, resulting in a loss of our progress and compromise the ability to enjoy the quality of life that has drawn us into the city to live.

Thank you for considering our position in this matter.

Lynne Forbes
Sails Strata Council President
Olympic Village President Council

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

HERE ARE A COUPLE OF OTHER LETTERS THAT HAVE BEEN SENT IN SUPPORT OF THIS:

I am writing to support an increase in funding for the 2021 VPD budget. I am Edward A Safarik, president of the Kayak Council and member of the Olympic Village Presidents Council. I am an original resident of the Olympic Village Complex. I have spent my entire life working and living in SE False Creek and the lower east side. It is important to have a strong police presence in our neighbourhood which is both visible and available.

We are pleased that SE False Creek has always been a safe place, day and night for residents and visitors. However, there is a change which has been accelerated with the closure of Oppenheimer Park and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our family walks our dog 3-4 times per day between 6 am and 12 pm so we have a good handle on the activity in the Olympic Village. Lately our neighbourhood is less secure.

There are more people milling around sleeping, urination and defecating in the green spaces, doorways, and parkades. There are daily intrusions in our building and parking areas. Often feces need to be picked up before the children can use the playground.

Now is not the time to defund the VPD. We need more police services not less. It is not appropriate to apply the "defund the police movement" to the current circumstances of policing in Vancouver. We are differentiated from

policing in the USA.

Yes, our police community must put in protocols where officers handle problems with less use of force and be trained to deescalate conflicts in other ways. There needs to be a better recognition of mental health situations which need special interventions. However, we have escalating problems which need immediate police services.

We need a revamp of mental health services and safe drug supplies to deal with the opioid drug crises. These are matters predominately under the jurisdiction of the provinces and the federal government.

A lesser police presence will be detrimental to the safety of our community. We are very appreciative of the police liaison office in the Creekside Community Centre.

Thank you, Ed Safarik, Kayak Strata Council and Presidents Council, Olympic Village

Dear All,

I write in reference to the City Council's and the Police Board's upcoming consideration of funding for the 2021 VPD budget. I am a resident of Olympic Village and Strata Council Co-Chair for the **s.22(1) Personal and Confidential** (). I encourage an increase in the funding of the VPD budget relating to making our community more safe. The project for better and more police presence in the Olympic Village recently received attention to the point where residents, in particular our older residents and our young families, see some results. I ask you to continue the program. I do not support defunding the police. I support the continued efforts of the VPD to make our community even more safe for both our residents and the many visitors that come to the Olympic Village to see an example of how a former Olympic Athletes Village is now a vibrant home to many.

The City describes our community to the public as "one of the greenest communities in the world, making Vancouver a leader in sustainable development." Further, the City claims the Olympic Village "development aligns with the City's goals, addressing environmental, economic, and social issues." This vision is commendable. However, it requires a strong police presence in our neighbourhood which is both visible and available to assist as we strive to make the Village a safe place, day and night for residents and visitors. Our proximity to the DTES and the closure of Oppenheimer Park together with the Covid-19 pandemic could rapidly alter the results of the work so far. We have noticed lately our neighbourhood is less secure.

The Brook is located across the road from Hinge Park where our young families congregate. We see more people using drugs openly, sleeping, urinating and defecating in the green spaces, doorways, and parkades. Despite the Brook's enhanced security efforts, we see unauthorized access to alleyways, and attempts to access our building and parking areas. Sweeps of the green space and playground are required before the children can use the playground. The current level of policing addresses some of these issues irregularly but is insufficient.

While I agree better recognition of mental health situations requiring special interventions are necessary, they ought not to be at the expense of current police services. Similarly the opioid crisis cannot be used as a reason to divert police funding in these times. The management of each of these situations can only work if the necessary police presence is there to support these efforts.

Please do not remove the strides taken so far. Maintaining the status quo will, I believe, take us back to earlier days when our residents did not feel safe in our community. We require ongoing and more support from the VPD.

Dear Mayor Stewart and Council, and Vancouver Police Board

We understand that the Police Board is currently in the process of considering the 2021 Vancouver Police Department (VPD) budget. We would like to provide input to Council and the Board in support of the VPD, particularly as their work pertains to the issues that residents and stratas are currently dealing with in the Olympic Village area.

Strata's around the Olympic Village square and plaza have raised concerns for some time with the VPD, and City of Vancouver Council and management regarding ongoing crime, noise and drinking in the plaza, drug use and loitering in the area.

As Council is aware, the Olympic Village is constantly presented and referred to as a unique urban living environment, showcasing mixed use, mixed density and an excellent example of transit-oriented development in the city. However, the area is now becoming a destination for transients and groups of people from outside the area who congregate to drink, use drugs, and party into the early hours of the morning. The increase in this type of activity and crime in recent years is impacting the lives of people that live and work in the area, and for visitors. Many older residents and young families have expressed concern about the aggressive nature of transients and people congregating to drink and party, and are reluctant to venture into the square, particularly at night.

Another issue resulting from this activity is sanitation. On a daily basis we are left to clean up needles, garbage, feces and urine from transient people who do their business in our doorways, on beaches, in the plaza area, under the pedestrian 'canoe' bridge and along the seawall pathway. These are areas where children play, and residents and visitors come to recreate. This is also occurring in our building parkades and in fire escape corridors on a daily basis.

The VPD, in particular District 4 management and Community Policing, as well as individual City Councillors, and Engineering Department management have acknowledged our concerns. Both Police and City Councillors have met with the Olympic Village Presidents' Council, a body that comprises the Strata Presidents of many of the Olympic Village Residential buildings. This has led to a strong working relationship with the VPD to develop and implement strategies to address the criminal and nuisance activities in the area.

As a result of our work with the VPD, the area is becoming noticeably safer and residents are beginning to feel somewhat more secure. This is very much a work-in-progress and it is essential to continue with the programs being put in place. In particular, continuing the active presence and visibility of police in the area, and implementation of the community police programming is imperative to maintain public safety and community liveability.

