



REVISED AGENDA - SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, January 18, 2021, 9:00 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, public access to City Hall is not permitted. This meeting may be viewed on the City's webcast at www.victoria.ca

Meeting will recess for a lunch break between 12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.

Pages

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

B. CONSENT AGENDA

C. READING OF MINUTES

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E. LAND USE MATTERS

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1. 2021 Draft Financial Plan

Link to the 2021 Draft Financial Plan

*F.1.a. Draft 2021 Financial Plan – Public Input Summary

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Addendum: New Item

A report regarding public feedback and correspondence received during the consultation period for the 2021 Draft Financial Plan.

F.1.b. 2021-2025 Draft Financial Plan - Remaining Recommendations

609

A report regarding the remaining recommendations from the 2021-2025 Draft Financial Plan

F.1.c. Additional Funding for Police Support for Encampments

664

A Council Member Motion regarding correspondence received from the Office of the Chief Constable regarding a request for VicPD Special Duty funding to assist City of Victoria Bylaw Services.

F.1.d. Reallocation of Funds to Housing Reserve

667

A Council Member Motion regarding the proposal to reallocate

*\$10,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan from the Council Meeting
Catering line item to the Housing Reserve Fund.*

- G. NOTICE OF MOTIONS
- H. NEW BUSINESS
- I. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE



Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Report

For the Meeting of January 18, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 15, 2021

From: Susanne Thompson, Deputy City Manager
Bill Eisenhauer, Head of Engagement

Subject: Draft 2021 Financial Plan – Public Input Summary

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City began public consultation on the 2021 Draft Financial Plan on December 7, 2020. Citizens were invited to provide input on the proposed budget through a variety of means, including an online survey and written submissions (email) by January 10, 2021, and/or through participation in the Virtual Budget Town Hall held on January 13, 2021.

For the second consecutive year, the City collaborated with the City of Victoria Youth Council to host a free event titled, Youth Speak: Budget 2021 in conjunction with the Town Hall.

Targeted engagement was directed to reach under-represented groups, with a particular focus on youth, renters, diverse community groups and newcomers.

A total of 709 individuals participated in the City's online budget survey, which asked people to share their priorities for investment in 2021. The survey attracted diverse participation that more closely reflects the make-up of the community than in previous budget engagement surveys. An additional 185 people provided written feedback on the draft budget.

Affordable Housing was ranked as the top Council Strategic Objective by survey participants, and it was also a key theme in written submissions. Housing and homelessness; Health, well-being and social issues; and Climate action and sustainability were rated as the most important priorities facing our city right now. Overall, most survey respondents were satisfied with the repair and maintenance of the City of Victoria's transportation infrastructure/amenities and with parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities, with a few notable exceptions including parking and park washrooms.

When assessing essential priorities for Council, survey respondents said they want a city that supports vulnerable populations (58%), is a leader in climate action and sustainability (44%), is

equitable and inclusive (41%), where residents and visitors feel safe (41%) and local businesses are supported in economic recovery (39%), among other actions.

The topic of Police funding was often cited in comments from survey respondents and in written budget input, however people expressed divergent views with some seeking an increase to VicPD's budget while many others calling on Council to defund, or at least freeze, the police budget for 2021 and redirect funding to other City priorities, particularly affordable housing and community services.

Overall, 66% of survey respondents said they receive very good or fairly good value for their tax dollars. This is up from 45% last year and 49% in 2019.

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with public feedback and correspondence received during the consultation period for the 2021 Draft Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND

On November 5, 2020, the 2021 Draft Financial Plan was provided to Council. The Financial Plan includes summary descriptions of programs and services, deliverables as well as the proposed operating and capital budget (revenue and expenditures) for the upcoming year.

As part of the City's budget outreach and engagement, staff used a number of different tools and tactics to engage and inform the public about the 2021 Draft Financial Plan.

The City's online engagement platform at engage.victoria.ca provided a one-stop hub for budget information and engagement opportunities.

A budget summary document was prepared to give people a plain language overview of the operational and capital budgets, as well as highlights of the City's programs and services planned for the coming year. An accessible version was also available.

Those who wanted to dive more deeply could review the full draft Financial Plan. Details on the Virtual Budget Town Hall and the online survey were also hosted here.

Budget consultation, which opened on December 7, 2020 and closed on January 13, 2021, was actively promoted through social media, print and online advertising, the City's Connect community e-newsletter, stakeholder and neighbourhood outreach, and in media interviews.

Targeted engagement efforts were directed to reach under-represented groups to actively work to provide information and opportunities to participate in the Budget 2020 conversation - with a particular focus on youth, renters, diverse community groups and newcomers.

For the second consecutive year, the City collaborated with the City of Victoria Youth Council to host a free event titled, *Youth Speak: Budget 2021*. Due to COVID-19, the event was virtual and ran in parallel with the Virtual Budget Town Hall to foster civic financial literacy and gather feedback from youth, on youth priorities for City Council. Participants tweeted their questions live during the Virtual Budget Town Hall.

2021 Virtual Budget Town Hall

For the seventh consecutive year, the City hosted a Budget Town Hall. Due to COVID-19, the interactive event was held virtually. Instead of gathering in person in Council Chambers, citizens were invited to submit questions and feedback in a variety of ways:

- Submitting a question or comment in the online form at engage.victoria.ca
- Tweeting using the hashtag **#victownhall**
- Submitting a video up to three minutes in length in advance of the event
- Pre-registering to call in during the event to speak up to three minutes
- Calling in during the live event to speak up to three minutes

During the live event, 317 people tuned into the webcast, 10 people phoned in to comment or ask a question, one video presentation was shared, and there were 58 online submissions. Comments and questions covered a wide variety of topics. A list of the online submissions is included in Attachment A. The live webcast was archived and is available for viewing online.

2021 Draft Budget Survey

A total of 709 individuals participated in the City's online budget survey, which asked people to share their priorities for investment in 2021. The Budget 2021 Survey Report, including comments provided by survey respondents to open-ended questions, is included as Attachment B.

It should be noted that the online budget survey is not a random, representative survey of Victoria residents, but rather represents the views of those who became aware of the survey and decided to complete it.

Comments are the views of the respondent and have not been edited; however, some information has been redacted to remove personal information, hate speech, or potential libel comments.

Written Budget Feedback

Formal correspondence was welcomed as part of the budget feedback process, with 185 emails received, which are included in Attachment C.

Youth Speak: Budget 2021

This virtual event was a collaboration between the City of Victoria and the City of Victoria Youth Council to connect local youth with the City and give young people the opportunity to ask questions directly to Council via Twitter about the 2021 Draft Budget during the Budget Town Hall event. Eight youth participated in the event, which included facilitated group discussions to learn more about the City's budgeting process and how Council makes decisions about the key priority areas in which to invest the City's 2021 budget. Areas of interest included the police budget, affordable housing and support for local business. Although the event was intended to run from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., participants were so engaged that the event extended until 9 p.m.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The City's online engagement platform provides enhanced data on how people interact with an engagement project online. Over the five-week budget engagement period (December 7, 2020 to January 13, 2021), the City's budget consultation resulted in:

- 2,633 people **aware** of the draft budget (visited at least one page of the Budget project)
- 1,261 people **informed** of the draft budget (downloaded a document, visited multiple project pages)
- 709 completed the budget survey

What We Heard – Online Survey

Who We Heard From

- 88% of respondents said they live in the City of Victoria, with the highest neighbourhood representation from Fairfield at 16%
- 57% indicated they rent in Victoria, while 41% indicated they own property in Victoria
- 16% of respondents indicated they own or operate a business in Victoria
- 23% indicated they are newcomers (i.e. have lived in Victoria less than five years)
- 16% of respondents were youth, between the ages of 12-24

More renters participated in the online survey than in previous years, with 377 out of 663 (57%) of respondents stating they rent in Victoria. With renters making up 61% of Victoria's population (*Statistics Canada 2016 Census*), the budget survey reached a high percentage of these citizens. In last year's budget survey, 35% of respondents were Victoria renters.

This year, a higher number of youth participated in the online survey at 16%, compared to 3% last year. There was also a marked increase in survey respondents aged 25 to 39, at 50% compared to 28% last year, indicating that the City may be reaching more young families with its engagement activities.

Highlights of 2021 Draft Budget Survey Results

Participants were asked **to rank Council's eight Strategic Objectives from highest to lowest importance**, with 1 being the highest priority and 8 being the lowest:

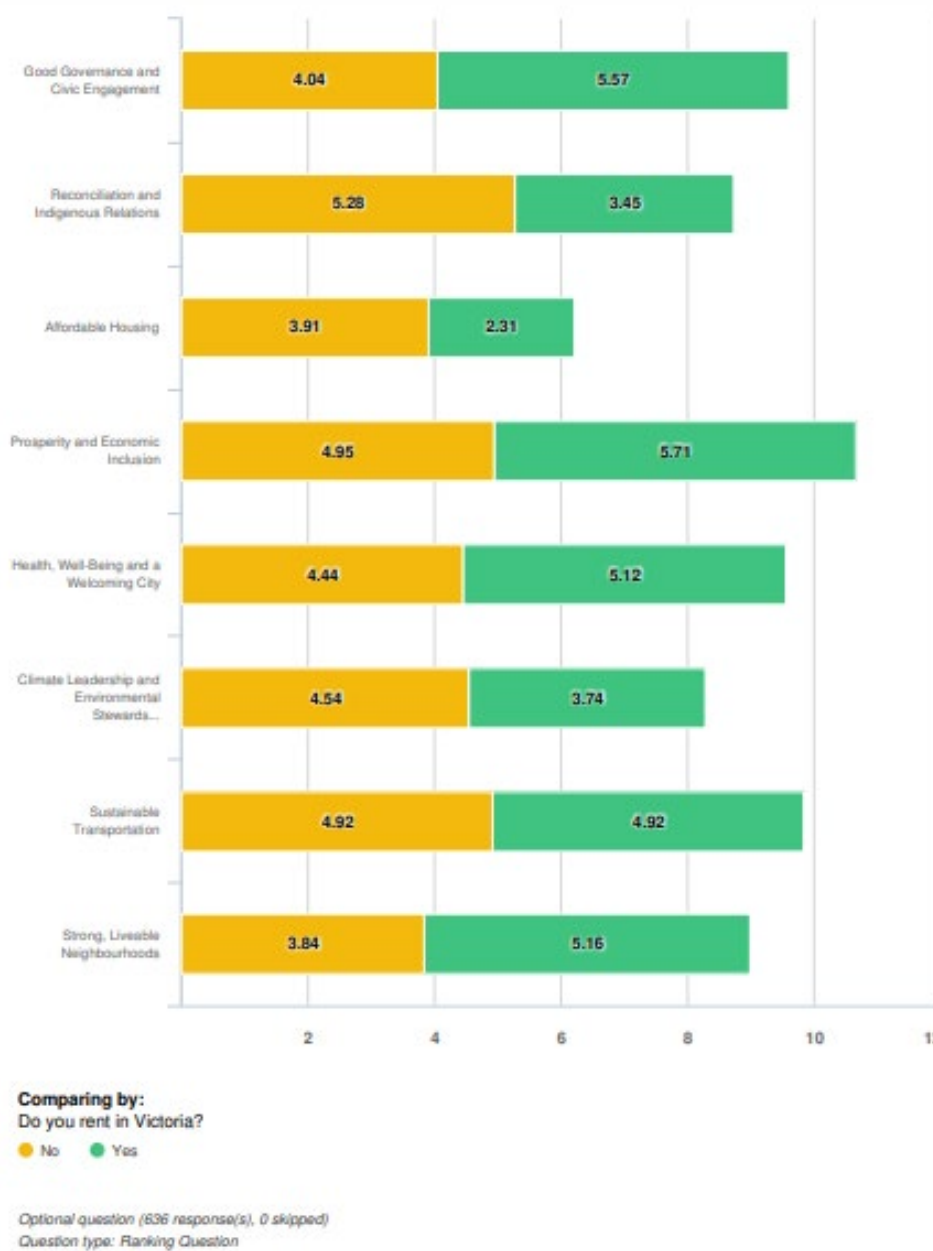
OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Affordable Housing	3.04
Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship	4.07
Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations	4.24
Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods	4.56
Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City	4.82
Good Governance and Civic Engagement	4.89
Sustainable Transportation	4.91
Prosperity and Economic Inclusion	5.35

Optional question (674 response(s), 35 skipped)
Question type: Ranking Question

NOTE: Items with the lowest ranking number indicate the highest priority.

This ranking of Council Strategic Objectives has shifted slightly in survey responses over the past three years. Affordable Housing continues to be the top (2021, 2019) or second highest ranked (2020) Objective, however Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship has climbed into second spot, from sixth in 2019 and seventh in 2020. Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations has also had a higher priority placed on it in 2021 compared to the past two budget surveys, ranked third this year, up from the least important Strategic Objective in both the 2020 and 2019 surveys.

Digging deeper into the 2021 survey results, comparing the responses of renters to those who do not rent, also shows differing priority rankings. Both renters and non-renters place a high priority on Affordable Housing, with renters placing a higher priority on Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations and Climate Leadership and Environmental Sustainability.



NOTE: Items with the lowest ranking number indicate the highest priority.

Ranking of Strategic Plan Objectives (Highest to Lowest Priority)	
Renters	Non-Renters
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affordable Housing 2. Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations 3. Climate Leadership and Environmental Sustainability 4. Sustainable Transportation 5. Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City 6. Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods 7. Good Governance and Civic Engagement 8. Prosperity and Economic Inclusion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods 2. Affordable Housing 3. Good Governance and Civic Engagement 4. Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City 5. Climate Leadership and Environmental Sustainability 6. Sustainable Transportation 7. Prosperity and Economic Inclusion 8. Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations

When asked to **rank a list of the most important priorities facing our city right now**, survey respondents said their top five priorities were:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Housing (affordable, rental, missing middle) and homelessness | 2.75 |
| 2. Health, well-being and social issues | 3.74 |
| 3. Climate action and sustainability | 4.41 |
| 4. Economic recovery and jobs | 4.65 |
| 5. Equity and Inclusion | 4.88 |

Followed by:

- | | |
|--|------|
| • Governance and fiscal responsibility | 5.74 |
| • Public Safety | 5.98 |
| • Belonging and engagement | 6.12 |
| • Arts and culture events and venues | 6.35 |

NOTE: Items with the lowest ranking number indicate the highest priority.

People were asked to provide any additional priorities they had that were not listed in the previous question. Key priority themes that emerged from comments included:

- Accessibility and equity for disabled people
- Council to focus on municipal responsibilities
- Financial restraint during pandemic
- Indigenous reconciliation and equity / land return
- Infrastructure maintenance – focus on roads, sidewalks, garbage
- Overdose crisis / need drug addiction support and recovery response teams
- Police defunding
- Police funding freeze
- Police additional funding
- Systemic racism – address it

When asked ***How satisfied are you with the availability, repair and maintenance of the City of Victoria's transportation infrastructure/amenities?***, the majority of respondents indicated that they were very satisfied, satisfied, or neutral.



Survey participants provided additional comments and suggestions for transportation infrastructure. Key themes included:

- Free bus fares for everyone, especially seniors
- Pedestrian accessibility focus: widen and fix crumbling sidewalks / road calming – make sidewalks higher priority than bike lanes
- Make crosswalks more visible (repaint them) / install lights to those without / create more crosswalks
- More EV stations / for electric wheelchairs too
- Synchronize traffic lights on north-south arteries
- Focus on road maintenance and repair / potholes
- Lack of adherence in 30 km zones
- More native plantings in boulevards

When asked ***How satisfied are you with the availability, repair and maintenance of Victoria's parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities?***, most respondents indicated that they were very satisfied, satisfied or neutral, with the notable exception of park washrooms in which most people were unsatisfied.

How satisfied are you with the availability, repair or maintenance of Victoria's parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities?



