

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,



Charles Gauthier, MCP
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