As the elected representatives and guardians of our community, we ask that Vancouver City Council and the Police Board, in considering the 2021 police budget proposal, recognise our request that VPD continues to be adequately resourced to maintain public safety in our community. We support the critical role of the VPD in helping us reduce crime and improper activity in our community, and request that there be no further reductions in police budgets that will jeopardize the livability of our community and the excellent work being done by the VPD.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the Olympic Village Presidents' Council,

Paul Timperley

November 18, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am responding to the news that there is a suggestion from Vancouver City Council that the VPD should not receive the funds for 2021 that have already been approved.

I adamantly oppose any suggestion of limiting resources in areas of the VPD that are currently addressing sexual exploitation of children, youth and women. This cut or “defunding” would seriously put our youth at risk.

Girls as young as 11 are being targeted and trafficked in Vancouver and it is escalating. The majority of victims are already-marginalized Indigenous girls. Gangs and pimps are active, with young girls in BC Foster Care being lured, sexually exploited and ultimately trafficked into a life of prostitution. These are children! Children cannot give consent.

The online exploitation of our children is exploding and the VPD need MORE resources, not less, to prevent this activity and deal with the perpetrators.

I appreciate that there have been public cries of racism and harassment within the force, but to over-correct an issue that could be improved with better training and monitoring of police personnel will lead to thousands of girls being lured, drug-addicted, trafficked, sold over and over and locked into a life of prostitution. Money should not be more important than human lives.

My experience with advocacy groups, including the Vancouver Collective Against Sexual Exploitation (VCASE), has given me insight to the realities of the horrific crimes being committed against girls and women in the lower mainland. The lack of justice for victims is frustrating and frankly, criminal.

Law enforcement in BC already refuses to arrest men who buy and degrade women over 18, in contravention of the federal PCEPA law. Without resources, exploited girls will grow up to become prostituted and victimized women with no way out.

Please consider carefully what the repercussions will be when school liaison officers are removed, police community offices are closed, there are no resources for police to educate our kids to prevent victimization, no investigations to expose luring of young girls to the sex industry. A lack of funds for VPD is the death knoll for Indigenous girls and women.

Do not defund the only protection the Indigenous girls -and all girls - have in this city. It's minimal, but vitally necessary. Listen to the VPD.

Sincerely,

Randene Hardy

From: [Kathryn Hallanzy](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: VPD cuts - NO
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 9:05:43 AM

Dear City,

At a time of mounting unrest and rising crime in the downtown core especially I ask you to use common sense and to not cut the VPD budget. It should, in fact, be increased.

Thank you,

Kate H

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lynne Kent](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca
Cc: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca; PALMER, Adam; JOHANSSEN, Stephanie (Police Board)
Subject: Proposed funding cuts to the VPD approved budget
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 12:18:12 AM

I am writing to object to the proposed funding cuts to the VPD approved budget. I am particularly concerned about loss of services that protect vulnerable women and children from sexual exploitation.

I have served on the Boards of multiple organizations that have and continue to address issues of violence against women and children such as, YWCA Metro Vancouver, YWCA Canada, the University Women's Club of Vancouver, the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Vancouver Collective Against Sexual Exploitation. I have also served in various capacities with the World YWCA, the Vancouver Council of Women and attended eight world conferences including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, learning about what many countries and cities grapple with in trying to protect the most vulnerable amongst us from sexual predation. The biggest issue everywhere is lack of funding to support the enforcement of laws that protect women and children against predatory forces that continue to prevail upon them.

We see sexual violence against women on the rise and, in Vancouver, an alarming increase in the targeting of children. Girls arriving in the DTES are quickly "picked off" by crime groups offered drugs, money, and sex work. Many are in the Foster Care system. Syndicated crime groups are targeting and recruiting young Indigenous girls ages 10 to 14. I agree that poverty, lack of choice, and access to shelter and food make women and children vulnerable to these predatory forces and I support the need to address equality for all.

However, nothing will change the demand that fuels sexual exploitation but serious and severe consequences. It is the criminal justice system that must address this.

I urge you to not make a knee jerk response to one-off media reports of police harassment that ends up leaving our most vulnerable without protection from these predators.

I also urge you to insist that our police force proactively target all those that perpetrate these horrendous acts of sexual violence against women and children.

If these cuts to funding go ahead, women, youth and minors will be the losers, yet again.

I therefore urge you to demand that:

1. Increased emphasis is place on protecting women and children from sexual predators by targeting the pimps and buyers who are responsible
2. All Youth at Risk Cadet programs are maintained
3. The gang education program continues
4. Community policing offices remain open
5. School liaison officers are retained
6. The Youth Squad, the Mental Health section and the Human Trafficking department are

protected at current levels of funding

We have a police force to protect and serve our community. Do not take this benefit to our citizens lightly.

Thank you.

Lynne Kent,
Kitsilano, Vancouver

From: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [Chris Smith](#)
Subject: Please do not cut the VPD's budget
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 10:13:41 AM

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband Christopher Smith, to convey our strong support for the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request, and to relay the positive impact that the VPD has had in our community.

We cannot say enough good things about our amazing VPD's especially this year during the pandemic.

I really had wished that at the 7:00pm - shoutout - to the health care workers, that this fine team that protects us everyday had been included too.

Our goal in writing this letter is to advocate for policing as an essential service that must be supported and maintained. It is the responsibility of the municipality to ensure that the policing budget is protected, so that the Department can fulfill its role of enhancing public safety, and continue to protect the Citizens of Vancouver.

Kind regards,

Carla + Chris

Carla Tak
ParkerStreetStudios
Vancouver Canada

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Danny Weinstein](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Defunding the VPD
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 12:03:59 PM
Importance: High

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to express my desire that Vancouver City Council should definitely not reduce any funding for any part of the Vancouver Police Department's budget. Vancouver's needs are growing and, therefore, the need for a greater police presence is growing and not diminishing. The problems afflicting our city are growing and this requires more and not less Police Department involvement. I respectfully ask that you not decrease the police budget.

