



AGENDA - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Thursday, July 10, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation

Meeting will recess for a lunch break between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Pages

A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

B. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. CONSENT AGENDA

E. PRESENTATION

E.1 Victoria Police Department and Police Board 2026 Budget

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F. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Council Member Motion: Island Health's "The Harbour" Safe Consumption Site

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A Council Member Motion requesting that Island Health cease operations of any Safe Consumption Site in the City of Victoria as of August 31, 2025.

G.2 Council Member Motion: Postponing Centennial Square Redesign

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A Council Member Motion proposing additional funding reallocation towards the City's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, while simultaneously postponing further redesign of the Centennial Square project.

H. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED

I. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE



**VICTORIA
POLICE**

Community Safety Report Card for Victoria Council – Q1 2025


May 22, 2025

Chief Constable Del Manak

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Highlights for Q1

- ☐ Operational Update
- ☐ Crime Prevention
- ☐ Community Engagement
- ☐ Current Focus



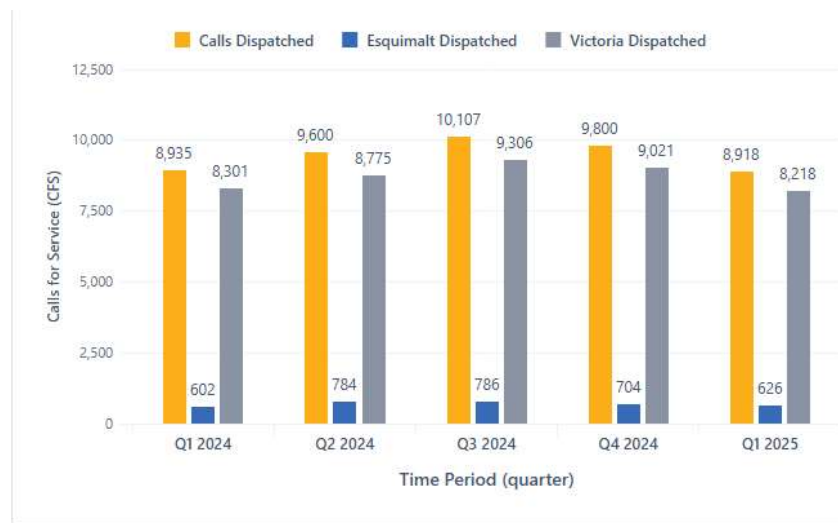
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Full report available at *Open VicPD*



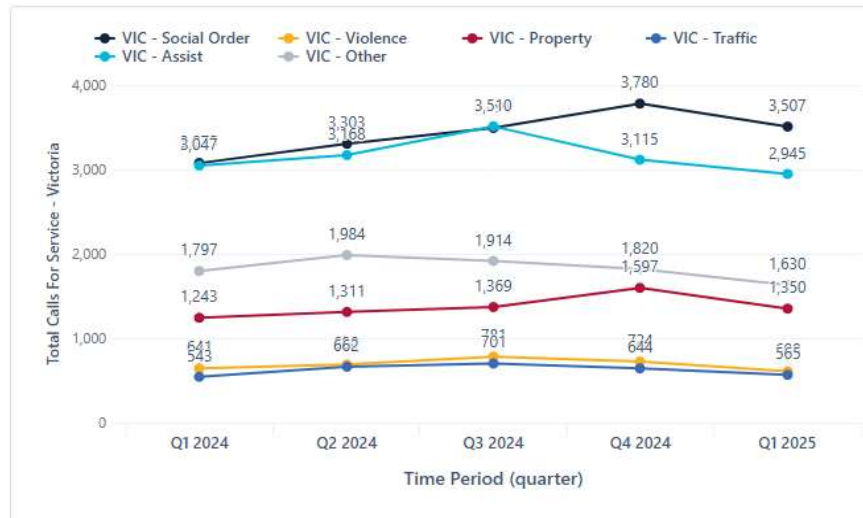
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Operational Update - Calls for Service



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Calls for Service - By Category



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Operational Update

- ☐ Before the Badge
- ☐ TEMS Operators
- ☐ Fraud Investigation/Education
- ☐ Files of note
 - ☐ 24-41846 Trafficking
 - ☐ 25-5194 Homicide
 - ☐ 24-12722 Child Pornography Conviction



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Crime Prevention

- ❑ Fraud Prevention
- ❑ Community Presentations
- ❑ Senior Safety Seminars
- ❑ School Lockdown Drills



CYBER CRIME DETECTION

UNSOLICITED CONTACT
 Be wary of unexpected emails, calls, text messages asking for personal information. Hang up and contact the organization directly if unsure.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE
 Scammers often promise free gifts or money. Avoid offers that require payment upfront or seem unrealistic.