Optional question (686 response(s), 23 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

Survey participants provided additional comments or suggestions for the City's parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities. Key themes included:

- Need family-focused / more green spaces downtown
- More cleaning of park washrooms / more public washrooms in parks / extended hours
- Install lighting at Vic West Skate Park / Galloping Goose Trail / key places downtown
- Delay Mile Zero expansion for now
- Increase number of sheltered picnic areas
- Make parks safer
- Restore and remediate Beacon Hill Park
- More seating outdoors downtown
- Include food production spaces in parks / focus on food security
- More accessible playgrounds for all ages
- Introduce playgrounds for seniors in parks
- More basketball courts in parks
- Improve drainage in parks
- More dogs-off leash areas and proper fencing to protect dogs and pedestrians

On the question, ***For 2021, what level of priority do you place on the following for our city?***, survey respondents ranked these items as **essential priorities**:

1. Our city supports vulnerable population – 58%
2. Our community is a leader in climate action and sustainability - 44%
3. Our community is equitable and inclusive - 41%
4. Our community is safe - 41%
5. Our city supports local businesses and economic recovery - 39%
6. Our community is healthy - 38%
7. Our city has the infrastructure it needs for the future - 31%
8. Our city supports multi-modal transportation - 31%
9. Our city embraces arts and culture- 21%
10. Our community is welcoming - 13%
11. Our city is innovative - 11%

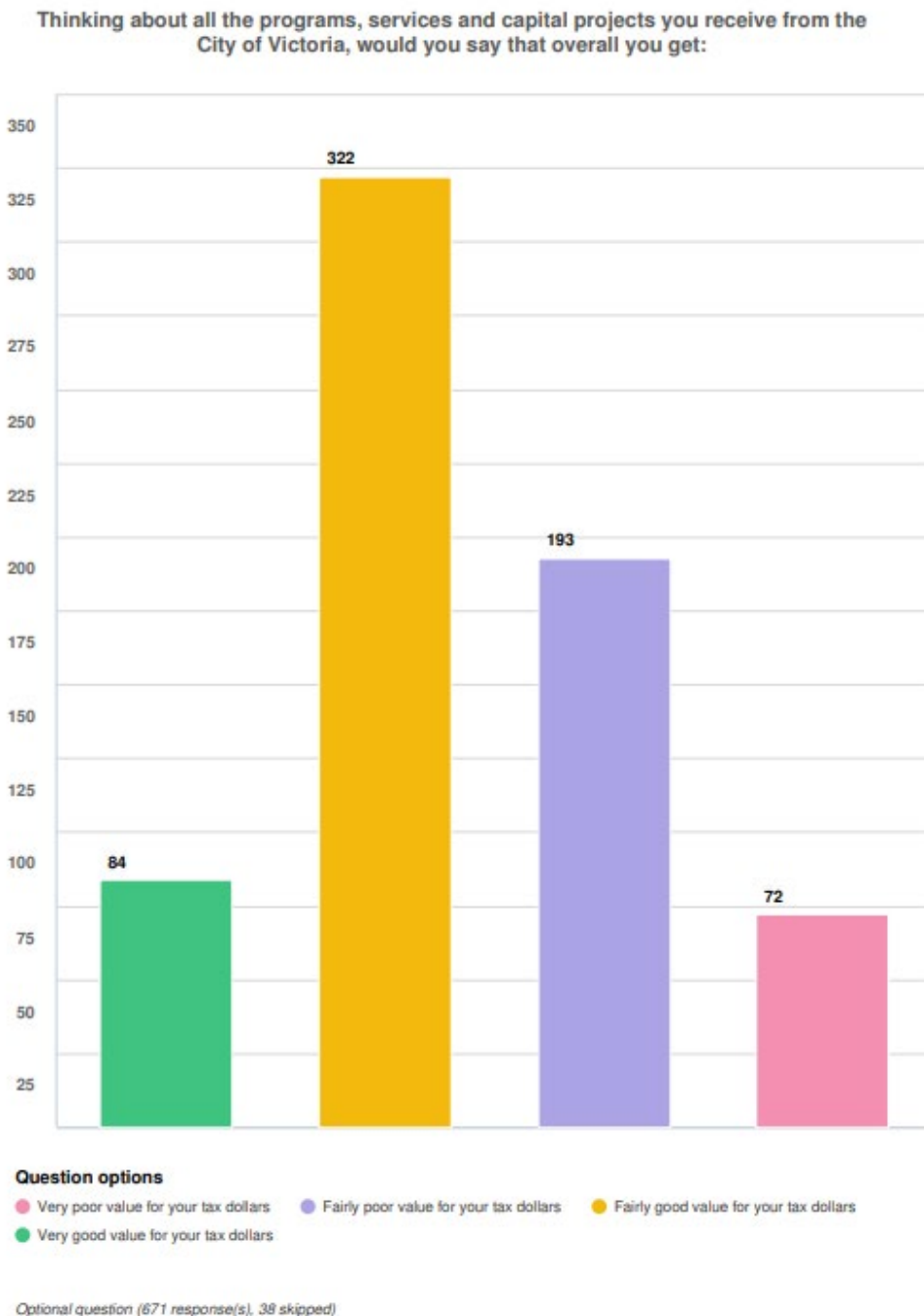
For 2021, what level of priority do you place on the following for our city?



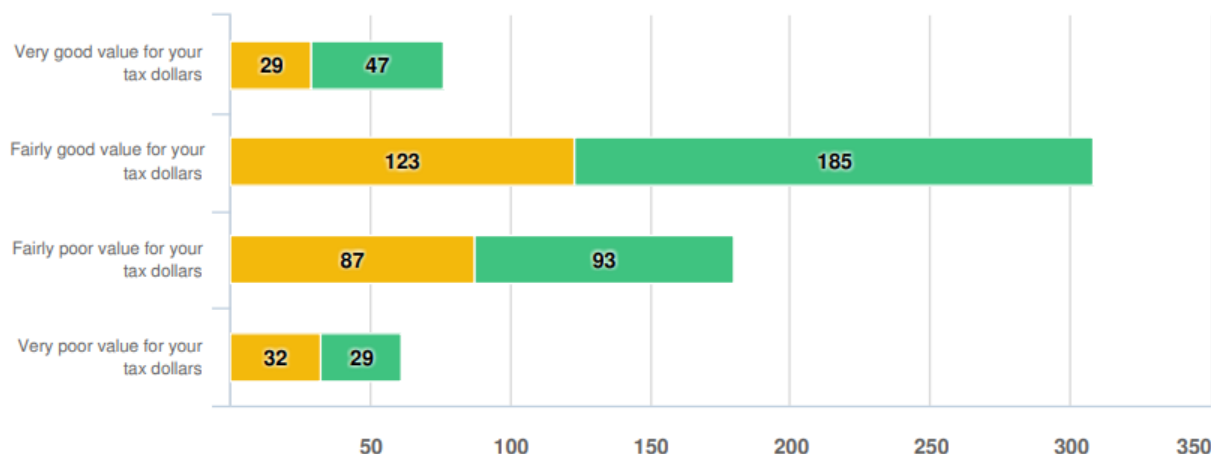
Optional question (686 response(s), 23 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

When asked to assess the ***Value you get for your tax dollars for all the programs, services and capital projects you receive from the City of Victoria***, 61% of survey respondents said they receive fairly good to very good value for their tax dollars.



Renters placed more value on the programs and services they get from the City for their tax dollars, with two-thirds of renters saying they receive Very Good or Fairly Good value compared to just over half of non-renters.



Comparing by:
Do you rent in Victoria?
● No ● Yes

Optional question (625 response(s), 11 skipped)

Of the total survey respondents, 10% provided additional **comments and suggestions** for Council to consider as part of the 2021 Draft Financial Plan. Key themes included:

- Keep focused on municipal priorities
- Make climate action a priority
- Affordable housing for all / support rental housing and affordable housing
- Defund the Police / Don't increase Police Budget by 1.5% / Freeze funding for 2021 / Fund social workers and mental health/addiction support / housing
- Increase policing
- Need multi-level government action on homelessness and root issues
- Where is the money to support reconciliation and Indigenous relations?
- Invest in infrastructure
- Delay projects to avoid raising taxes / do not raise taxes / reduce taxes
- Replenish reserve funds
- Lower taxes for businesses / cap on rents / focus on protecting local economy
- More substantial grant amounts for community-led projects without requiring matching funds
- Make recycling easier for people in condos
- Get the Crystal Pool project back on track
- Vic West Skate Park needs lighting
- More secure bike lock-up areas downtown

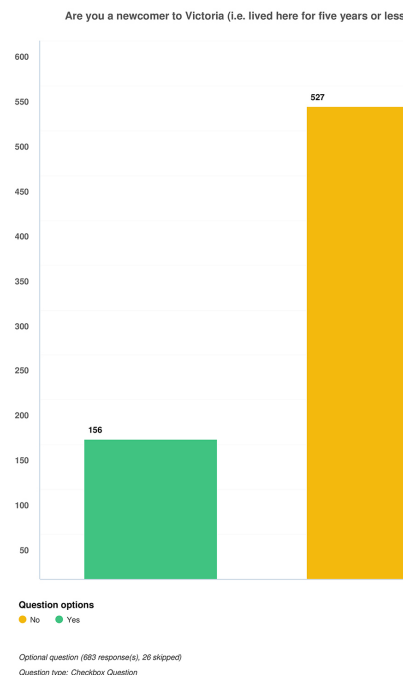
More Information on Who Participated in the Budget Survey

Newcomers

Survey respondents were asked if they are a newcomer to Victoria (i.e. lived here for five years or less). Out of the 683 people who responded to this question, 156 (23%) said they were newcomers.

People who stated they were newcomers said they moved her from:

- Outside of Canada – 8%
- Within B.C. – 42%
- Within Canada – 42%
- Within Capital Region – 7%



Age

689 participants responded to the question
 “Please indicate your age group,” as follows:

Age Range	Percentage of Respondents	Percentage of City Population (Census 2016)
12 – 24	15.8%	13%
25 – 39	47.6%	26.6%
40 - 59	22.4%	25.1%
60-79	13.8%	28.2%
80+	0.4%	6.4%

Neighbourhood Distribution



This map identifies how many people participated in the budget survey from each Victoria neighbourhood.

Victoria Neighbourhoods	Percentage of Survey Respondents	Percentage of City Population (Census 2016)
Fairfield (109)	16%	14%
Fernwood (77)	11%	11%
Hillside-Quadra (71)	10%	9%
James Bay (68)	10%	14%
Vic West (50)	7%	9%
Downtown (47)	7%	4%
Burnside-Gorge (41)	6%	8%
North Park (38)	5%	4%
Jubilee (30)	4%	6%
Harris Green (21)	3%	3%
Rockland (20)	3%	4%
Oaklands (19)	3%	8%
Gonzales (16)	2%	5%
Other Municipalities (85)	12%	N/A

Note: Percentages will not add to 100 due to rounding

What We Heard – Written Budget Input

Of the 185 emails received, 139 (75%) were in the form of a letter asking Council to freeze VicPD's funding for 2021 and redirect funds to affordable housing and mental health and addiction outreach.

- Other key themes included:
 - Fund affordable housing, incentivize non-market housing, acquire properties for non-market housing and community gardens
 - Increase VicPD funding to deal with crime downtown
 - Need to address Indigenous sovereignty
 - Leave Mile Zero is as for budgetary and historical reasons
 - Need more street lighting
 - Remediate Beacon Hill Park
 - Don't increase taxes; Reduce transfers to reserves

CONCLUSIONS

The budget engagement process continues to evolve and improve each year. Feedback from residents on the 2021 Financial Plan and community priorities helps to inform Council decisions on investments in the City's programs, services and capital projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Thompson
Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer

Bill Eisenhauer
Head of Engagement

Report accepted and recommended by City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment A: 2021 Virtual Budget Town Hall Online Submissions

Attachment B: 2021 Draft Budget Survey Report

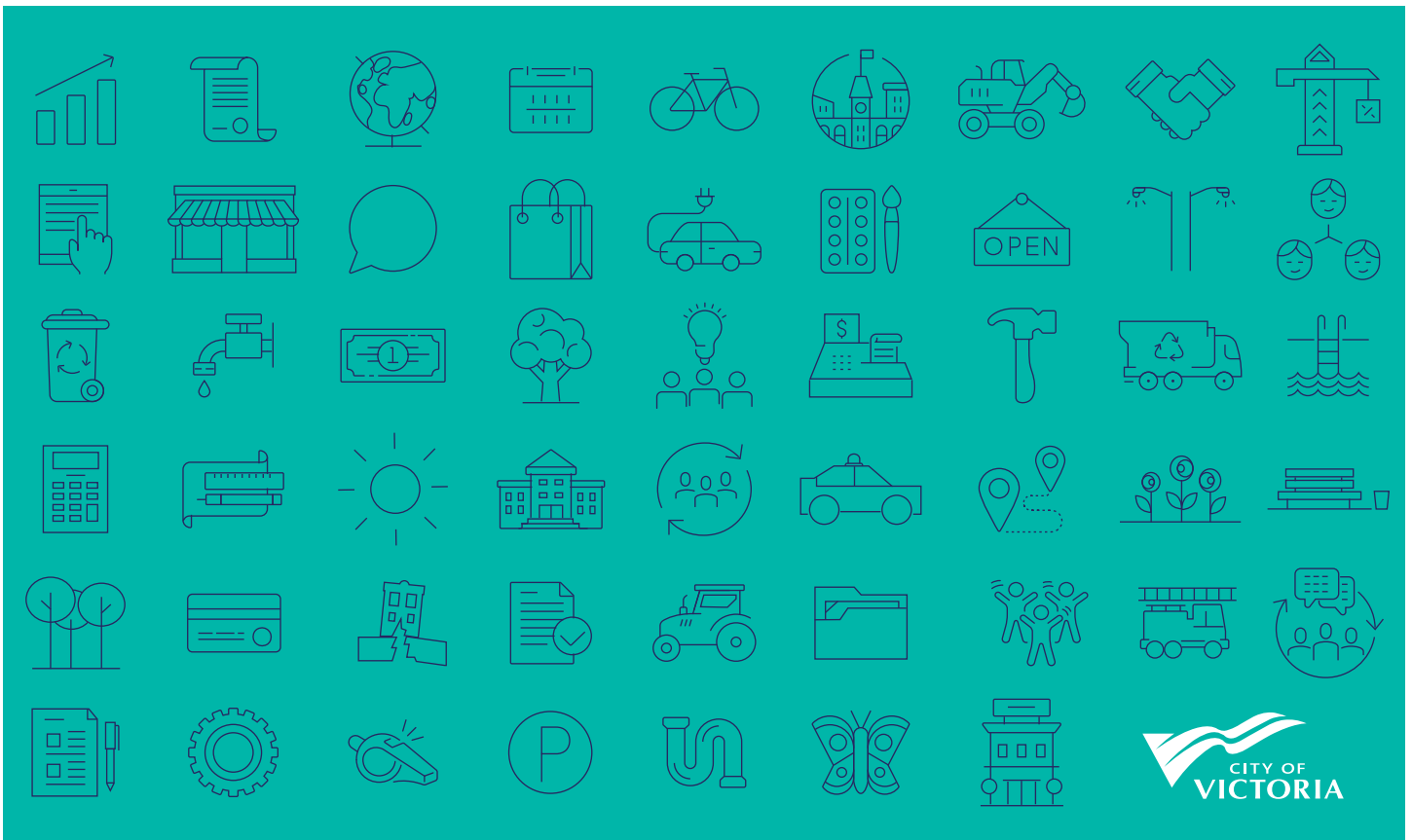
Attachment C: Written Budget Feedback

2021

ATTACHMENT A

Virtual Budget Town Hall

Online Submissions



2021 Virtual Budget Town Hall Online Submissions

Hi @TogetherVic and @CityOfVictoria @lisa_helps My #victownhall question. In #USA there is a growing energy around people like @MichaelDTubbs and @mayorsforagi Would #yyj consider steps towards #UBI pilots or its advocacy. As its reasons are many I have attached the following: <https://t.co/ePIPgLuISK>

Upon reading the draft budget, I note that \$270k has been earmarked for revising the roads at Mile 0. Resulting in enlarged Beacon Hill Park. Will this not just focus more traffic along Douglas from Niagara to Dallas? An unnecessary expense with little public gain. The enlarged parks pace would be in an awkward location unless further funds were allocated to enhance Mile 0 with seating etc.

Please outline the concrete plans to house all the citizens forced to camp out in the parks.

Why in the midst of a global movement to combat racism and police brutality and defund police forces across so-called "North America" is the city of Victoria proposing an increase in the police Dept. operating budget and decreasing funds to other public works? It's clear over policing has been counter productive for a truly healthy community. Why aren't real solutions in the budget? Please help

Why is the emergency housing fund not being used for the ongoing emergency needs of the residents of victoria who are living outside without their basic needs met? There is more than 2 million in that fund that could be used to provide housing needs to over 200 people on the street.

Why does council think that increasing the police budget will help all residents of victoria? Increasing the police budget directly affects the amount of violence committed against homeless people, and this is not addressed or acknowledged anywhere in the budget.

Why would you increase the police budget, which is already way too high, when you should be reallocating a portion of the funds they already have and create specifically tailored programs to help with the opioid epidemic, homelessness, mental health issues and other problems the police often demonstrate that they are not trained and/or properly motivated to deal with? Prove it's us you represent.

I call upon the City of Victoria to heed calls to defund VicPD and to redirect funding into mental health crisis training and social services that can help marginalized populations here in Victoria. It is unacceptable that the VicPD are set to be funded further in the coming year. VicPD's disregard for populations most in need of aid cause them to be distrusted by those they claim to protect.

The City continues to prioritize surveillance, criminalization, and punishment. The decision to once again prioritize policing over people's needs has a double impact on marginalized people, who are targeted by policing through racial/social profiling, and also because of societal injustice face the most barriers in meeting basic survival needs.