Yours truly,

Danny Weinstein

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: PALMER, Adam; JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie (Police Board); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhawick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; "paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca"@Agent2.vpd.ca
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 1:12:16 PM

"

<paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca>
From: Sharon Tillotson s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Subject: DEFUNDING OF VPD
Date: Fri, 20 Nov 2020 13:12:02 -0800

Dear Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council:=20

It has come to my attention that Vancouver City Council is considering decreasing funding for the VPD. As an active senior in her mid-70=80=99s who enjoys walking the streets of the city with awareness but not in fear, and is resident in the densely populated West End, this is disturbing at best; perhaps alarming is the better word.=20

What on earth is City Council thinking? You are supposed to be working for the citizens of this great city and surely a few armchair expert folks making noise about defunding police could not be swaying your judgement. Please tell me you ran for election not for the perceived notion of aggrandizement, but for making a difference in ensuring you are always properly informed on issues and bring common sense to the table. There is no common sense in reducing police funding in a City which is growing by leaps and bounds and where crime is on the rise and residents are increasingly concerned for their public safety as they see the unrest on our streets.=20

What we do need is more police presence to assuage the fear that seems to be growing, Covid or no Covid. And most particularly we need funding for special training and manpower for officers, along with trained health professionals to deal with all the discord, homelessness, addictions, mental health issues and the like. Imagine if you or a loved one were on the street and had an accident or were accosted and there were not enough resources for getting help. Again, common sense.=20

It has only lately come to my attention (via Facebook no less) that the VPD has a number of initiatives, some dating back to the 70=80=99s, that marry up police with health professionals, specifically Cars 86 + 87, Yankee = 10 + 20. I urge you to check out this link (because I would bet some of you have not taken the time to do this research): <https://vancouver.ca/police/organization/investigation/investigative-support-services/youth-services/co>

community-response.html and educate yourselves on these caring initiatives along with the new, already successful Neighbourhood Response Team. Instead of defunding the Police, how about a forward-looking re-funding into ways they can serve us better, reflecting the lifelong values of our citizens. =20

In addition, our Community Policing Centres most certainly also are a great resource for having a calming presence for our citizens. I have lived in a few communities in the city and have always felt more at ease for knowing they are there with patrols, information and help when needed. We have come to rely upon them.

Yours in common sense,

Sharon Tillotson

Ps. Please feel free to respond to this e-mail.=20

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: [Alasdair Douglas](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Cc: [Sabrina Tey](#)
Subject: VPD 2021 Budget - Public Submission
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 12:28:31 PM

Dear Members of the Vancouver Police Board, Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen on behalf of Rockwood Adventures that has operated tours in and around Vancouver since 1995, to express concerns regarding potential police budgetary reductions, and how that may affect the safety and security of our tourism industry and residents, an industry that is already in need of significant assistance, not to mention the general needs of the public.

Community safety for our guests and employees is of paramount importance. In our view, the presence and actions of police, and officer visibility across the City of Vancouver contributes to safety in a positive manner.

We do recommend that the Municipalities and Province of BC, under a separate initiative and funding, develop an appropriate new plan and resources to monitor and serve the needs of Mental Health issues and people with Mental Illness in our province, but we should not reduce funding to our Police forces to do so. Crime and Mental Health are mutually exclusive issues, and both are need funding priority in our society.

On behalf of Rockwood Adventures, we recommend that you maintain the budgets and staffing of our Police force and develop a separate plan and initiative to deal with our Mental Health issues.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Alasdair Douglas
Managing Director
Rockwood Adventures

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

***“If you think about it, the finest gift is the gift of time.
Perhaps one perfect, unforgettable day...”™***

Rockwood Adventures is a proud donor and supporter of the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) www.natureconservancy.ca and the [Take-A-Hike Foundation](#) that operates a successful alternative approach to the High School program in BC, www.takeahikefoundation.org

We respectfully acknowledge and thank the Musqueam, Okanagan, Squamish, Tsleil-

Waututh, and all First Nations peoples of BC, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, play and work.

From: [Sharon Tillotson](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: CITY OF VANCOUVER DEFUNDING OF POLICE - RESENDING
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 1:19:59 PM

PLEASE IGNORE PRIOR EMAIL IF YOU RECEIVE, SOMETHING WENT WRONG IN THE TRANSMISSION.

Dear Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council:

It has come to my attention that Vancouver City Council is considering decreasing funding for the VPD. As an active senior in her mid-70's who enjoys walking the streets of the city with awareness but not in fear, and is resident in the densely populated West End, this is disturbing at best; perhaps alarming is the better word.

What on earth is City Council thinking? You are supposed to be working for the citizens of this great city and surely a few armchair expert folks making noise about defunding police could not be swaying your judgement. Please tell me you ran for election not for the perceived notion of aggrandizement, but for making a difference in ensuring you are always properly informed on issues and bring common sense to the table. There is no common sense in reducing police funding in a City which is growing by leaps and bounds and where crime is on the rise and residents are increasingly concerned for their public safety as they see the unrest on our streets.

What we do need is more police presence to assuage the fear that seems to be growing, Covid or no Covid. And most particularly we need funding for special training and manpower for officers, along with trained health professionals to deal with all the discord, homelessness, addictions, mental health issues and the like. Imagine if you or a loved one were on the street and had an accident or were accosted and there were not enough resources for getting help. Again, common sense.

It has only lately come to my attention (via Facebook no less) that the VPD has a number of initiatives, some dating back to the 70's, that marry up police with health professionals, specifically Cars 86 + 87, Yankee 10 + 20. I urge you to check out this link (because I would bet some of you have not taken the time to do this research):

<https://vancouver.ca/police/organization/investigation/investigative-support-services/youth-services/community-response.html> and educate yourselves on these caring initiatives along with the new, already successful Neighbourhood Response Team. Instead of defunding the Police, how about a forward-looking re-funding into ways they can serve us better, reflecting the lifelong values of our citizens.

