



MAYOR KEN SIM

To the concerned residents of Gastown and surrounding communities,

Every Vancouverite deserves to live in a city where they feel safe and supported, where families can thrive no matter what neighbourhood they call home. That is why we continue to take public safety incredibly seriously. A safe community, after all, is the cornerstone of any vibrant city.

That is why today, I am writing to notify you of two immediate steps we are taking to improve public safety in Gastown:

1. **We are committed to working with the VPD to explore and establish a Community Policing Centre in the Gastown area:** The residents and businesses of Gastown and the surrounding area want increased visibility of VPD officers and other uniform personnel in their neighbourhood. They also want opportunities to engage and interact on public safety related matters. To accomplish this, we will build off the success of other Community Policing Centres across the City.
2. **The VPD have established a highly visible police presence over the next 5 months:** Although there has been considerable work done in the area by VPD's patrol officers, Beat Enforcement Team and Organized Crime Section, more focused attention will be brought to the area using several police resources and tactics. This approach will focus on addressing violent, street-entrenched offenders who frequently target the most vulnerable members of our community and assist the business community with violent robberies associated to repeat shoplifters.

As Mayor of Vancouver, I would like to share my gratitude to the Premier and Province for funding that allowed us to fast-track the implementation of these important initiatives. To be clear, the only way we will find a permanent path forward in addressing public disorder is through partnership with senior levels of government.

To the residents of Gastown and surrounding communities: We have heard you loud and clear. You want to see meaningful action when addressing street disorder. These two steps are not a silver bullet and more will need to be done to bring back a sense of safety in your neighbourhood. We are confident that the added police presence will bring immediate relief and a sense of security to the neighbourhood.

These initiatives build on the vital work already being done by the VPD and align with your City Council's broader public safety strategy, which includes:

- Pushing for mandatory care for people suffering from severe mental health and addiction challenges.
- Demanding meaningful bail reform for repeat offenders.
- Calling for a national strategy to secure Vancouver's ports to stop the flow of drugs.
- Fully funding the Vancouver Police Department for the first time in 15 years.
- Fully funding the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) for the first time in 8 years.
- Hiring 100 new police officers and funding the hiring of 100 mental health workers to enhance and expand the mental health initiatives.

Our work does not end here. To improve public safety, we will continue to work together with all senior levels of government, along with our team here at the City of Vancouver, the VPD and VFRS, the BIAs, resident's associations, and community members to ensure that Vancouver continues to be a safe and vibrant place for all. Please contact my Chief of Staff, Trevor Ford (Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca or 604-754-2530) should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ken Sim
City of Vancouver