We must include more funding for police in the 2021 budget.

Why not triple the budget related to graffiti removal & enforcement. And install more surveillance cameras in areas that incur repeated incidents, as well as diligently prosecuting all offenders. Your current budget is a pittance & the results show.

I do not see anything in the budget concerning upgrading Crystal Pool. As the only public recreation facility in the city I feel this is a priority. We keep densifying housing but not providing facilities.

As a Pokémon go player I'd like to see more beautification projects! Utility boxes with historic wraps, trail markers and art displays are all acceptable pokestops! #victownhall #togethervictoria <https://t.co/H7cQJUEero>

Instead of increasing the VICPD fund, I believe we should be putting our money and time into helping the homeless population. Having mental health nurses at the frontline would be the most beneficial. A majority of people living on the streets are using because of undiagnosed mental health issues or growing up in a unstable household. Helping rather than hurting those who need it most!

The Accessibility and Inclusion Policy states that "Through the annual financial planning process , staff will identify resources required to advance accessibility actions, including potential trade-offs address priorities for Council consideration." How can Council make decisions about funding the Accessibility Short Term Action Plan when the draft Financial Plan does not identify the resources?

After a year full of protests calling to defund the police and many people suffering financial loss due to the pandemic, how do you justify increasing the spending for Victoria police services by \$880,320? Moreover, do you think the .52% increase in property tax going towards police operations will be bennifit the home and buisness owners of Victoria?

Is there a plan to build more true green spaces in this budget? Victoria has neighbourhood parks but our downtown green space is lacking - too many paved spaces. If we look at dense cities, Toronto's downtown has 17% green space & lowest carbon footprint in Canada. World leaders hit mid-40 to mid-50%. With an expected 10k population boost to the core by 2038, we can't become a concrete jungle.

Why does the city spend such a high percentage of its budget on policing? This money should be spent on affordable housing and services for the un-housed.

I keep hearing statements from both municipal and provincial members on making our city more affordable. When is this going to be taken seriously. I see all these new building projects (condos in particular)going up with rents that are beyond the reach of the majority of our young adults. The housing market has escalated and rentals are far too high. When are we going to address affordability???

Does the city have a plan to restart the local economy? Strategically thinking of creating new habits for consumers to buy local products and interact with small businesses.

No increase to police budgets now or ever! This is the most tone-dead budget recommendation. Defund the police @SarahPottsH @JeremyLoveday @deardubow #victownhall

The unhoused in Beacon Hill Park are the refugees in our backyard. They need emergency relief and care. Would you consider calling in the Red Cross before matters get totally out of hand and someone dies?

How is it that Victoria City Council is constantly dealing with provincial and federal, rather than municipal issues, at city council meetings? How is it that some City Councillors do not understand that they are not elected to address provincial and federal, but municipal issues?

Please consider spending a portion of the budget on affordable rental housing. Preferably 3 bedroom units, with outdoor space. There is a need for these units in our communities especially where density currently comes from illegal suites and unaffordable bachelors or one bedrooms. Please consider housing options for the unhoused community by centering their voices and lived experience. Thank you

2020 saw a surge in the global movement to resist police brutality against Black and Indigenous people and to reallocate police budgets to underfunded social services. Municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets. Given this, how does the City of Victoria justify the proposed 1.5% increase to the Victoria Police budget?

I don't see a budget line for the funding for the alternative response model being developed. Is this because the funding is external? Where is the funding coming from and what kind of control will community have over this initiative? In a recent statement from the Mayor, this initiative is said to include VicPD. Why are VicPD partners in this initiative when it is meant to be an alternative?

What is the City doing in regards to affordable housing? Currently the average price for a 1bdm apartment is \$1600. #victownhall #youthspeak

How does the City justify increasing the police budget while it's BIPOC communities are calling to defund the police? #victownhall #youthspeak

I would like to express how essential it is to provide as much extra funding as possible to affordable and supportive housing, alternative response teams, and other budget support for humane mental health and addictions care and housing in Victoria. Will you reallocate some of the staggering 23% (as well as the proposed 1.5% increase) of the policing budget to better supports and social programs?

I work as a city bus driver, and as such this is not my real name. But, to say that I feel unsafe at work would be an understatement. The decisions of this council bear a huge amount of responsibility for that. Any notions of cutting the police budget, especially those affected by ideological factors (BLM, etc) is going to make a bad situation worse and for all the worst reasons. Do right for YYJ.

Hi.I've noticed an increase in vandalism in the city in the past few weeks. Graffiti ++ and at least 3 broken plate glass windows on Fort St. businesses. Any plans to do anything about this?
Thanks #victownhall

My family is anxiously awaiting the Topaz bike park construction. We sorely need more recreation opportunities close to home. Please consider fast tracking this project. We also strongly support the AAA bike route plans, and the 30km/ h speed reduction proposal. Thanks!

Hi there! I was hoping someone could briefly explain the background on the \$45,000 "wayfinding" project under the "Neighbourhoods" section of the budget? How did this project come about and what community issue does it solve or respond to? Thank you.

Why are VicPD and Bylaw Services the only two functions not reducing their operational expenditure in 2021?

How does the city reconcile VicPD's reduction in expenditure on their Community Services Division with City Council's motion to pursue alternative approaches to policing, when the Community Services Division was the division responsible for exploring alternative approaches? What are your thoughts on this reduction given VicPD's increase in expenditure on social media for 2021?

Hello, I've read recently in couple news articles that a new central library plan is in the works. Is this reflected in the budget?

Would you consider reducing the budget to bylaw (given camping in parks is expected to end March 31) and instead redirect that money towards opening a new office of homelessness?

the proposed \$60 million to the VicPD (police) resources violence against Indigenous and Black people, the street community, people who use illicit drugs, people perceived as mentally ill, who are disproportionately targeted by the criminal punishment system. #victownhall
<https://t.co/ZG4uPHbQqG>

When will we topaz bike park be completed? Pls prioritize.

I'm wondering what the reasoning is behind the City of Victoria's decision to allocate \$200,000 to the 2021 Canada Day celebrations in their city budget proposal for this year? We are in the midst of a global pandemic and this type of spending seems unnecessary... #victownhall

I am a screen reader user who has a seeing disability. The accessible summery document does not include information regarding the Accessibility Reserve. I have been told that the full

document does include this information and a sighted peer has informed me that only \$17,000 of the 1.5 million reserve is to be transferred out in 2021. Many accessibility concerns raised by the Accessibility Working Group in the past five and a half years were deferred to the Accessibility Framework. Given that the Accessibility Framework and Short Term Action Plan was adopted in November 2020, I am concerned that so little of the reserve funds are to be used in 2021. What accessibility improvements does the \$17,000 include? Have departments included accessibility improvements identified in the Action Plan in their operating budgets and therefore do not plan to use reserve funds? If so, please explain what these are as I cannot access the information.

Hello #victownhall! I want to talk about community infrastructure for children 5-15. Currently, many of our playgrounds do not work for kids this age. They are looking for more active and exciting opportunities. There is a huge need for a new bike track, small-wheel park,

#victownhall Has the bus shelter budget been increased for 2021? If so, by how much?

here is no need for Victoria families to drive to View Royal, Langford, or Nanaimo for great bike/small wheels facilities for youth. Let's get stakeholders together and build something amazing right in our own City! Kids on bikes = a healthy city! #victownhall

Will you use the city's power of the purse to keep less ethical businesses from pandemic profiteering through eliminating decent paying jobs and replacing them with lower paid workers?

Police budget is 23% of the City's operating budget... why aren't we able to have our questions asked regarding the police budget #victownhall

you say Indigenous reconciliation is your #2 priority in your strategic plan. Please list your immediate actions regarding this #victownhall #youthspeak

Thank you for holding this town hall! How has the police budget been determined? What outcomes does council expect from the police given this budget, and what alternative funding/outcome profiles were considered?

I understand the need for better access from Beacon Hill Park to the Mile O monument and Terry Fox Statue, closing the road entirely would be a bit extreme and make things worse for traffic and residents nearby. I live right across the street from the Terry Fox Monument and I believe that with additional crosswalks and new pathways you can achieve what you desire without removing the road.

#victownhall with the questions re: meegan/beacon hill, perhaps council can just briefly touch on the reasoning behind that project? i can understand why it might seem a little low-priority to some, with everything else going on right now.

I have two kids watching #victownhall with me. Great way to help them learn about government and community. One (4) is asking for a new "roller slide" and a "roundabout" for her park. Other (8) is asking for a small-wheels park or youth skate/bike park. Anything for kids yet?

One final question for #victownhall - what is the city doing about anti-racism training? Are there plans to expand this work moving forward? Also - any plans for newcomers (including immigrants or refugees). This is so important for building our community and inclusivity. #yyj

can you explain more about the zero waste strategy? #victownhall #youthspeak

how much funding are you allocating this year for mental health supports and organizations #victownhall #youthspeak

#victownhall Will any money be allocated towards proper disposal of recyclable plastics, foils and glass?

#victownhall What measures is the city working on to protect vulnerable workers, including women, POC, and immigrants, from pandemic profiteering (having good jobs replaced by poverty wage jobs)?

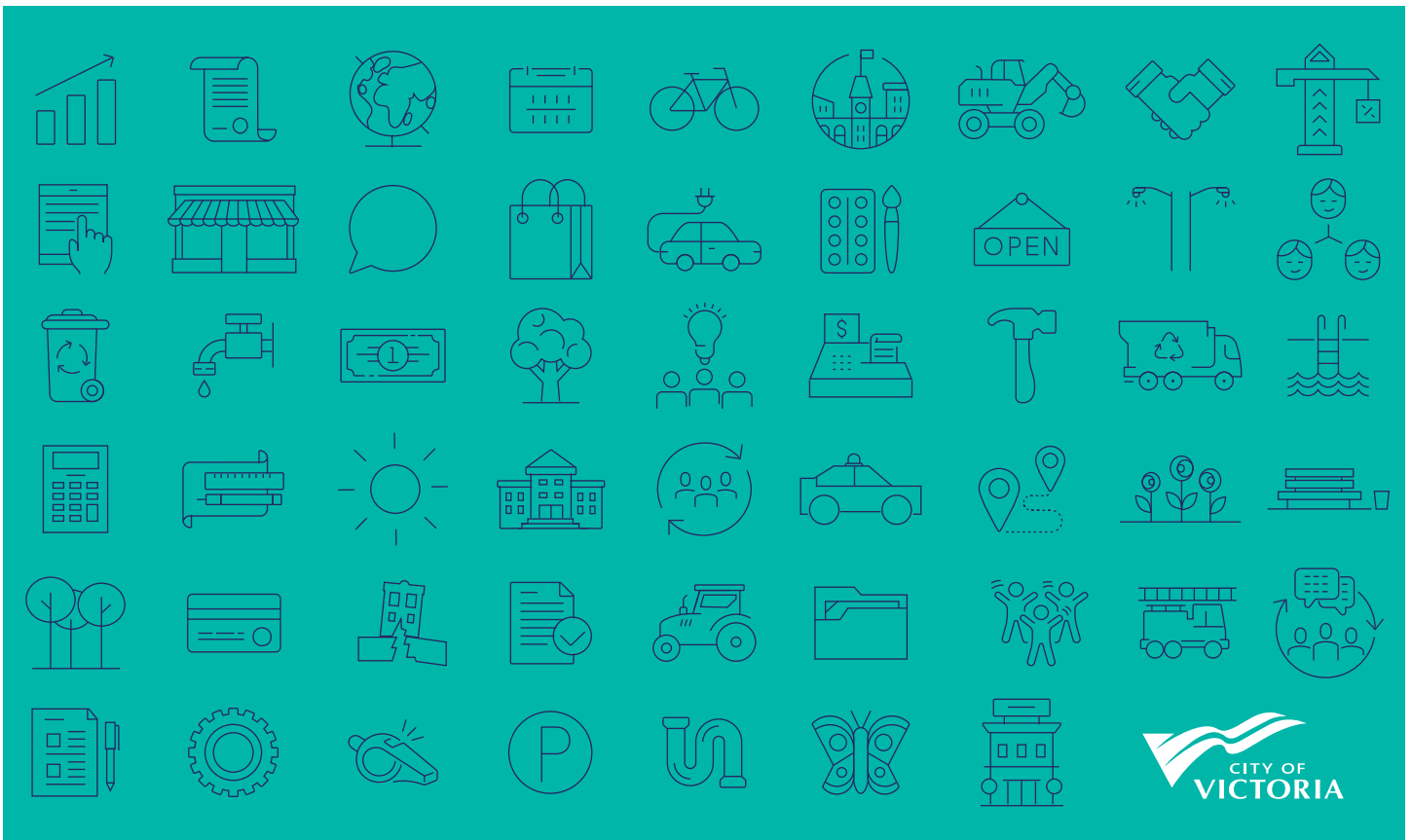
South Jubilee represent! Good point re the skate/bike park. Glad to hear there is something coming, even tho not directly to your #yyj neighbourhood. #victownhall #yyjpoli

#victownhall a little off topic but... why is no one wearing a mask as per Dr. Bonnie Henry's newest Covid guidelines for City Halls.

ATTACHMENT B

Draft Budget Survey Report

The comments included in this report are those of the respondent who wrote them; their reproduction does not indicate any endorsement by the City, nor do they reflect the views of the City, its elected officials or employees.



ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

Your City Budget. Have Your Say.

A strategic objective is a high-level goal that Council hopes to achieve. The 2019-2022 Strategic Plan was developed and approved by Council and includes the following eight strategic objectives. Please rank the City's Strategic Objectives from most to least important, with 1 being most important and 8 being least.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Affordable Housing	3.04
Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship	4.07
Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations	4.24
Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods	4.56
Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City	4.82
Good Governance and Civic Engagement	4.89
Sustainable Transportation	4.91
Prosperity and Economic Inclusion	5.35

Optional question (674 response(s), 35 skipped)

Question type: Ranking Question

From your perspective, what are the most important priorities facing our city right now? 1 being the most important and 9 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Housing (affordable, rental, missing middle) and homelessness	2.75
Health, well-being and social issues	3.74
Climate action and sustainability	4.41
Economic recovery and jobs	4.65
Equity and inclusion	4.88
Governance and fiscal responsibility	5.74
Public safety	5.98
Belonging and engagement	6.12
Arts and culture events and venues	6.35

Optional question (684 response(s), 25 skipped)

Question type: Ranking Question

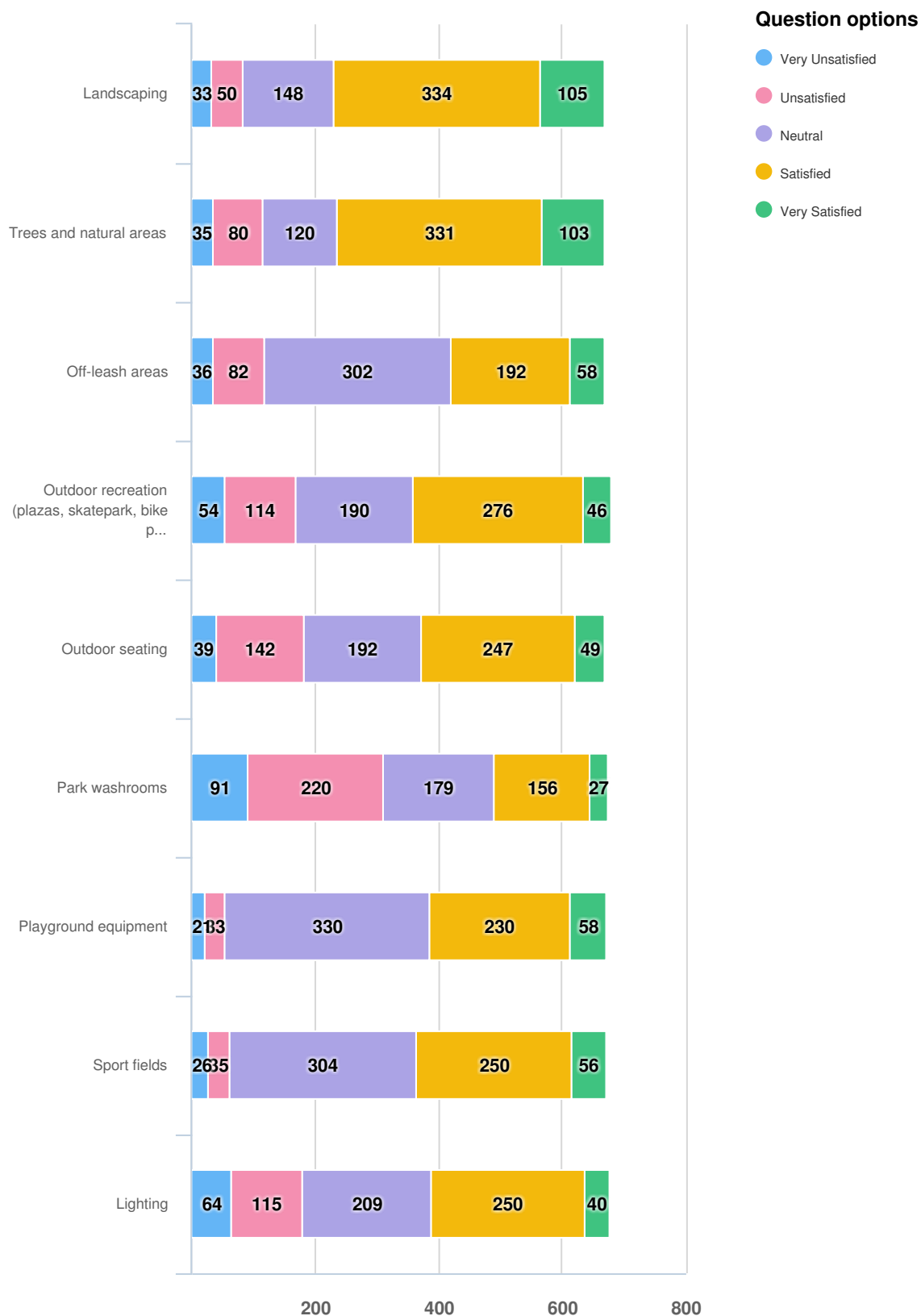
How satisfied are you with the availability, repair or maintenance of the City of Victoria's transportation infrastructure/amenities?