Our Community Policing Centres most certainly also are a great resource for having a calming presence for our citizens. I have lived in a few communities in the city and have always felt more at ease for knowing they are there with patrols, information and help when needed. We have come to rely upon them.

Yours in common sense,

Sharon Tillotson

Ps. Please feel free to respond to this e-mail.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Save Our City! Vancouver](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca; Contact@saveourcityvancouver.com
Subject: Fund the VPD!
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 2:23:49 PM

Hello,

With the drastic increase of crime in our neighbourhoods, specifically downtown Vancouver and Yaletown, **we are 100% against ANY decrease in VPD funding! We need more VPD officers on our streets.**

We are VERY concerned about the following, which escalated since May 2020, essentially when Oppenheimer Park was dispersed:

- Overall we have experienced a MAJOR increase in crime in our neighborhoods.
- We need MORE VPD presence and visibility on our streets - women and children are not safe.
- Street disorder has to STOP! Residents have had ENOUGH of the increase in lawlessness in Vancouver.
- We need more community VPD programming to attend to the vulnerable law-abiding citizens.
- The general public is NOT safe!

Save Our City! Vancouver, our stance is:

- NO to ANY decrease in VPD budget reductions.
- We need MORE public safety and safety for all citizens in our community through the VPD.
- Bring back safety and **#FUNDTHEVPD**

[@Save Our City! Vancouver](#)

[#saveourcityvan](#)

From: [Mall](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police budget
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 2:56:28 PM

This has been a difficult year for everybody. I am watching neighbours struggling to keep their companies afloat. Parents struggling with school problems. Health care workers tired and stressed. Neighbours with elderly, infirm relatives, fearful for COVID.

Mental health issues have skyrocketed and relapses have gone up, even in people that been sober for years.

There are few places to turn and there is no way that new systems can be put in place quickly.

Society has made first responders the de facto social workers and that has been going on for decades. Society has to put systems in place before they defund the police (the stupidest catch phrase I have ever heard)

Vancouver has always been lax on the drug issue (lived here all my 66 years) and with the crap out there (meth, crack, etc) a lot of people don't seem to understand what it does to people's brains. I do.

This is not the time to take away the safety measures we need for our City. I live in what some people refer to as a better postal code (as if that has any relevance) and I am seeing societal strains.

The City of Vancouver's mandate during a pandemic especially, should be keeping citizens safe, managing their own departments, and having some understanding of stressed out taxpayers who are just trying to keep afloat. If they don't they are going to find a very depressed and discouraged population.

Until the Feds and the Provincial govt step up and help with mental health and addiction issues we are going to keep having increasing street disorder and WE will always need the police for that.

Chris Mallalue

Sent from my iPad

From: [Michele Langille](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca;
CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca;
CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca;
CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca;
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Regarding the 2021 VPD budget
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 3:01:07 PM

To whom it may concern:

The City of Vancouver is in such pain and great distress these days and the VPD are needed like never before to help bring not only law and order but calm and order. Problems have been brought to light that may previously have either been ignored or 'we didn't know what we didn't know.'

Well, we know now.

Cutting the budget of the VPD is really not a good idea. If anything, more police are needed. Rather, starting with the mayor, as many private and public companies have done during this pandemic, all City Hall employees could take a minimum 15% pay cut until a viable COVID-19 vaccine is produced and most Vancouver residents have had their shot(s).

Let's face facts expensive office furnishings for City employees aren't absolutely necessary and merit-based raises should be put off until this pandemic has been dealt with. Meanwhile that 15% should go to boost the VPD 2021 budget.

Sincerely,
Michele

From: [Robin Archdekin](#)
To: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Letter of support for the VPD
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 4:09:19 PM

Mayor and Council,

This letter is to express my strong support for the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request. Any reductions to the VPD budget will severely compromise our safety. I'm advocating in the strongest terms possible for policing as an essential service that must be supported and maintained.

I was born in Vancouver, grew up in Vancouver and live in Vancouver and our public safety has never been more at risk. There has been a significant rise in crime in our neighbourhood. Therefore, more than ever, we need a strong police presence. If anything, the VPD budget should be increased not decreased.

The VPD is the top police force in North America. It has a broad representation of visible minorities and women. The VPD is inclusive and very community oriented and I'm proud of the outstanding work they do.

It is up to the Municipality of Vancouver to ensure that the VPD budget is protected, so that they can continue to fulfill their role of enhancing public safety, and protecting Vancouver's Citizens.

Sincerely,

Robin Archdekin

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Nadia I.](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Residents at STRATA LMS1631 - 811 Helmcken Street
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 3:12:40 PM

Hello,

As the Strata President at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential I am writing to you about the lack of safety the residents in our building are experiencing due to the increase in lawlessness around our neighbourhood.

Let me outline the breath and scope of the situation:

- Incidents that occurred in Oppenheimer like stabbing, shootings and violent attacks, aggressive behaviour are happening in our neighbourhood.
- In the less than 6 months, our neighbourhood has changed drastically, and we fear for our safety.
- The isn't about homeless - it's about the violence!
- The negative impact on our community has been felt immediately.
- On our private property, our "new" neighbours inject with drugs, leaving needles and garbage behind and event human waste, and go around walking like zombies!~
- They have weapons – guns and knives - and they are not afraid to show it. We have had quite a few incidences on our property.
- How are we supposed to handle a drug addict who behaves and acts erratically with NO RESPECT for themselves or society?
- This isn't about homelessness and social housing. The is about violence and an absolute infringement of safety in our neighbourhood.
- We, honest, tax-paying citizens, have rights too and the right to safety!
- People are feeling very scared - especially women, it's not safe anymore.
- There is open drug use – according to the law – that is illegal. There are needles everywhere.
- We demand real attainable solutions, not pie in the sky ideas.
- This is not a police problem - in fact, we need more VPD!
- Destruction of our city is happening on a daily occurrence.
- We are being victimized by the drug addicts with violence.
- Vancouver is driving families out and drug addicts in. We have had numerous units for sale in the last 6 months in our building.
- Our strata fees have also increased due to the cost of security we now have had to implement for our building.
- Nobody wants shit on their streets or private property.
- Nobody wants criminals.
- Nobody wants drug addicts.
- The health & wellness of the law-abiding taxpayers are being affected.
- We don't remember sending an invitation to any of drug addicts to spoil our city.
- Your facilitation is definitely your participation and residents in our building have had enough!
- Vancouver's experiment with safe-injection sites is a dead-end for addicts—and a public-health risk.

