

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

### 5. **Establishing a Community Policing Centre in Gastown and Area to Enhance Safety and Security**

Submitted by: Mayor Sim

#### WHEREAS

1. The Gastown and Hastings Crossing areas, have expressed an urgent need to address issues of street disorder and crime. They are seeking immediate actions for a safer, more secure environment for all;
2. The safety, security, and well-being of the areas' residents, businesses, and visitors is of the utmost importance to the City of Vancouver;
3. A sense of safety and security is essential not only for the daily lives of the areas' residents but also for the vitality of their business community, which relies on an environment where individuals feel comfortable living, working, shopping, and visiting;
4. The establishment of a community policing centre for the Gastown and Hastings Crossing areas has been identified as a key step toward increasing law enforcement visibility and enhancing the sense of security and safety for all community members;
5. Community policing centres are community-led and play a vital role in building trust and fostering positive relationships between police and the local community. This collaborative approach to public safety and policing efforts ensures efforts are more effective and achieve the desired objectives;
6. Given Gastown and Hastings Crossing are two of four Downtown Eastside neighbourhoods, it is crucial to approach policing in these areas in a thoughtful, sensitive, and balanced manner that recognizes the complexities of the neighbourhoods and ensures respect and compassion for vulnerable populations are central to the safety strategies implemented;
7. Given that a neighbourhood's overall economic and social health is closely tied to its sense of security and safety, a long-term strategy that leads to lasting, sustainable safety and well-being for all community members is therefore needed. Addressing the root causes of the challenges faced by the area must nevertheless include, but not be limited to, implementing mandatory care for those suffering from extreme mental health and addiction issues, addressing federal bail reform for repeat offenders, and adopting new measures to prevent the influx of toxic drugs into the community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council support the inclusion of funding in the draft 2025 Operating Budget to support the establishment and ongoing operation of a Community Policing Centre (CPC) to serve the Gastown and Hastings Crossing areas and direct staff to work with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) to ensure the effective implementation of this initiative;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to begin the process to secure an appropriate space for this CPC and work with VPD to ready the space for operations as soon as possible;

AND FURTHER THAT Council commit the City to an ongoing dialogue with the residents, businesses, and community organizations served by the new CPC and to regularly evaluate the effectiveness of this CPC initiative and consider any additional measures that may be required to support the safety, well-being, and dignity of everyone who lives, works, or visits these areas.

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