Optional question (680 response(s), 29 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

How satisfied are you with the availability, repair or maintenance of Victoria's parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities?



Optional question (686 response(s), 23 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

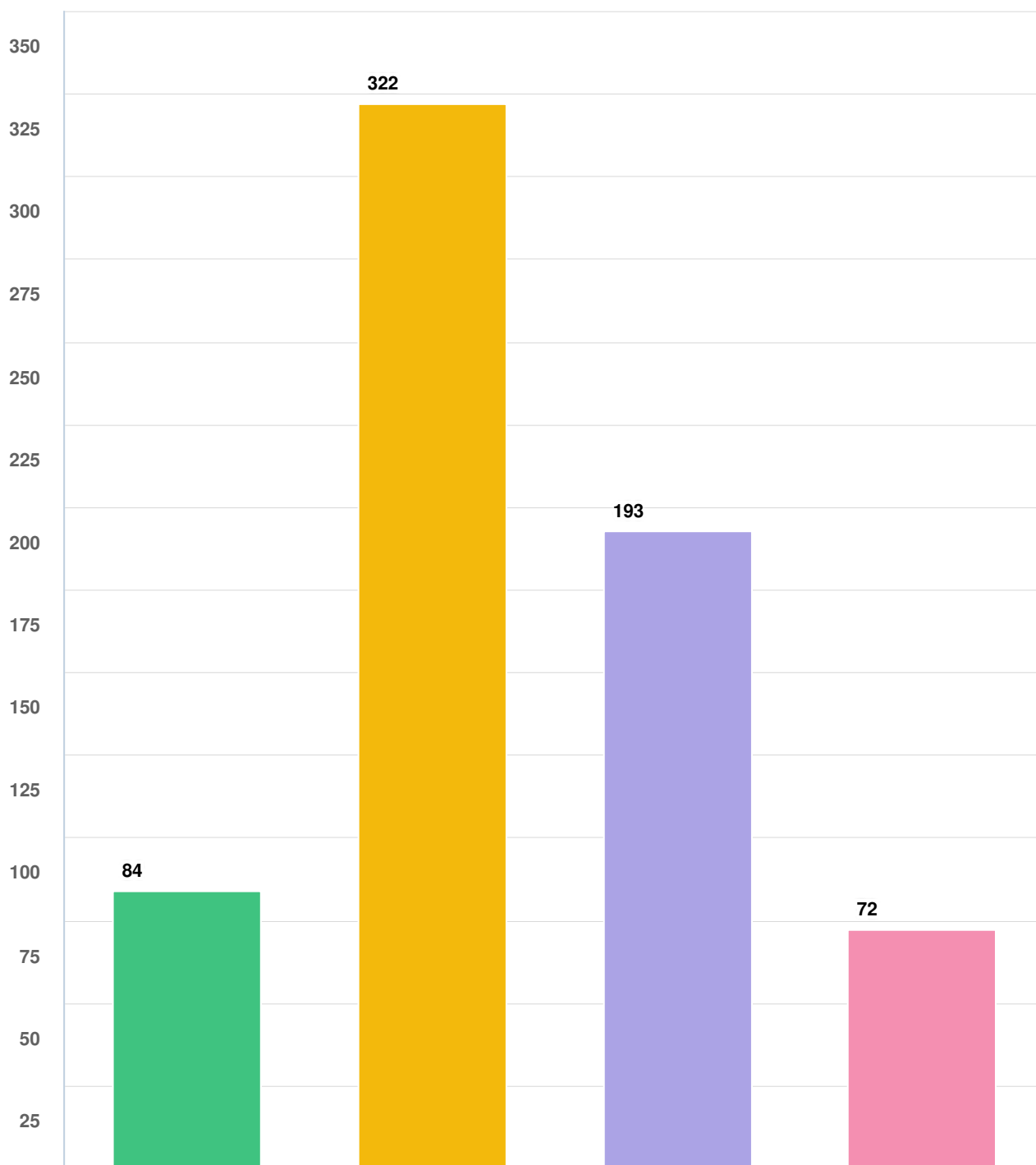
For 2021, what level of priority do you place on the following for our city?



Optional question (686 response(s), 23 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

Thinking about all the programs, services and capital projects you receive from the City of Victoria, would you say that overall you get:



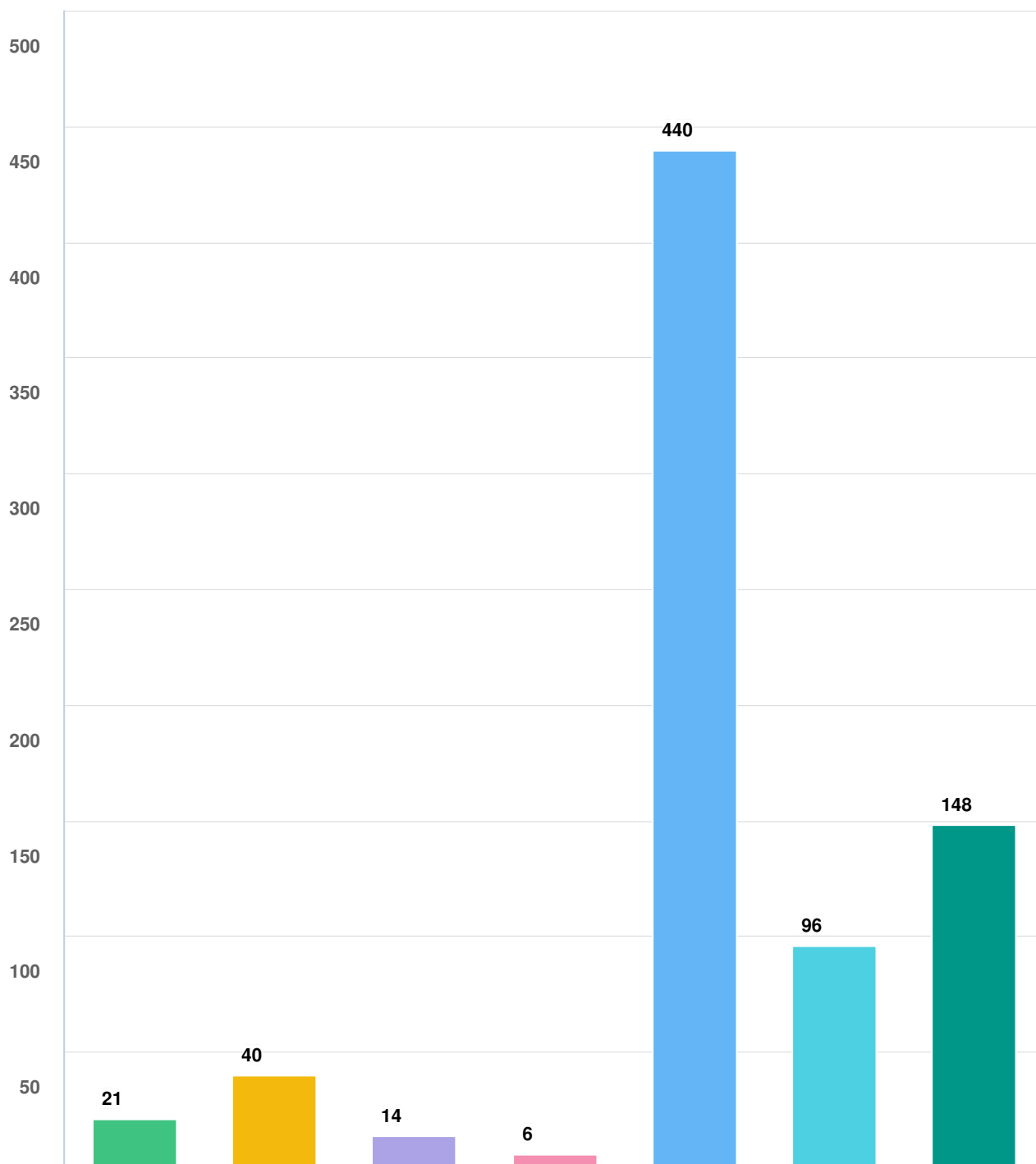
Question options

- ☐ Very poor value for your tax dollars ☐ Fairly poor value for your tax dollars ☐ Fairly good value for your tax dollars
☐ Very good value for your tax dollars

Optional question (671 response(s), 38 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

How did you find out about this survey? (Check all that apply.)



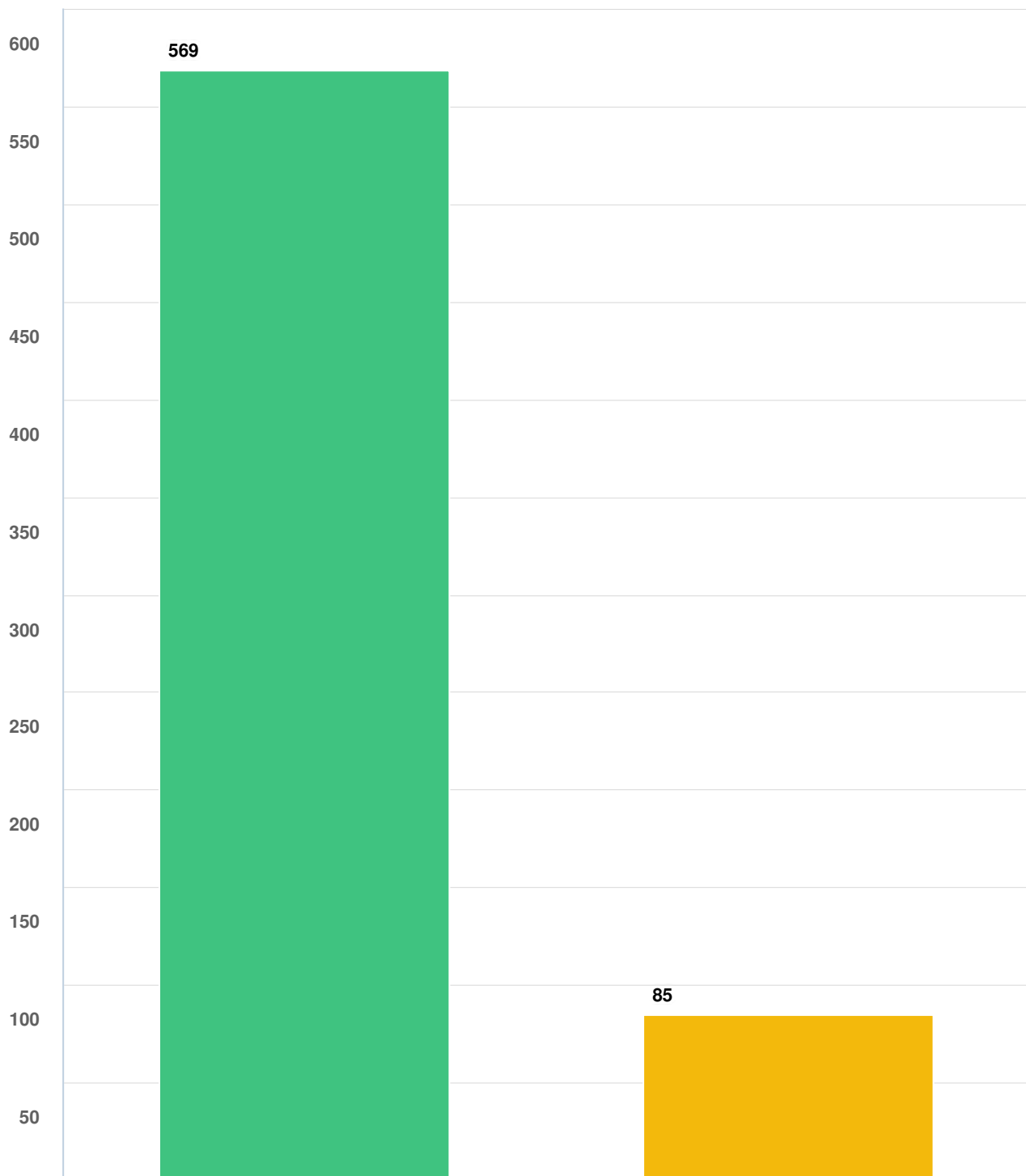
Question options

- ☒ Friends or family ☒ City of Victoria website ☒ Social media ☒ TV news story ☒ Radio ☒ Newspaper article ☒ Print ad

Optional question (679 response(s), 30 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Did you find the budget information materials to be helpful?



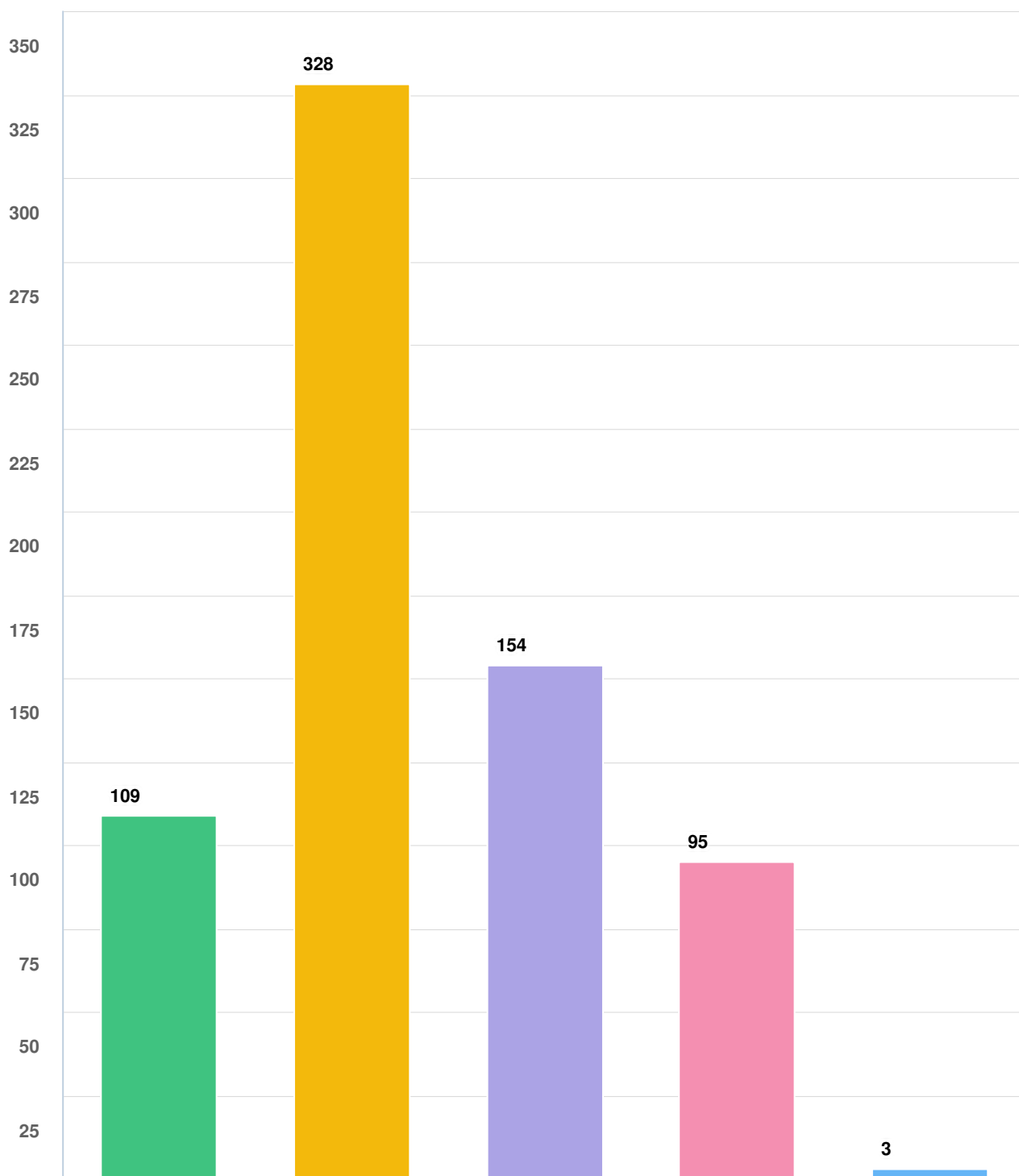
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (654 response(s), 55 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Please indicate your age group:



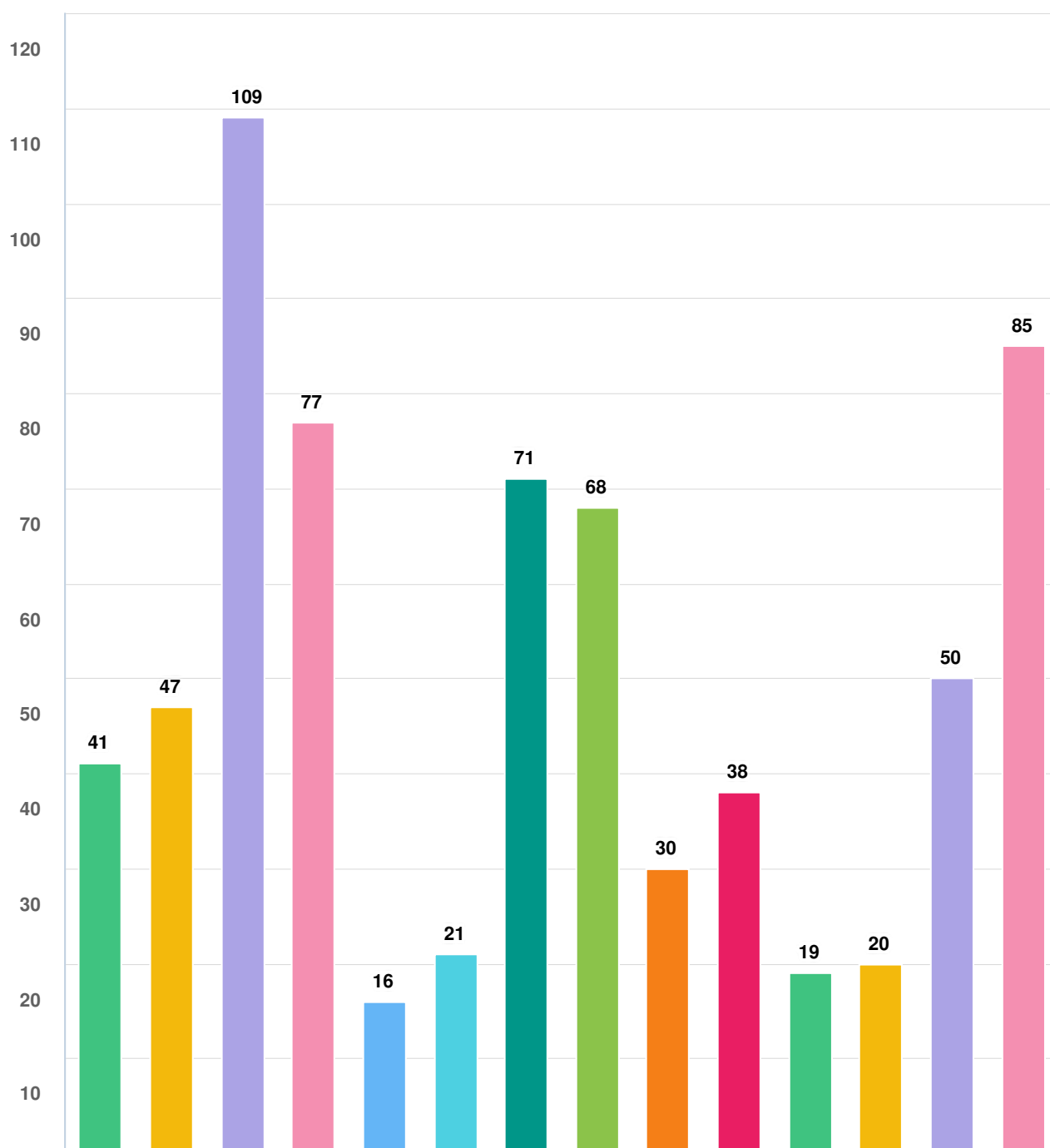
Question options

80 + 60 - 79 40 - 59 25 - 39 12 - 24

Optional question (689 response(s), 20 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Which neighbourhood do you live in? (Check this map if you aren't sure.)



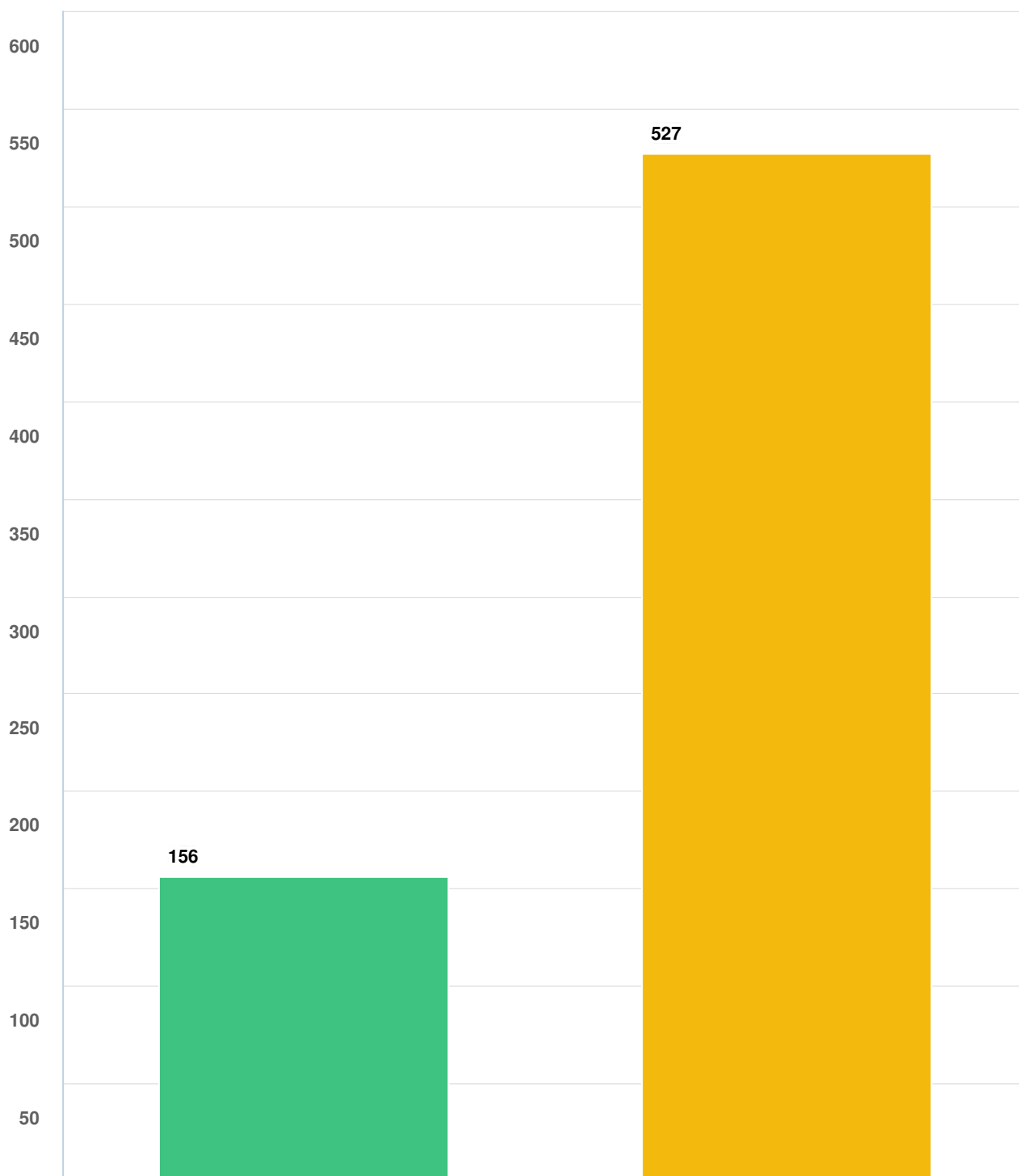
Question options

- ☐ I live in another municipality (please specify):
 ☐ Victoria West
 ☐ Rockland
 ☐ Oaklands
 ☐ North Park
 ☐ Jubilee
 ☐ James Bay
 ☐ Hillside-Quadra
 ☐ Harris Green
 ☐ Gonzales
 ☐ Fernwood
 ☐ Fairfield
 ☐ Downtown
 ☐ Burnside Gorge

Optional question (692 response(s), 17 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Are you a newcomer to Victoria (i.e. lived here for five years or less)?



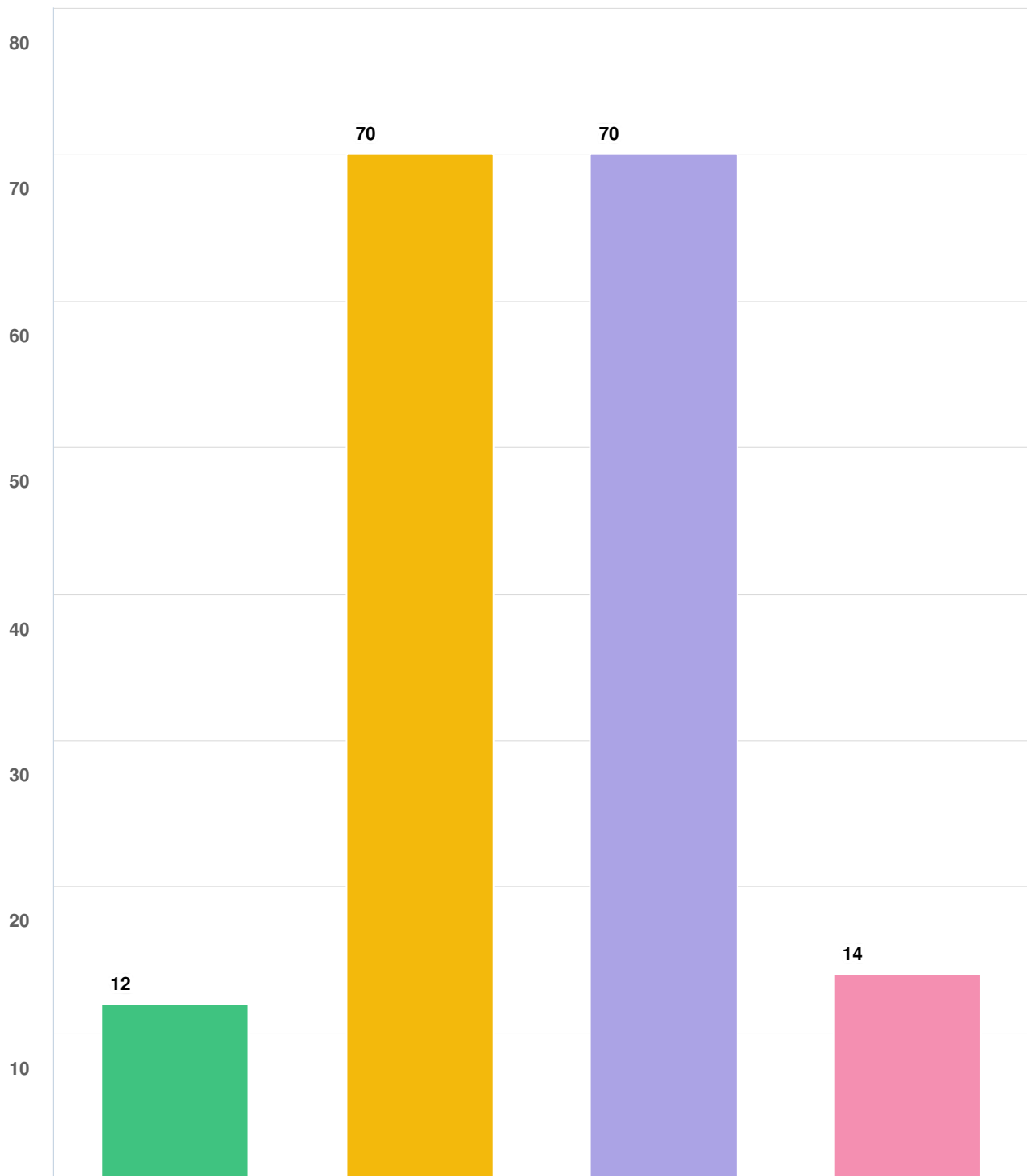
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (683 response(s), 26 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

If you are a newcomer to Victoria, where did you move from? (If you are not a newcomer, please skip this question.)



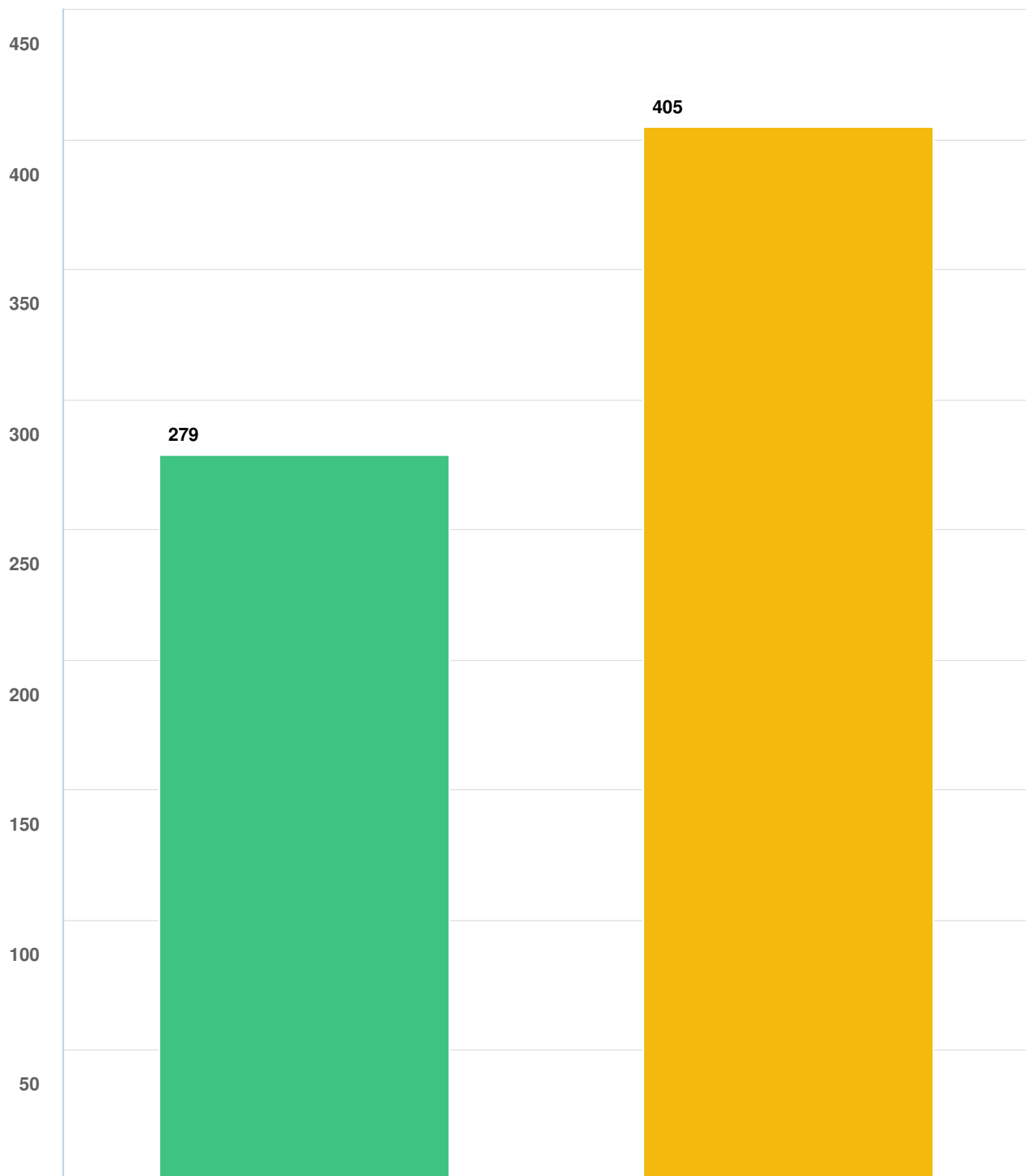
Question options

● Outside of Canada ● Within Canada ● Within British Columbia ● Within the Capital Region

Optional question (166 response(s), 543 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Do you own property in Victoria?