Our Strata, LMS1631, which represents 129 units with families, couples, women and children, are in full support of the VPD.

I am open and welcome any discussion you would like to have with me, or any of the residents in our building.

Thank you,
Nadia

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: [Sasha Pocekovic](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRFry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: 2021 Police Budget
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 5:12:52 PM

To Mayor Stewart, Constable Palmer, Executive Director Johanssen, Council Members Bligh, Boyle, Carr, De Genova, Dominato, Fry, Hardwick, Kirby-Yung, Swanson and Wiebe, Mr Johnston and Mr Mochrie,

My name is Sasha Pocekovic and I am the General Manager of s.22(1) Personal and Confidential. As a person who has worked in the heart of Vancouver's Entertainment District for almost 30 years it is extremely concerning to hear that the 2021 Police Budget may decrease the police presence in our area by 120 officers! The safety of my staff and customers is of the utmost importance to me, and seeing the increase of crime in our area, it is almost unfathomable that reducing the police presence in our area would be part of any discussion!

We sympathize and understand that more long-term solutions need to be found to aid with the abundance of mental health and addiction issues in our area, however, we do not agree with any cuts to the current police budget. It seems only logical that there should be a positive correlation between the increase of crime in an area and police presence. I have personally witnessed a deteriorating situation over the last 12 months, resulting in my staff and patrons being aggressively panhandled, cars being broken into, open drug use and drug paraphernalia all around our front and back entrances. It would take very little personal research to see how bad the 900 block of Granville street has become. During my tenure at The Roxy, the 900 block of Granville Street has gone from being a hot spot of an extremely wide demographic people looking to have a good time in Vancouver and stimulate our economy, to an area comparable to Main and Hastings; high crime, drug use and unsafe for the residents and workers in the neighborhood.

I wish to add my support to maintaining the policing budget for 2021 and urge Council not to make any cuts.

If you require any more information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Sasha Pocekovic

From: [Kate Molloy](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Defunding the Police
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 5:29:14 PM

To whom it may concern,

I have recently been made aware that there is a possibility of a cut to the Police budget for 2021. I would like voice my concerns on this issue, as I am sure you are aware there has been a massive increase in crime in Vancouver this year. Living in Commercial Drive for two years I have always felt safe in my neighbourhood, but that has drastically changed over the past year.

So far this year I have been witness to a double homicide that took place on the street I live, which made me nervous to leave my house for an extended period of time. The police presence on the street 24/7 for over a week was the only reason I had the confidence to leave my house and go to work. There have been a number of break-ins in the area, with my own house being targeted. I have had to call 911 at 3am on one occasion due to a person outside my house crying and shouting as they had just been attacked. The number of drug users casually injecting in the back ally of my house has gotten completely out of control, I fear if there is a lack of police presence this will take over my neighbourhood.

The rate of crime this year has risen not decreased, I am noticing all areas in Vancouver quickly becoming problematic. To make a decision such as pulling funding from police at a time like this seems bizarre to me, along with anyone else I discuss the matter with. These hard-working individuals need more support for the pressure they are being put under currently. If funding is decreased we are surely to see a higher rise in crime?

I would ask that this decision be re-evaluated for the safety of the people in Vancouver.

Yours truly,

Kate Molloy

From: [J. Peters](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: 2021 City of Vancouver Budget - Support for the Vancouver Police
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 5:08:46 PM

TO:

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Bligh
Councillor Boyle
Councillor Carr
Councillor De Genova
Councillor Dominato
Councillor Fry
Councillor Hardwick
Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Swanson
Councillor Wiebe

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver
Paul Mochrie, Deputy Manager, City of Vancouver

I am writing today to express my grave concerns about possible police budget restrictions and the impact they could have on community safety throughout the City of Vancouver. As someone who works for the franchised new car and truck dealerships* located in the City of Vancouver and who has regularly attended business meetings and events in the city, I am alarmed about the safety impacts that such a decision could mean.

Regardless of neighbourhood, **community safety is a top issue** I hear from dealerships. Worsening vandalism, aggression, threats and theft continue to affect neighbourhoods and businesses directly, while also contributing to a general feeling of the city becoming less and less safe and secure. Without adequate policing resources for the City and Vancouver Police Department (VPD), I feel less safe travelling to and from and working in the city.

I am extremely concerned that **if the VPD is not properly resourced, the already urgent criminal issues facing our city will only grow.** I recognize that the root cause of many of these issues relate to mental health, addictions and homelessness and these issues do require significant attention and work – but not at the expense of safety. As such, I strongly believe and urge both the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver City Council to maintain current funding levels to VPD. Any reduction in funding would have a dire and potentially irrevocable effect on neighbourhoods throughout the city and the safety of our citizens.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss my key areas of concern, and thank you for considering my feedback, to keep Vancouver safe and secure, now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Peters

CC:

Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board

**Franchised auto retailers in British Columbia employ more than 30,000 British Columbians in family supporting jobs in a wide variety of roles, from automotive technicians to IT professionals, management and sales personnel. NCDA Members are responsible for more than 19% of all retail sales in the province and generate more than \$2.9 Billion in GDP. BC's New Car Dealers also own and operate the Vancouver International Auto Show, Western Canada's best attended consumer show.*

Joshua D. Peters

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: [PALMER, Adam](mailto:PALMER.Adam); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](mailto:JOHANSSSEN.Stephanie.Police.Board); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Subject: Police Budget Reduction
Date: Saturday, November 21, 2020 8:29:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

Good Morning,

I am sending this email as I have heard that there is a plan for police defunding and to be honest, I am appalled that this is even a consideration. How can one think it would be beneficial to de-fund the police at a time where people are so vulnerable, the world is going through a pandemic, and crime is happening more and more, yet, tolls on the roads are being considered which will cost millions of dollars to fund! It really baffles me as to who makes such decisions.

