

MEMORANDUM

November 12, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief of External Relations
Andrew Naklicki, Chief Human Resources Officer
Ben Hyman, Chief Librarian and CEO, Vancouver Public Library
Corrie Okell, General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing
Francie Connell, Director of Legal Services
Josh White, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
Karen Fry, Fire Chief and General Manager, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services
Lon LaClaire, General Manager, Engineering Services
Margaret Wittgens, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services
Steve Rai, Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department
Steve Jackson, General Manager, Parks and Recreation
Pragya Grewal, Director, Financial Planning and Analysis
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Colin Knight
General Manager, Finance and Supply Chain Management

SUBJECT: Memo #1: 2026 Proposed Budget – Response to Councillor questions

Dear Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this memo is to provide responses to the questions posed by Councillors at the November 12th Council meeting related to 2026 Proposed Budget. Additional responses will be sent by memo as and when they are available.

1. What is the participation of non-English speakers in the Budget survey?

For the 2026 Budget Survey, we received a total of 8 completed surveys in languages other than English. We continue to provide summaries of budget information as well as advertise engagement opportunities in languages other than English (Mandarin, Cantonese and Punjabi) to follow guidance of the City's Language Access Policy and ensure equity and inclusion. 19% of all survey respondents identified having Asian origins, so there are likely respondents who speak a non-English language at home but chose to respond to the survey in English.

2. 20% of residents and businesses answered "other" for the Budget Survey question that discussed preferred tax scenarios, what was their opinion?

Approximately 20% of all respondents opted out of selecting an option presented (0%, 1.5%, 2.5%, and 5% tax increases) when respondents were asked to consider property tax increases in relation to services. Of these "other" responses, there is still a mix of support for property tax increases. Many comments suggested opportunities for the City to reduce spending and offset property tax increase, including financial management practices and the VPD budget. Others were supportive of a higher increase to property taxes to provide additional service enhancements.

3. How much of the VPD budget is transferred to higher levels of govt and what percentage do we get back?

The Province of British Columbia provides municipalities with revenue from traffic violations. From 2022 to 2025, approximately \$13 million is transferred from the Province to the City of Vancouver for this purpose annually.

Under provincial policy, 100% of net revenues from traffic violations are returned to municipalities that directly fund policing. These funds are intended to support community safety initiatives and address local policing priorities.

4. About 20 years ago in the US, garbage routing efficiency was figured and generated \$20M in efficiencies. Is our engineering department working on something like this?

We have saved 10% in labour hours (about 8000 hrs or about \$500k -- including 50% reduction in overtime) and a 15% reduction in garbage truck vehicle use in efficiency improvements, including route optimization, in 2025 compared to 2024.

5. How does the change in special event market fee affect festival and event?

The increased special event market fee is only commercial retail/pop-up markets, and does not apply to cultural event (such as Jazz Festival) organized by not-for-profit organization or

farmer's market. Not-for-profit organization and events continue to qualify for in kind support under the Fest Share program.

Over the past two years, the volume of special event markets—particularly those with a commercial focus—has increased substantially. This increase has placed added pressure on public spaces, many of which are also used for free community events and cultural programming. A fee structure can help support balanced and sustainable management of these spaces. This approach promotes equitable access by balancing the needs of revenue-generating events with those of free special events.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me at colin.knight@vancouver.ca or (604) 873-7610.

Colin Knight

Colin Knight
General Manager, Finance and Supply Chain Management
604.873.7569 | colin.knight@vancouver.ca