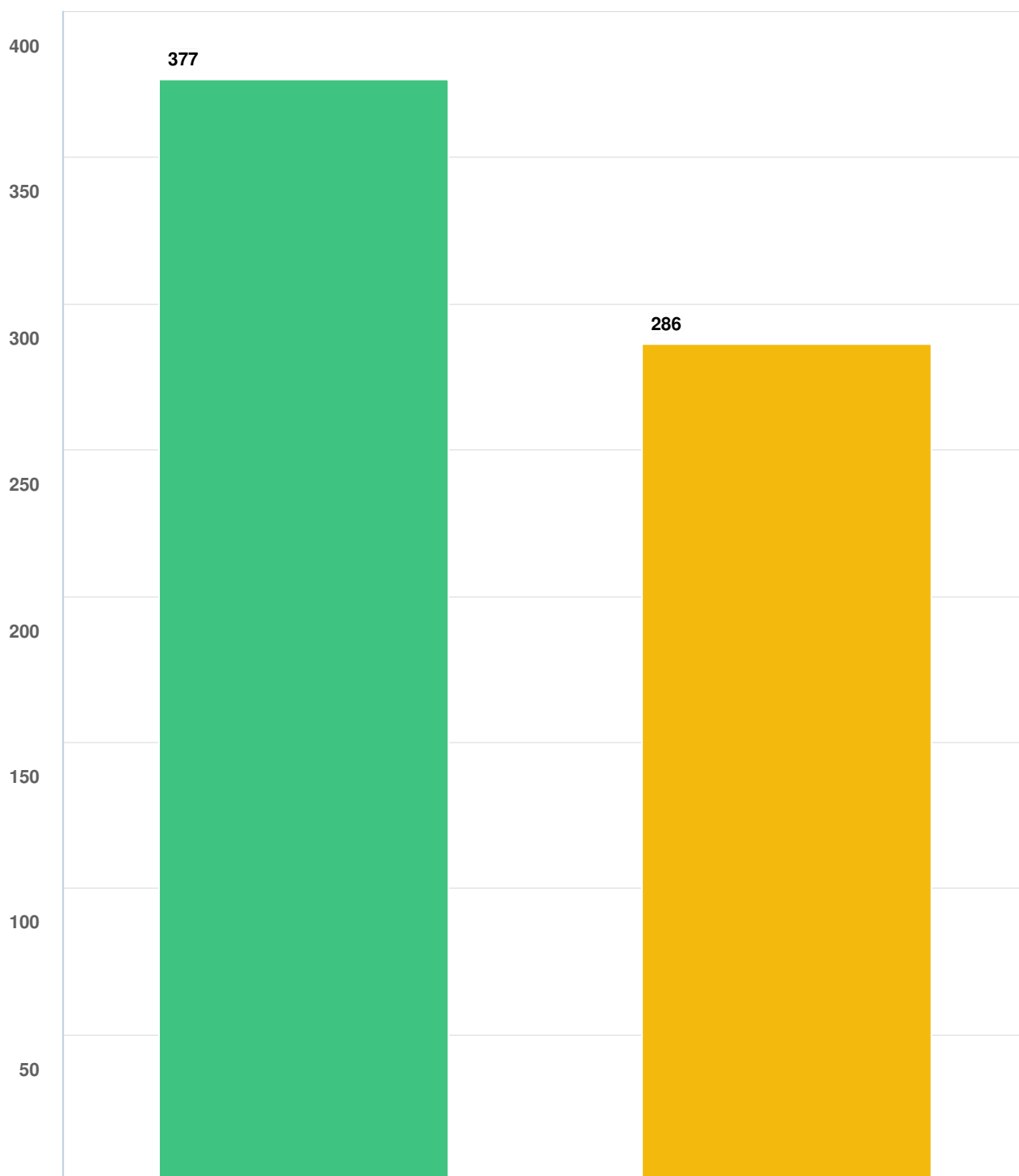
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (684 response(s), 25 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Do you rent in Victoria?



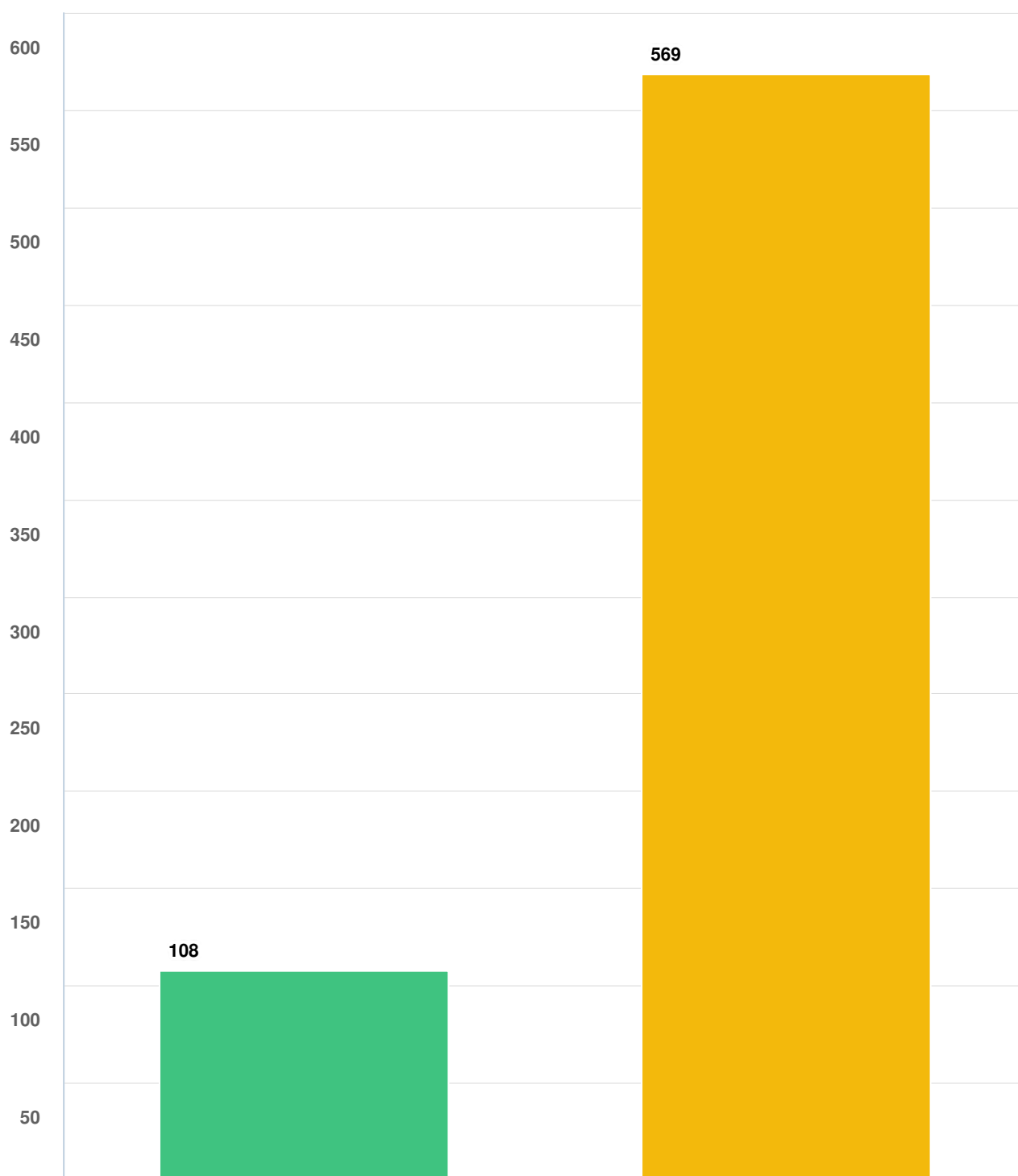
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (663 response(s), 46 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Do you own or run a business in Victoria?



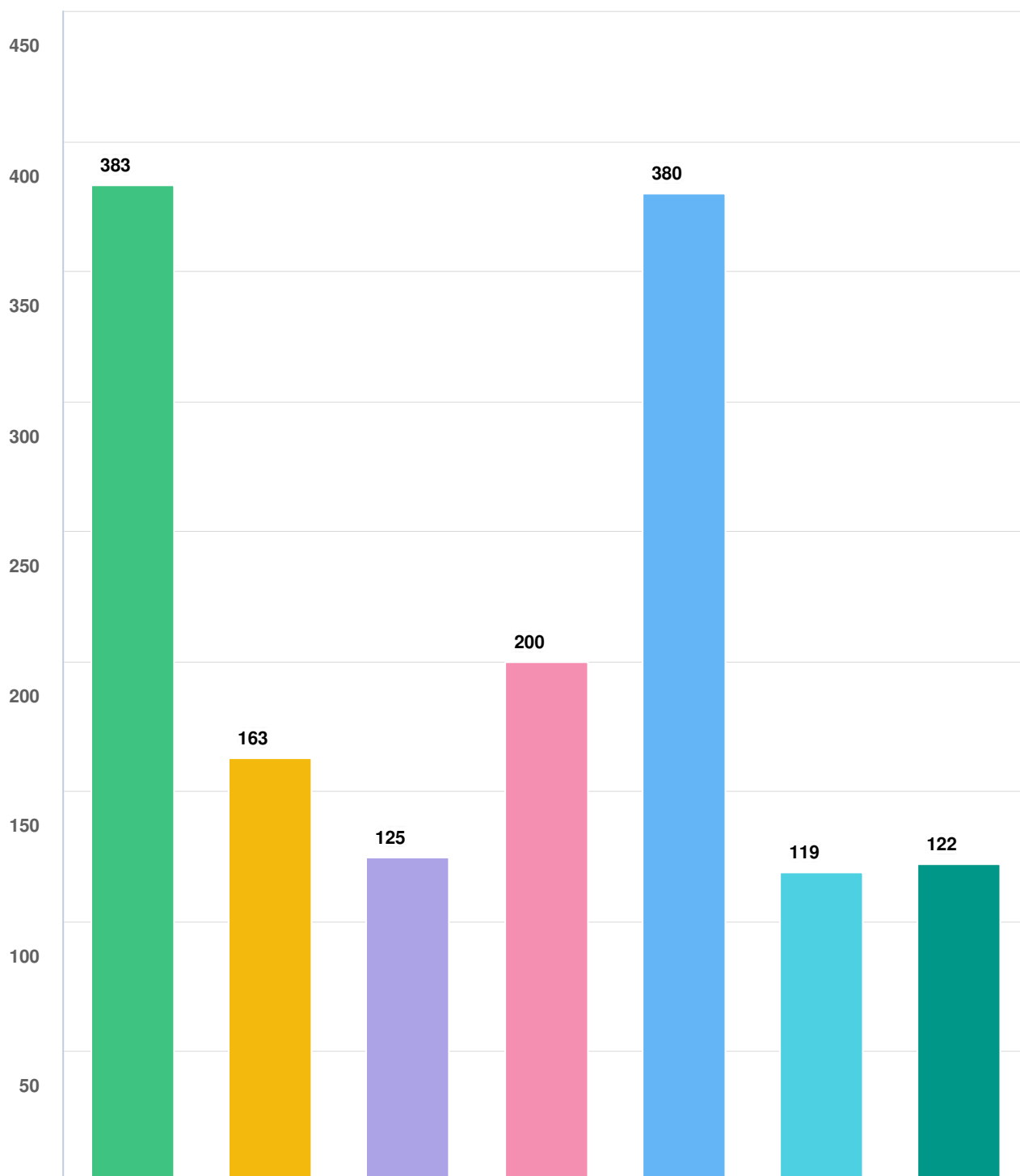
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (677 response(s), 32 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

How would you prefer to interact with the City? From the list below, please tell us which channels you are most likely to participate in. (Please select all that apply.)



Question options

● Local radio
 ● Local newspaper
 ● Email
 ● Instagram
 ● Twitter
 ● Facebook
 ● City of Victoria website

Optional question (656 response(s), 53 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question



Detailed Survey Responses

Q1 A strategic objective is a high-level goal that Council hopes to achieve. The 2019-2022 Strategic Plan was developed and approved by Council and includes the following eight strategic objectives. Please rank the City's Strategic Objectives from most to least important, with 1 being most important and 8 being least.

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Optional question (674 response(s), 35 skipped)

Question type: Ranking Question

Q2 | From your perspective, what are the most important priorities facing our city right now? 1 being the most important and 9 being the least important.

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
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Equity and inclusion	4.88
Governance and fiscal responsibility	5.74
Public safety	5.98
Belonging and engagement	6.12
Arts and culture events and venues	6.35

Optional question (684 response(s), 25 skipped)
Question type: Ranking Question

Q3 | If the most important local priority facing our city at the present time is not listed above, please tell us what it is.

Ensuring there is never any camping taking place in Beacon Hill Park. This park is unique. It was entrusted to the people of BC. It is historic, a tourist attraction and it used to be a place of sanctuary for many. It should be protected as such.

Get the homeless problem under control and stop enabling them!

Accessibility for people with disabilities.

Covid safety.

Cost of housing, both rental and purchasing

our new Crystal pool that was promised many years ago

More active transportation. Approve Richardson bike lane

The deterioration of the streets. Too many pot holes, too much cement for bike lanes that appear then disappear (e.g. Dallas Road just west of Cook).

defund the police and put the money into the community. all we are currently paying for is systemic violence. addressing systemic racism, especially against Indigenous Peoples. address the abhorrent behaviour of the VicPD and city bylaw officials.

soundness of all infrastructure

Increased council focus upon issues within its jurisdiction and for which there is reasonable opportunity for problems mitigation or resolution.

The priority that straddles many of these but is not named is Urban Design that prioritizes equity, safety, sustainable mobility, complete neighbourhoods, health, and de-privatized profits from development.

Indigenous reconciliation and equity

Follow Denver's lead and shift spending from police to social workers. Their STAR program has been a success and I would like to see you implement something similar. <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/09/06/denver-star-program-mental-health-police/>

Defund Vic PD

24/7 camping. Getting our parks back. Get the homeless out of our parks.

Defunding of the police. The reallocation of dollars to assist the city in becoming a world leader in understanding policing and how it needs to change to better serve the people. Police do not need to be on all the frontlines for everything, nor are they trained to do many of the social issues

they are presented with. Let's get the right people in those roles to support the police; and in many instances take over those responsibilities that police do not need to be attending to.

Give the police more funding and STOP enabling the criminal element within the homeless community that have taken our once beautiful city hostage.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!

accessibility and equity for disabled people - I note this because it's so often left out of equity and inclusion initiatives.

decriminalizing drugs in order to save our community that is dying from an opioid epidemic

Balancing the annual budget and stop tax increases. Stop using taxpayers like an endless ATM.

core review of services provided - do we need what we have / currently do?

Municipal leaders not focussed on running the city

Wellbeing, care and inclusion of 65+

It's time to stop investing money in bike lanes and invest that money in our streets, pipes, sidewalks, etc.

Support local businesses

Infrastructure and road repairs

- access to legalized drugs for those suffering from addiction - alternative mobile response team consisting of counsellor with lived experience plus mental health worker - priority given to addressing mental health and wellbeing - housing for unhoused and elimination of poverty - community based school with wrap around services

Recovering our city park system Reducing crime Reducing anti-social behaviour

Financial restraint and fiscal responsibility! we're in a pandemic, for goodness sake. Please learn to say no.

I agree with the Strategic Priorities, but not necessarily the items you've put under them or the actions being taken. For example I agree Affordable Housing is critical, but strongly disapprove of many Council decisions

Access for the disabled, low mobility and elderly

Returning the city to its former beauty and getting it back to a place where people actually want to go again

Amalgamation now!

defunding the police and providing meaningful reparative services that do not just demean and defeat.

Figuring out a realistic way of dealing with the city's homeless and drug addicted population. Not buying them million dollar hotels to burn down, or letting them destroy city parks, but a genuine real way of getting them off the streets.

I'd like to note the extreme importance of supporting the unhoused community, especially after 2020 and how the COV intends to work through the systems that disadvantage and further marginalize our unhoused community. This was particularly prominent this year at MEEGAN (Beacon Hill) where by law officers and police removed portable showers that were for use of the unhoused community. The City of Victoria needs to reevaluate how funds and policies are allocated to support our vulnerable communities. These funds need to go towards initiatives that support our communities and do not include the involvement of Victoria Police Department.

Please get back to what a municipal government is supposed to do - policing, fire, fix roads, lovely plants and flowers if economically feasible

Council needs to stay within the lanes and quit bashing Police (Potts and Isitt listening?)

Regional leadership and collaboration with other municipalities.

Fair taxation

Preserving urban forest. Protecting the urban canopy. Balancing housing with forest protection. Zoning - respect zoning by laws.