I, among many more in the community, have many concerns about the budget reductions. I live in East Van in a pretty nice area, and have always felt safe around here. In the past few months, my partners truck got broken into and his tools stolen, there has been a double homicide not too far from my house, a stabbing as well as many other crimes in the Strathcona area (which is a short drive from my area), and the failed abductions in the Mount Pleasant areas, which is too close for comfort. These are just the things I can think of right at this moment. If the police budget is reduced, how is this going to get any better? It will get worse, and people like me will no longer be able walk back from the train alone, or at least feel safe doing so. What about the vulnerable elderly people? People who live alone? There are so many people who depend on the VPD and its presence in the community. If they do not have a presence, communities will start seeing much more crime, violence and fear. Just look at America and use this as an example, it is crazy there.

I believe that this budget reduction should not even be considered, and am unsure how or who would even suggest it, but they really should think about the safety of the city, of their own families and friends and if something bad were to happen to one of them due to lack of police presence – how would they feel? how they will feel when crime starts going up, and people start getting hurt.

I hope that this email as well as the many others I am sure you are getting helps stop this thought of reducing the budget for police.

Thank you for reading,
Sarah

| Sarah Hopkins

From: [PALMER, Adam](#)
To: [BERNARDIN, Kevin](#)
Cc: [CHOW, Howard \(VPD\)](#); [HEER, Simi](#); [CARTER, Kim](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: FW: Against Defunding Police
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 2:46:36 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

CHIEF ADAM PALMER
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*
604.717.2950
adam.palmer@vpd.ca | vpd.ca



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From: Eric Levy s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2020 2:44 PM
To: PALMER, Adam <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>
Subject: Against Defunding Police

Dear Chief Constable Palmer,

I wish to express my opposition to Council's plan to defund the police in order to squander funds on a so-called climate emergency, while Vancouver struggles in the midst of a worsening crime wave, with videos of recurrent break-ins daily broadcast on TV.

We have a crime emergency, not a climate emergency. We can do something about the crime emergency. We can do nothing here in Vancouver – even by sinking the city under the sea – measurably to affect the so-called climate emergency.

Canada as a whole contributes about 1.6% of the greenhouse gas emissions supposed to cause global warming. Shutting down the entire country would have no effect whatsoever on global warming. The effect on global warming of shutting down all of Vancouver would be less than infinitesimal.

But effect of defunding the police during a growing crime wave could be catastrophic.

Council has fallen asleep at the wheel, plunging us all into a deepening nightmare of mismanagement. Human lives and human property are at stake.

With best regards,

Eric Levy

From: [s.22\(1\) Personal and Confidential](#)
To: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; "Lisa Dominato"; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Support for the 2021 Vancouver Police Department Budget
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 4:17:49 PM
Importance: High

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to convey our strong support for the Vancouver Police Department's 2021 budget request, and to relay the positive impact that the VPD has had in our community. Our goal in writing this letter is to advocate for policing as an essential service that must be supported and maintained. Given that one of the city's stated Provisional Goals is 'Ensure we are a Prepared, Safe and Resilient City', we find it ironic that cutting the budget and officer count is being actively discussed. It's bad enough that the VPD hasn't had enough budget for years to adequately provide annual training regimens to its officers.

In this current climate of public concerns about policing in the United States, we should be wary of actioning in response to a (likely) unjustifiable popular sentiment. It is the responsibility of the municipality to ensure that the policing budget is protected, so that the Department can fulfill its role of enhancing public safety, and continue to protect the Citizens of Vancouver.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy & Brent Disbrow

From: [Lynne Kent](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Cc: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSSSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Proposed cuts to the VPD approved budget
Date: Saturday, November 21, 2020 2:40:11 PM

TO:

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Bligh
Councillor Boyle
Councillor Carr
Councillor De Genova
Councillor Dominato
Councillor Fry
Councillor Hardwick
Councillor Kirby-Yung
Councillor Swanson
Councillor Wiebe

We are concerned citizens who are well informed about the issues in the City of Vancouver with regard to policing and the safety of our citizenry. We are opposed to the proposed funding cuts to the previously approved 2021 budget for the VPD.

We are aware that a large number of officers are coming up for retirement and there is no provision for their replacement. This will already result in a serious loss of service for the protection of our community.

Especially in this time of COVID, coupled with climate change, when analysts are warning of an increase in crime due to economic insecurity and environmental disasters leading to water insecurity, habitat loss, food shortage and resulting in malnutrition, migration, increased conflict and decreased safety, it is alarming to hear of the possibility of limiting resources so clearly required to provide protection to those in danger of exploitation.

We are not ignorant of the concerns with regard to police harassment and violence but, without funding, there will be fewer resources for training to address racism, trauma-informed approaches and non-violent conflict resolution. This is not helpful to bringing about improvements to policing for the benefit of our citizens.

Rather than budget cuts, we would hope to see you demand increased training, accountability for inappropriate behaviours, and serious consequences for violations to citizens' rights,

Being on the frontlines of policing is not an easy job. Men and women who risk their lives every day to protect us deserve our support and our encouragement to be the best they can be.