PRESSURE TACTICS
 Scammers may try to create urgency. Legitimate organizations won't pressure you. Take your time to verify information.

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO? ASK US!
vicpd.ca/fraud or call 250-995-7654 ext. 1

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Community Engagement

- ❑ Police & Community Together
- ❑ VCPAA Basketball Tournaments
- ❑ Polar Plunge
- ❑ Goddess Run
- ❑ School Visits
- ❑ Police Camp



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Current Focus

- ❑ Spring Community Events
- ❑ Street Disorder
- ❑ Increased Visibility



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Questions?



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Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 10, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** June 30, 2025
From: Councillor Gardiner
Subject: Island Health's "The Harbour" Safe Consumption Site

BACKGROUND

Discussion of a location for a Safe Consumption Site (SCS) in the City of Victoria was underway in 2008.

June, 2018, saw the opening of Island Health's Supervised Consumption Service Centre, referred to as "The Harbour". This SCS operates under a federal exemption (s.56.1) to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act. The current 3-year exemption runs to June 30, 2027.

Dr. Réka Gustafson, Island Health's Vice President, Population & Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer, told Council at Committee of the Whole on June 12 that illicit drugs are permitted and consumed on site. She stated further that those accessing the drug supervision service tend to be regular clientele while most of the those encamped on the 900 block of Pandora do not seek supervision of drug consumption.

However, as the only Island Health SCS in the region "The Harbour", located at 941 Pandora Avenue, has become a magnet for those addicted to drugs and for drug dealers who prey on the weak and ill among those encamped in our city.

The safety of our city, the health and well being of our residents and the viability of our downtown businesses must be priorities of this Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council request the Mayor to formally request, by letter to, and in conversation with, Island Health CEO Kathy MacNeil and Board Chair Leah Hollins, that Island Health cease operations of any Safe Consumption Site in the City of Victoria as of August 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A blue ink signature of Councillor Gardiner.

Councillor Gardiner



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 10th, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Councillor Gardiner and Councillor Hammond
Subject: Postponing Centennial Square Redesign

Date: July 03, 2025

BACKGROUND

On July 2, through a press release, the Mayor's Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) Plan noted that \$2.5 million of grant funding from the Province's Growing Community Grant Funding (GCGF), obtained for the Centennial Square project will be redirected to other public realm projects, specifically those identified in the Community Safety and Wellbeing plan. The press release also identifies a short-fall of **\$3.262 million** to carry out the actions committed for 2025.

With this movement of \$2.5 million, here is the new budget (and originally proposed budget) for the Centennial Square redesign

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>New Budget</u>
Design	750,000.00	750,000.00
Construction	11,350,000.00	8,850,000.00
	<u>12,100,000.00</u>	<u>9,600,000.00</u>
Funding:		
Growing Community Grant Funding	4,500,000.00	2,000,000.00
Art in Public Places Reserve	150,000.00	150,000.00
Climate Adaptation Grant (UBCM) - Note 1	713,510.00	713,510.00
Debt	6,736,490.00	6,736,490.00
	<u>12,100,000.00</u>	<u>9,600,000.00</u>
Note 1:		
The Climate Adaptation Grant is now TBD until next steps are completed for a modified design.		
Since staff are potentially changing scope and deliverables, we will need to confirm with UBCM		
that we would be eligible to still receive the full grant amount.		

Hence the City is still going ahead with construction, however, starting on the West side and leaving the East side (including removal of the sequoia tree) until another year.

It appears there is significant support for the City's new CSWB initiative to take quick action on crime, social disorder and ways to find housing for the unhoused. However, this week's proposal is still \$3.262 million short at the same time we are allocating the remaining \$2 million from the Province's Growing Community Grant Funding and going into debt to the tune of more than \$6.7 million for the Centennial Square redesign.

We need to send a message of "security over splashpads".

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council request staff to:

1. Allocate the remaining \$2 million from the Province's Growing Community Grant Funding towards Council's most recent CSWB action items for 2025, and
2. Find the additional \$1.262 million from other City funds and/or reserves
3. Postpone further redesign of Centennial Square until the City doesn't go into debt over this project.
4. Allocate the \$150,000 from the Art in Public Places Reserve and additional funding from other City funds and/or reserves as needed to remediate the monoliths and fountain area.

Respectfully submitted,

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "Gardiner", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Gardiner

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "Stephen Hammond", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Hammond