Better fiscal management, council should only concern itself with the cities

needs to give service to the people paying the taxes.

Re-establishing parks and downtown streets that are accessible and comfortable for people of all ages through better housing for homeless (with associated social and medical services provided in partnership with senior governments) and public safety/policing.

Reduce taxes

Investment in policing

Included within affordable housing, should be affordable middle class homes in Victoria proper. A middle class family cannot afford to buy a home in Victoria. Affordable store fronts in downtown is also valuable. Rents are too high, and were long before the pandemic.

Infrastructure renewal

Neighbourhood safety.

Protection of public infrastructure and public spaces for public use.

Immediate financial and other supports so that those who are precariously housed right now do not become homeless tomorrow.

Co-op housing

Roads are requiring maintenance, trees require maintenance

Crime reduction

Equity to green space and outdoor spaces for the majority of residents who live in rentals and apartments. More usable park space, covered outdoor space

Lead by example and fire the two that ignored health rules and traveled outside of Canada. We have sacrificed so much and two councillors slapped us in the face by doing as they please.

Defund the police, fix my gutter that your city truck ripped off my house.

Stop the VicPD from dismantling homeless camps and start providing affordable housing and getting these people back on track. Instead of creating anti-homeless architecture funnel that money in building care homes and accessible places where these people can create a resume and have a shower and eat a good meal

Entrepreneurship

Police reform - decreasing funding for the Vic PD

Police reform to allow properly trained individuals handle calls that police are not equipped or trained to handle.

Please add lights to the Vic West skatepark

The vic west skatepark needs lights

Improving the safety of the Burnside Gorge neighborhood and equitably distributing supportive housing facilities around the city.

You have left out indigenous sovereignty (or rights) off the priorities listed above. I would put that as number one, as it relates to many other issues.

Vehicle access and transportation including parking space.

The way the city responds to the homeless community by continuing to raise policing forces and budgets rather than creating supportive and preventative programs.

Defunding the police is imperative if we want to acknowledge the harm that is caused on a daily basis. Put these funds towards creating systems that support people who suffer from addictions, mental illness, homelessness or poverty, not incriminating them further!

Basic infrastructure - the current state of Victoria streets is creating hazards for ALL types of transportation, and is a failure of stewardship. Victoria used to have excellent streets, but now they are in shameful condition. Also basic safety - police need to be supported to do their difficult and dangerous jobs, not disrespected by ill-advised ideological campaigns (e.g., de-funding the

police). I cannot rank your strategic objectives, as each objective contains multiple sub-goals, some of which I support and some of which I oppose (at least in terms of the City wasting my tax dollars on them). If we are in a budgetary crunch, e.g., eliminate the artists in residence until there is extra money in the budget for them, WITHOUT tax increases. Same with the bike lanes, these are NOT a priority if it means a tax increase.

Defunding the police

Homelessness (should be its own category)

The abuse of power that comes with overpolicing marginalized communities is a major concern. I ask to freeze the police budget

Police reform

Increase funding to indigenous people and programs. Accessible housing!
Defund the police.

There are eight (8) strategic objectives and approximately two dozen action items under each objective in your financial plan. You are unable to remotely achieve many of these listed. The goals that you have set are lofty at best e.g. "global recognition...". You need a reset to plan for 2021 and 2022 for what can reasonably be focused on, and to reasonably execute. That is the most important LOCAL priority.

Partial but significant reallocation of police funds to social support structures

Defunding the police and reallocating the resources to social programs benefiting lower income households, people of colour, etc.

Indigenous reconciliation

Upholding Indigenous Sovereignty and respecting the original land keepers. Also the police defunding the police and holding them accountable.

police violence

Overdose crisis

defunding the police

This city is no longer affordable for even the middle class.

Education.

the first 3 impact the following 6 in a positive way, moving these down the priorities list.

The CoV needs to get back to basics and stop trying to save the world.

No Budget increase for Police. Invest in other Public services

Mental health services

Policing issues/ police budget. Dividing the budget for more social work/ programs.

Our community is lacking mental health support. Our youth are at extreme risk due to the pandemic and need more support.

reallocating police funding

less police presence in homeless communities, access to safe drug supply and resources for mental health & addictions.

Giving Land Back to Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSANEC Nations

Anti-racism

Harm reduction programs and resources to respond to ongoing opioid crisis

Downtown revitalization

Defund the Police

Ethics and public service

More local health support systems that don't rely on the police.

Drug addictions support and recovery programs. Allowing youth to be supported by the foster system and its supports until 21 years of age/help and support when aging out of the system (housing, jobs and social supports)

Divesting from policing in our city and investing in services to help the most targeted populations

I do not want a bike lane on Richardson. It will affect my small side street very negatively.

We need less funds allocated to police and more to support community engagement and support.

Greatly limiting # of cruise ships per year. Transitioning away from reliance of mass tourism.

- police (and simultaneously increasing public safety through increasing trauma-aware, peer-directed supports; furthering the institution of UBI & assuring affordable housing to all). Supporting rather than criminalizing people who unmet needs is essential to increasing public safety. - Restitutional Indigenous-steered structural change and support in light of continued systemic harms against local Indigenous communities

Cleaning up Beacon Hill Park

Safety from the VicPD and appropriate trauma informed mental Health and social supports grounded in practices and teachings from the Nations we are guests to

The most important priority is to not fund the VicPD any further and instead use that funding for social programming to support community in need. We do NOT need more policing.

Childcare

At this time the most important issue is the recovery of the economy without

it all the feel good social programs cannot exist.

The lack of safety and access to the parks, for local tax paying citizens, due to homeless camping--especially during the pandemic restrictions where there is little else to do in this city.

Economic inequality. Dramatic scaling up of non-market housing, increased taxes or mandatory amenities fees on upzoning with money going into non-market rate housing, tying new development to employment of unionized workers...these are steps that can address making the city more livable for the non-wealthy.

Basic Services like flowering city gardens; road maintenance; clean streets; more police presence downtown; graffiti removal & enforcement; auto traffic flow (e.g. need left turn lane at Fort & Wharf); reclaim our public parks to recreate not tenting; open Beacon Hill Park & Clover Point to cars (passengers & drivers are people too) Review new city staff positions created in the past four years & eliminate all of them that don't directly support these priorities.

Overdose crisis

It is listed but AFFORDABLE HOUSING and supportive housing for folks who need it.

Focus on core operations of the City: maintenance of water system, remediation of transportation corridors, Asset management

Biggest problem is this council not listening to the tax payers and destroying the city to satisfy there own ideology at the cost of residents health and safety

We need to focus on well funded alternative crisis response teams.

Community-driven alternatives to policing and decriminalization of substance use and homelessness.

Non-market and market based affordable and supportive housing! Without bolder, bigger solutions to the housing crisis, Victoria is becoming a place where working families, students, and lower and middle income people cannot afford to live, a place where the number of people experiencing homelessness will grow unless we take steps to ensure that housing as a human right becomes a reality.

Overdevelopment/crowding of neighbourhoods.

Crime and public disorder in the downtown core

Vaccination Plan???

Police violence esp in the unhoused communities around the city. Increasing policing does NOT keep us safe, it continues the oppression of marginalized citizens of Victoria and endangers their lives. INSTEAD allocate funds to community outreach programs

You are killing the entertainment industry..

Safety. We have been subjected to the horror with homeless population, which is above the law and you have fostered that. They have broken into my car twice. Attempted break in into the house. Doing drugs on my deck, every day stolen things and packages from Amazon. All lights yanked out. Human poop found several times in our yard. Bikes stolen and there is NO END. Those people are aggressive and threaten our families. One of my neighbors got hurt and is awaiting his knee surgery because of a dispute with homeless person stealing a garbage can. I saw so many drug dealing interactions. They are luring others into their world. They need to be removed from community as they are utterly not safe! Plus they could not care less, to wear a mask or stay out of your way when you walk with your children. They try to interact or touch your child! Lisa Helps, have people poop in your yard and do drugs in your yard and see how it feels! I was not able to take my kids to the playground or MY OWN yard! as I was finding needles

defunding the police and respect for indigenous people

Probably the plague

I do not support any increase in the budget for the Victoria police department. We already have more police officers per 100,000 people than ANY OTHER CITY. This money can be better spent invested INTO THE COMMUNITY, rather than empowering more We need mental health initiatives. We need better crisis support and more spots in treatment programs for eating disorders, addictions, etc. We need trained professionals to help support the incredible amount of homeless people in this, our provincial CAPITAL.

Homelessness

Council rejecting development proposals. I'm a 29 year old citizen who lives and works downtown, I shop local and contribute to the economy. It's hard

seeing my needs pushed aside for residents who contribute absolutely nothing of substance to a supposedly thriving community. The lack of mental health support for the unhoused community is ridiculous. You can't buy hotels and push people inside without adequate services that will help them deal with their mental health issues (although I acknowledge that this is a provincial issue). This city is becoming a hot mess of unmanaged madness, and council is directly responsible for the lack of control and safety measures to make citizens who keep this city moving feel comfortable.

Restoring the downtown core to make it appealing to not only locals, but also those in the neighbouring municipalities and other parts of BC and beyond. Currently it looks and feel a bit rough.

Police reform & budget reallocation

Dealing with anti-houseless hate.

Adding to the housing supply and cutting development timelines down significantly.

Mental health and addiction services

I believe the City of Victoria needs to put greater emphasis on strategies, planning and services that will maintain the long-term viability and sustainability of the City as a place where people can work and live. Victoria as a whole needs to be and be seen to be a safe, desirable place for contributing residents, and a place that self-supporting visitors want to visit. I feel that too much attention and too many resources are given to special interests that do not contribute in any way to the quality of life of the community. Clearly, Victoria is seen as a desirable destination for people who only want to take, and have no true desire or commitment toward contributing. Increasingly, Victoria's elected officials are making decisions that enable, tolerate and exacerbate those behaviours and which make problems worse both near and long-term. Downtown Victoria is on a steady, accelerating downward spiral; if it ceases to be a desirable or viable place for businesses to operate and people to work and visit, the City as a whole faces a bleak future.

Affordable housing MUST INCLUDE public housing for street involved peoples and the working poor, as well as students and those employed in the service and tourism industry. Not just young professionals and government workers.

ive lived here all my life and now no one I know can afford rent

More foot police presence.

Expand options for walking, cycling, and other sustainable transportation.

Multi modal mobility - Safe, separated/protected cycling infrastructure, enjoyable people-scale pedestrian realms, and reliable/frequent transit.

Police reform

The need to REMOVE those people living on the street or in parks with mental health issues. They need to be in a mental health facility.

Indigenous relations

Defund the police. Lights at vic west skatepark. Build Topaz skatepark

Hard to make everything in a list but I think most of those items are very important. I think a strong art community is important but so is having a city where everyone is housed and good transportation exists.

HOUSING.

CITY COUNCIL DESTROYING OUR PUBLIC ROADS FOR DRIVING AROUND THIS CITY!!!!

Drinking water

Long term preventative social planning

Campers in parks.....stop letting people camp in parks. It is a disaster.

Eliminating living in parks

Defund police budget redistribute to social programs and social support

Cleaning up drug related issues and homelessness in public places.

Supporting low income working family's and single parents

Firing Helps and Isett

Well co-ordinated plans with results measured regularly reports to all citizens

Support existing businesses and attract new ones

Primarily increasing outreach, treatment, and housing for the homeless population of Victoria. It is appalling that such an affluent part of an affluent country has such a raging homelessness and mental health crisis.

Defund the police. They create an unsafe environment for marginalized folks and we should be providing community resources based on care and compassion, rather than further militarizing the bloated Vic PD.

Getting rid of tent city and stop taking more people from other places because our services are better. Your making our neighborhood unsafe!

Stop camping in park and everywhere in the city They are killing this beautiful city I loved once and came here to cherish it

Systemic racism.

Give us back Beacon Hill Park

STOP 24 HR CAMPING

Deepening division

Please give importance to our local artisans. They provide an important vitality to our cities tourism and are currently being left in the dark. If you continue to make things hard on them then we will loose our arts culture all together! People want to come to our city and meet its local artisans not be inundated by made in China tacky tourist stores. Please place value in our

local community! Thank You

Enforcing laws and by-laws

Drug addiction and mental health

Domestic violence and gender based violence

Address the violence, crime and unsafe downtown issues. Stop trying to cover up empty businesses with art - be a solution not a bandaid.

ADDICTIONS SERVICES AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

Educate people on safe driving around vulnerable road users, and bicyclists' legal right to roadways. Illustrate how bicyclists are paying more than their fair share versus motorists (the overwhelming belief is it's the other way around).

Council transparency

There is a lack of focus and understanding on the role of local governments - fixing potholes, focusing on sustainable infrastructure and capital investment. The council also needs to focus on creating sustainable change - too much change too fast (bikes lanes) leads to anger and frustration. Think about the long game!

So many people have lost their jobs in the tourism and entertainment industry, focusing on initiatives that would rehire these people or find them alternative training would really help our economy.

The city itself is not staying in its own lane, and should be looking after issues on a municipal level - not provincial or federal.

Fair representation

Give first nations significant allocations of Land Back

Addressing the issues surrounding the temporary housing in burnside gorge and promoting safety and community in this neighbourhood

Managing divisive politics. Finding an alternative to relying on policing to

manage homelessness.

We need a balanced city council that represents the needs of all citizens, not just a select few viewpoints.

Defunding the police and investing funds into helping the unhoused population by engaging in direct conversation and dialogue WITH them to ASK THEM WHAT THEY NEED.

Accountability on Council needed, stop focusing on special interest groups (i.e. cycling coalition) and wasteful cost on ping pong table type of ideas, listen to ALL constituents. Too much focus, money and time is being wasted on issues beyond the scope of Council's duties.

Loitering and unruly behaviour in the downtown core will discourage tourism when it returns.

Defund the police! do not raise the police budget

Addressing systemic racism, active anti-racism, equitable opportunities for residents

Proper allocation of funding - less on police and more on social support.

Least important should be increasing the police budget. Please freeze the police budget or defund.

Supporting the COVID public health response.

Decolonization - a meaningful and substantive plan to transform relationships with Lekwungen people, including addressing stolen land, resources, and children; reparations (for environmental damage and the inter-generational impacts of colonization and genocide); and exploration of what Lekwungen people want around decision-making on their territories.

Infrastructure! Our city growth and development lags far behind other capital cities of its size and type, like Ottawa. Far too much wasted used of space is allowed (not enough attention to green spaces) in new developments and empty buildings go into disrepair because of confusing spot zoning laws. Bike lines are a critical element of a growing city but the design is not well thought out for longevity and consideration has not been given to their workability as the spaces "around" them also grow, Infrastructure is the most important part of a thriving, robust city.

Helping downtown businesses and promoting tourism when the pandemic is over. To do this we need to deal with our massive homeless and drug problem.

Defund the police.

We are spending an unbelievable percent of the budget on policing, which must be cut and redirected to affordable housing.

that there needs to be a team that deals with incidents that happen on the streets, with the homeless and challenged community member. Not the City Police

Retaining affordable for low income housing in ALL neighbourhoods

Catering to the tax averse elements who demand services is not finally possible. Taxes must go up when unpredictable costs of pandemic arise.

Many priorities on here .. concerned many are not in our lane or are taken out of context and disruption to our healthy normal way of prospering is unintentionally applied .

Indigenous leadership

Defund the police.

Non-market housing options

DEFUNDING THE POLICE

It is listed above.

Stop cycling priorities and start helping Those who have to rely on cars.
What planes are there very unsatisfied right

stay with local issues and away from things over which municipal governments have no authority. Egs, climate change, pipelines etc

Homeless issues mental Health and Crime

Free public transit for all

all these issues are fundamental responsibilities of local government. they are so overlapping and interconnected that numerical ranking is meaningless.

Infrastructure - roads, sidewalks. City maintenance - clean streets, and empty garbage.

Alternatives to policing mental health crisis' (ie. culturally safe and competent, trained in mental health, not carrying weapons or guns.)

Alternative Mental Health and Addictions Community Response

Reduce fees for liquor licenses and liberalize Victoria's onerous liquor license and nightlife restrictions, which would enable more community-building nightlife venues and vibrant cultural spaces.

Your questions are too open to to interpretation. Your city is in crisis mode. Listen, then take action!

Restarting the Economy after the pandemic.

Instituting more city-owned or non-market housing options, particularly for those suffering from social issues such as poverty and houselessness. Engagement and participatory governance undertaken with equity-seeking groups (Black, Indigenous, person of colour, trans, disabled, unhoused). Education and engagement campaigns that humanize the social issues of poverty and houselessness, and create a more equitable, inclusive understanding of shared public spaces. Also, putting funding towards services & social programs that address the root causes of poverty and houselessness - such as health and hygiene supports, transitional and affordable housing, safe consumption sites and harm reduction, and more broadly, towards alternative response teams (i.e. counsellor, medic/nurse) where police only attend in exceptional circumstances and uniforms/weapons are not the norm, especially for mental health crises. Lessen the city's dependence on bylaw-centred, enforcement-based approaches. Give governance of public lands back to local Indigenous nations or work towards shared governance that center Indigenous legal principles.