In these unprecedented times, let us step forward in a positive way to support and encourage all those in public service to our community.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Marlene Adam
Nancy Morrison
Rachel Ornoy
Cathy Peters
Sharon Cieben
Randene Hardy
Carole Anne Soong
Evelyn Vollett

Barbara Renaud
Louann McCurdy
Lynne Kent
Sandra Harrison
Nancy Brown

Cc: City Manager, Sadhu Johnston, City of Vancouver
Deputy City Manager, Paul Mochrie, City of Vancouver
Chief Constable Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department
Executive Director Stephanie Johanssen, Vancouver Police Board

From: [Gary Mahler](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [PALMER, Adam](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRFry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: To the Vancouver Police Board RE. the The Neighbourhood Response Team.
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 4:04:36 PM
Attachments: [C88592E807B7405AB8805809EAB97B22.png](#)

My Name is Gary Mahler, and I live with my family at s.22(1) Personal and Confidential, along with my wife, my 7 year old son and my 5 year old daughter.

Yesterday I had the privilege of meeting the head of the Neighbourhood Response Team, Kevin Regie Gnanaseelan. He and his team were in wrapping up a call regarding a man with a knife who was acting erratically in the alley between Homer and Richards street. This was around 5:30PM on Saturday, November 21, 2020. This is the exact alley I walk with my family daily. The suspect was apprehended where we live.

Kevin took the time to talk to me and my resident care manager. We had walked by to see what was happening with all the lights flashing. Kevin shared with us what his team was about and how he and his team were here to help the transition of the neighbourhood. He was courteous, professional and desired to be a positive presence for our community. Some of his team came by to talk to us as well. They shared with us their mission. I shared with them my gratitude for their presence.

I am writing you all to thank you for Kevin and for this team. The change to our neighbourhood in recent months has been well documented. There was a stabbing on the exact route I walk my kids to school at Crosstown Elementary about a month ago. My wife used to feel safe going to Shoppers Drug Mart on Homer Street, or Farm to Table on Richards Street at 9:30PM. She no longer feels safe to go out alone at night. This email is not to complain about the SRO at the former Howard Johnsons. It is not about complaining about what is transpiring on Seymour Street with the safe injection sight.

This email is to request that you keep funding this Team for 2021, and beyond. To allow them to be a positive presence in our community. To allow my family to feel safer, and for the team to help transition the new reality that is occurring with Covid, homelessness, and the opioid crisis. I have been worried for a couple of months regarding the disorder in my neighbourhood, fearing for the safety of my family. I love our home. I want to raise my family here. This team helps me feel better about my decision to remain in Yaletown.

Please keep this team, led by Kevin to be a positive force and as advocates for our community: All of this community. I really feel safer for my family with Kevin and his team being at the front lines our community policing program. I am confident that his team will be of grave help our neighbourhood in the coming months.

Please feel free to reach out if you would like to talk to me. I plan on staying in Yaletown until my kids graduate from Crosstown Elementary. They love their school. We love that they love their school and our home in Yaletown very much. Thank you for considering my request to continue funding this amazing team. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns and for taking the time to show care and concern for us.

Gary Mahler, Kanako, Koan and Kona

GARY MAHLER

Life, Business, Relationships, Leadership™

Mahler International Coaching Inc.

November 22, 2020

Subject: VPD Funding

Dear Mayor, Councillors, City Managers & Chief Constable

I have been made aware that VPD budget is up for discussion and am concerned as to the direction this might be heading. It's confusing as to why people are drawing direct parallels to the policing controversy in the United States and applying it to our local Vancouver police force here in Canada. I don't recall in the past us ever imposing the woes of another country's police force on our VPD.

We have a highly trained, fantastic police force that I have had only positive interactions with. These people are subjected to daily abuse, physical violence and at times lethal danger, yet there are armchair quarterbacks that dismiss them as if what they do is a fairly straight forward job that isn't particularly important and believe it to be fashionable to defund them. There's a certain segment that believe reducing the police budget is somehow progress. I can tell you that a citizen's personal safety and protection of property is an issue of paramount importance in any community and the way things are going, could end up being a key election issue as Vancouver crime rates continue to escalate.

Far from defunding, we should be showing support for our VPD and providing them with the necessary resources to successfully perform what is one of the most thankless and demanding jobs imaginable that few could even contemplate performing. Law & order is the cornerstone of a civilized society.

Sincerely,

Dan Drossos

From: [Eric Levy](#)
To: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: Defunding The Police: Council's Cynical Ruse
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 8:58:48 PM

Dear Ms. Johansen,

To supplement e-mail sent recently to Chief Constable Palmer, I very respectfully offer the following remarks, concerning Council's plan to defund the police.

The most disgraceful aspect of Council's ploy to defund the police is the excuse provided for it: the Climate Emergency Plan. That excuse is a cynically devised decoy, a red herring, intended to dupe the public into believing that a dire emergency demands loss of adequate police protection, during a period of alarmingly increasing crime in the city.

There are two considerations here. The first concerns exaggeration of what Vancouver can do to mitigate climate change. The second concerns the real cause of Council's financial exigency.

Regarding exaggeration, let us look at some data. Canada as a whole contributes about 1.6% of the greenhouse gas emissions linked to global warming. Vancouver itself, a non-industrialized area, contributes a minuscule fraction of that 1.6%. Perhaps Vancouver contributes one-hundredth of one percent of the greenhouse gas emissions linked to global warming. Is there an instrument that can measure such infinitesimal contribution?

But Council's invocation of the so-called Climate Emergency as a reason to defund the police is just a ruse – a cynically calculated deception intended to turn the public's attention away from the real cause of Council's financial desperation: its own profligacy.

Council is wasting \$55 million on beautification of Robson Square and the reckless removal of vital rescue corridor lanes from the Granville Street Bridge. Council plans to waste another \$30 million on transferring criminals from their encampment in Strathcona Park to the Jericho Hostel, where they will conveniently trash and plunder a different neighbourhood. Council wasted a publically undisclosed amount of money on according 12% salary bonuses to senior City Staff – a group that already enjoys obscenely bloated salaries. The City wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on extravagant and unneeded new office furniture earlier this year. The City tremendously increased its payroll by excessively increasing its staff, mostly in the City Manager's Office, charged with thinking up ways to enrich developers by building housing in Vancouver three times greater than the population growth indicated by recent census projections. The City wastes more money on advertising its ruinous Vancouver Plan – the plan that concerns this developer-enriching densification project.

The preceding list merely scratches the surface. We are in the greedy hands of a Council whose spending is out of control. As a result, criminals too will be out of control, thanks to the defunding of police.

With best regards,

Eric Levy

From: [Katherine Houston](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
Subject: Public safety
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 9:38:04 PM

When the "defund the police" mantra began gaining ground in Vancouver, I decided to look into all sides of the issue. Here's what I learned:

We have a mental health crisis that requires resources and expertise, certainly, but not in place of VPD intervention. If you hear yelling in the apartment next to you, do you call a social worker? No. If you see someone having a psychotic breakdown, do you call a psychiatrist? No.

Our VPD is trained to handle the first response to these crises and we need them. Sometimes, we need a lot of them. A suicide on a bridge, for instance, requires resources for traffic, pedestrians, negotiators and even marine officers.

Then there's our opioid epidemic, which has increased since the pandemic as we have more calls to VPD. The current crisis and volume of overdose calls has significantly impacted response times for first responders and has reduced service levels for others in need. We don't just need our VPD, we need more of them.

Apparently property crime is down since the pandemic. Good thing too given that violent crime is up 5.2% and break-ins to commercial and business premises have increased by 47.9%.

There has also been a 50% increase in calls to Strathcona, the site of a growing homeless encampment where weapons and break-ins have become a norm.

Do you know that our VPD received 265,232 calls just last year alone? I can't even imagine what the number would be given the increase in substance abuse, unemployment and social unrest since the pandemic, not to mention unrest as a result of divisive decisions by our own elected officials from controversial housing developments and homeless camps to pylon parks and road reallocations.

All to say, with the 2021 budget looming, I hope our elected officials have the integrity and sound judgment to "fund the police". We need our VPD and we need a lot of them - not just to handle the increase in crimes, but to be visible enough to prevent them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Katherine Houston

From: [Sharon Kates](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Please do not defund the police!
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 11:35:28 PM
Importance: High

To all City Councillors who have the responsibility for a safe Metro Vancouver:

I have lived in Vancouver all my life and have always considered 'my' city to be safe.

Today, Police Forces are coming under pressure like never before, and they are needed like never before in order to KEEP the peace and keep our city safe.

The Vancouver Police Department needs more not less funding to not only continue the excellent work they have been doing, but because of new pressures and new areas of responsibility placed upon them, it is essential they have the training and the tools they need in order to do their jobs.

Please support not only maintaining the Vancouver Police Department budget, but increasing the funding.

Yours truly,
Sharon Kates

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



From: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [Mayor Kennedy Stewart](#)
Cc: [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#)
Subject: letter to Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Chief Adam Palmer
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:21:29 AM

The following is a letter to : Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Vancouver City Hall and Chief Adam Palmer, Vancouver Police Department

Dear Mayor Stewart and Chief Palmer,

Further to information received through Block Watch, we are writing this letter in support of maintaining and increasing the 2021 police budget in Vancouver for these reasons:

1. We have observed that more traffic control for drivers is needed in our city streets. We see drivers running red lights driving with excessive speed, not respecting visible traffic signs and not respecting pedestrians and cyclists.

2. A visible presence of police in the community is needed to discourage neighbourhood crime both in vehicles and properties.

3. More community participation in block watch and other group events would be beneficial.

4. Public safety is compromised when budgets are cut. As it is, the police have a big job to do and do their best with limited resources . We welcome seeing police cars cruising in our city blocks.

We appreciate the fine service provided by the police to residents of Vancouver, especially now and during the Covid 19 months.

We concur with the Police Board proposal to make decisions on its budget.

Sincerely,

Irena and Richard Skalbania

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: [Paul Martin](#)
To: kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca; CLRboyle@vancouver.ca; CLRcarr@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; CLRfry@vancouver.ca; CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca; CLRswanson@vancouver.ca; CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca; CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca
Cc: sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca; PALMER, Adam; JOHANSEN, Stephanie (Police Board)
Subject: Funding of the Vancouver Police Department
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 6:23:22 AM

As I was born and still reside in Vancouver, I have seen the police presence here from many perspectives across many decades of interaction.

Only of late have I interacted with our community policing, and their efforts and dedication are tremendous.

I saw a man unable to stand on a busy eastside street some months ago. I could have considered him a victim of substance abuse and passed by. I stopped to discover he was insensate because he couldn't breathe. He begged me to drive him home, but he couldn't stand. In this pandemic I was fearful. I had to call 911 for him. This is their job. All day long.

I recently discovered a friend, deceased, and had dealings with police and ambulance personnel, whose compassion and commitment were exemplary. My life was suddenly askew. This is their job. Every day.

If the performance and conduct of the police are to be held accountable, as they must, then so ,too, the conduct and performance of other institutions and organizations can be found wanting. After all, we hold them to high account.

It is only too obvious that the police, like almost all civic entities, are struggling to find relevance and utility in a climate changing almost too fast to follow.

I would no sooner consider diminishing the resources of healthcare or other first-responders in these perilous times, when we need them the most, than I would the police.

Instead, empower oversight in all social entities, invite the public to participate, and rise together to face the challenges the future holds for us all.

Sincerely.

P. Martin
Business owner.

From: [Joseph Segal](#)
To: [PALMER, Adam](#); [JOHANSEN, Stephanie \(Police Board\)](#); [kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRbligh@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRboyle@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRcarr@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRdominato@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRfry@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRswanson@vancouver.ca](#); [CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca](#); [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](#); [paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](#)
Subject: Support for VPD
Date: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:41:48 PM

I am writing in support of public safety in Vancouver.

The budget for the Vancouver Police Department needs to be maintained. I do not support decreasing the police budget.

We have serious social issues and all levels of government need to increase the resources needed for mental health and addictions treatment. But the City cannot compromise safety for all our residents by reducing policing.

Joseph Segal

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