Over taxation. City keeps finding new ways to tax businesses and home owners to the brink of disaster

Public safety is of course crucial, but I don't believe that an increase in the budget for police services is what our city needs.

Safety and prosecution of people who commit crimes. City of Victoria celebrates criminals and penalizes hardworking citizens.

Loss of public space. Parks are handed over to a minority at a huge cost. This is not housing. It's just an abdication of responsibility at the taxpayer's expense. Why aren't there tents in Centennial Square? Dry. Supervised. Close to services. Under your noses. Hypocrites.

An alternative response and support for the homeless.

Why isn't the police budget up for discussion? It's a 1/4 of the budget.

Decriminalization of drugs. Use of and dependence upon drugs is a health issue, not a criminal issue.

Focus upon better management of public infrastructure and municipal amenities

Reconciliation and land return

Optional question (227 response(s), 482 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

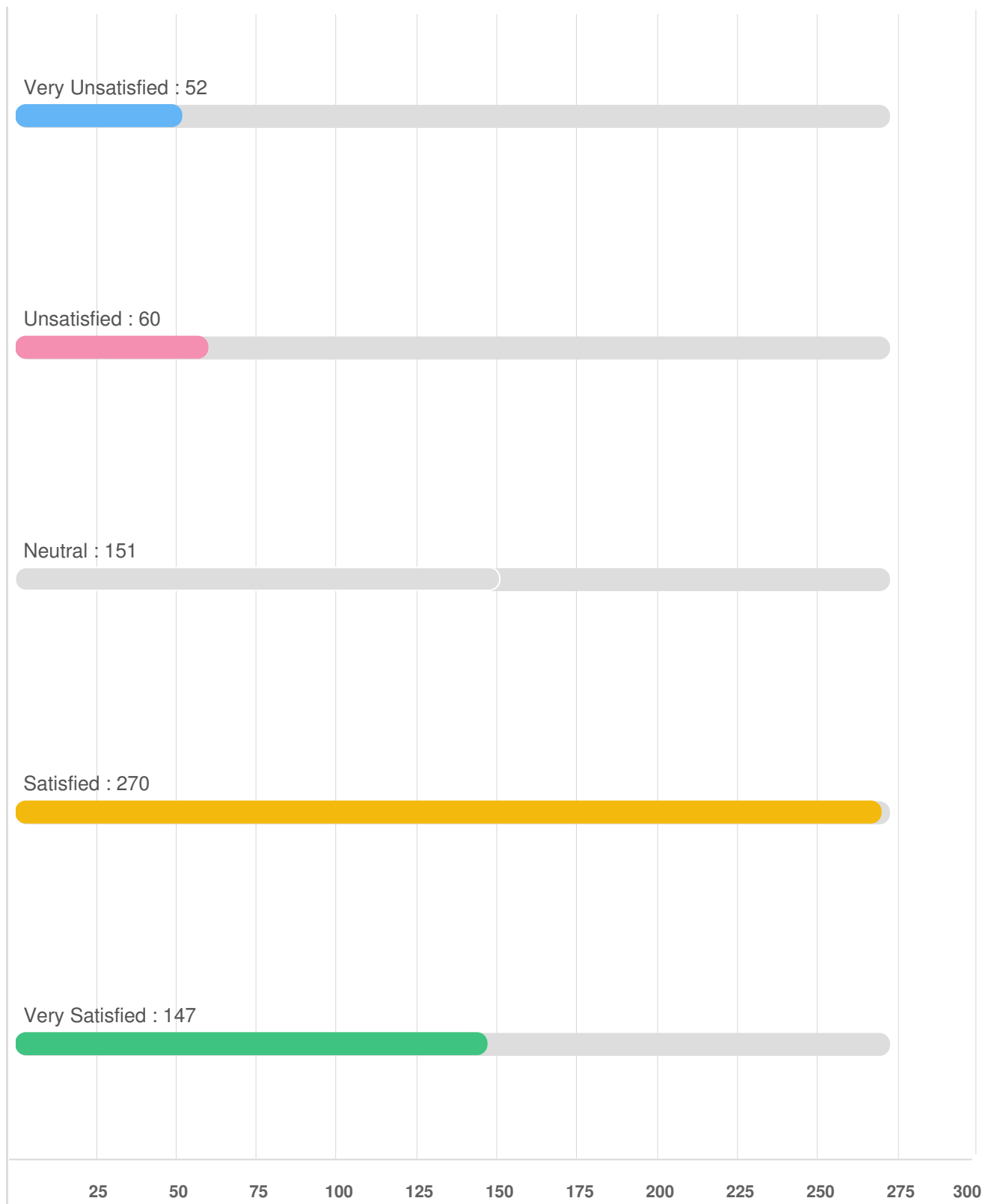
Q4 | How satisfied are you with the availability, repair or maintenance of the City of Victoria's transportation infrastructure/amenities?



Optional question (680 response(s), 29 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q4 | How satisfied are you with the availability, repair or maintenance of the City of Victoria's transportation infrastructure/amenities?

Bike lanes



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Bridges

Very Unsatisfied : 6



Unsatisfied : 19



Neutral : 164

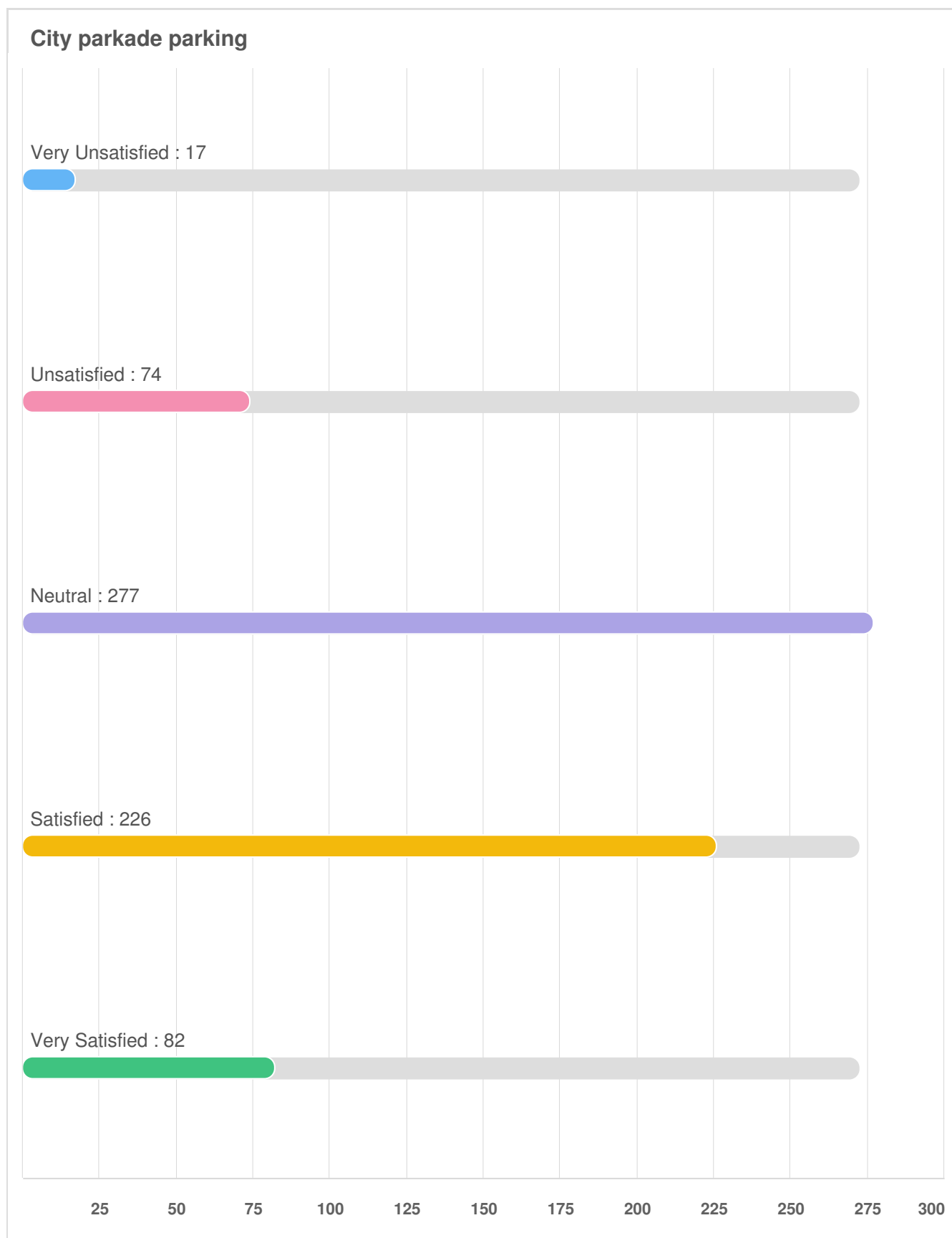


Satisfied : 345



Very Satisfied : 140





Crosswalks

Very Unsatisfied : 19



Unsatisfied : 85



Neutral : 152

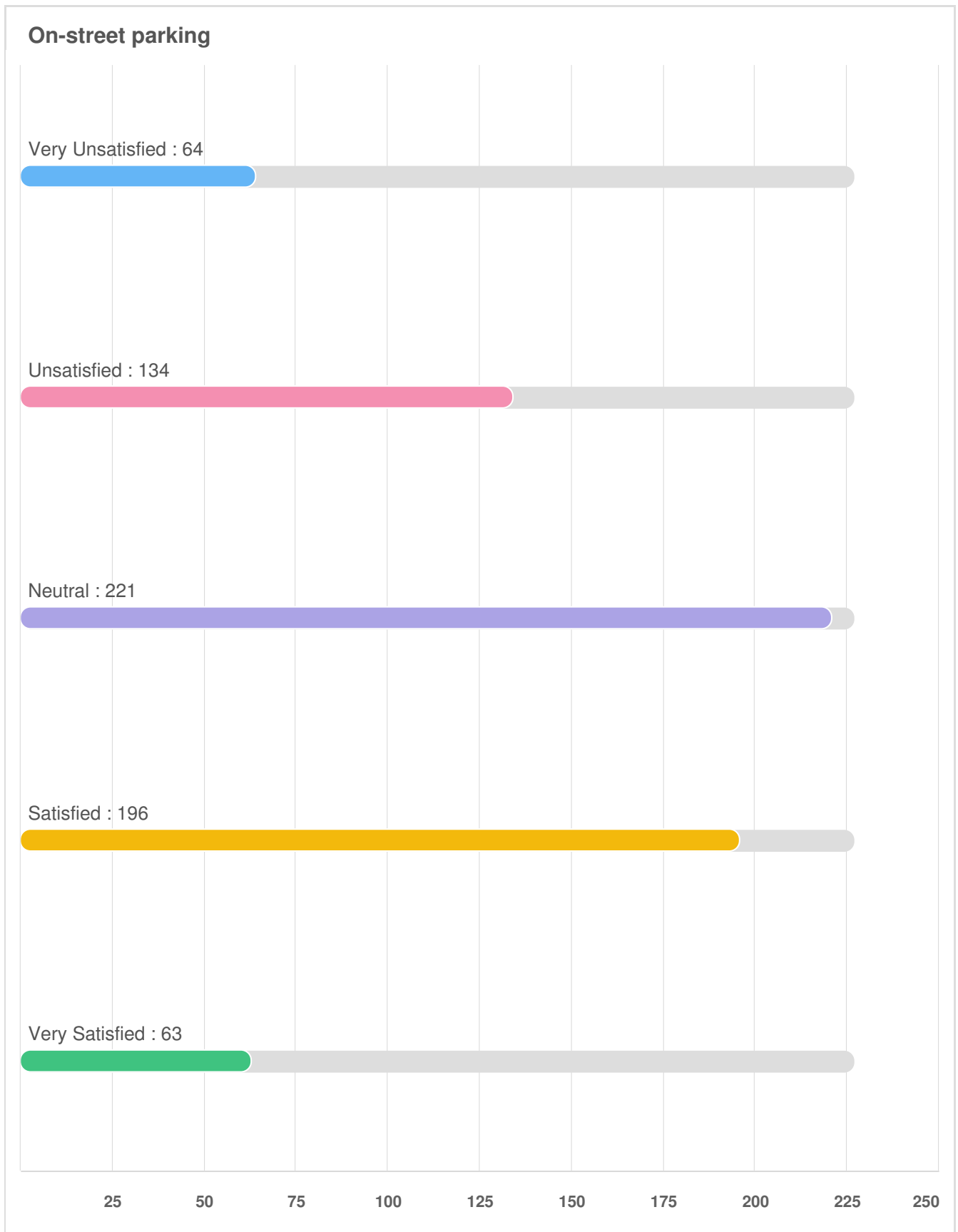


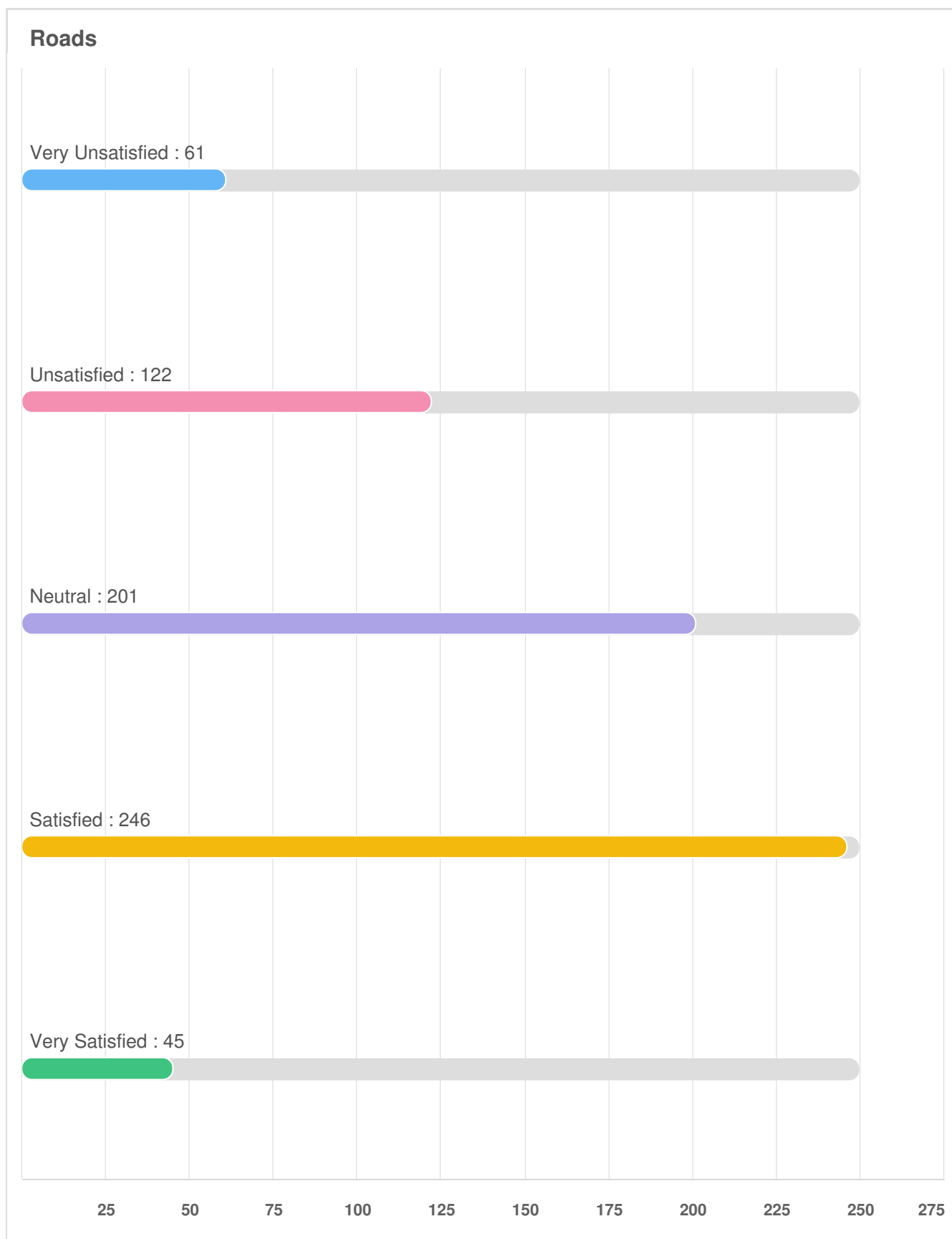
Satisfied : 349



Very Satisfied : 71







Sidewalks

Very Unsatisfied : 32



Unsatisfied : 128



Neutral : 173



Satisfied : 291

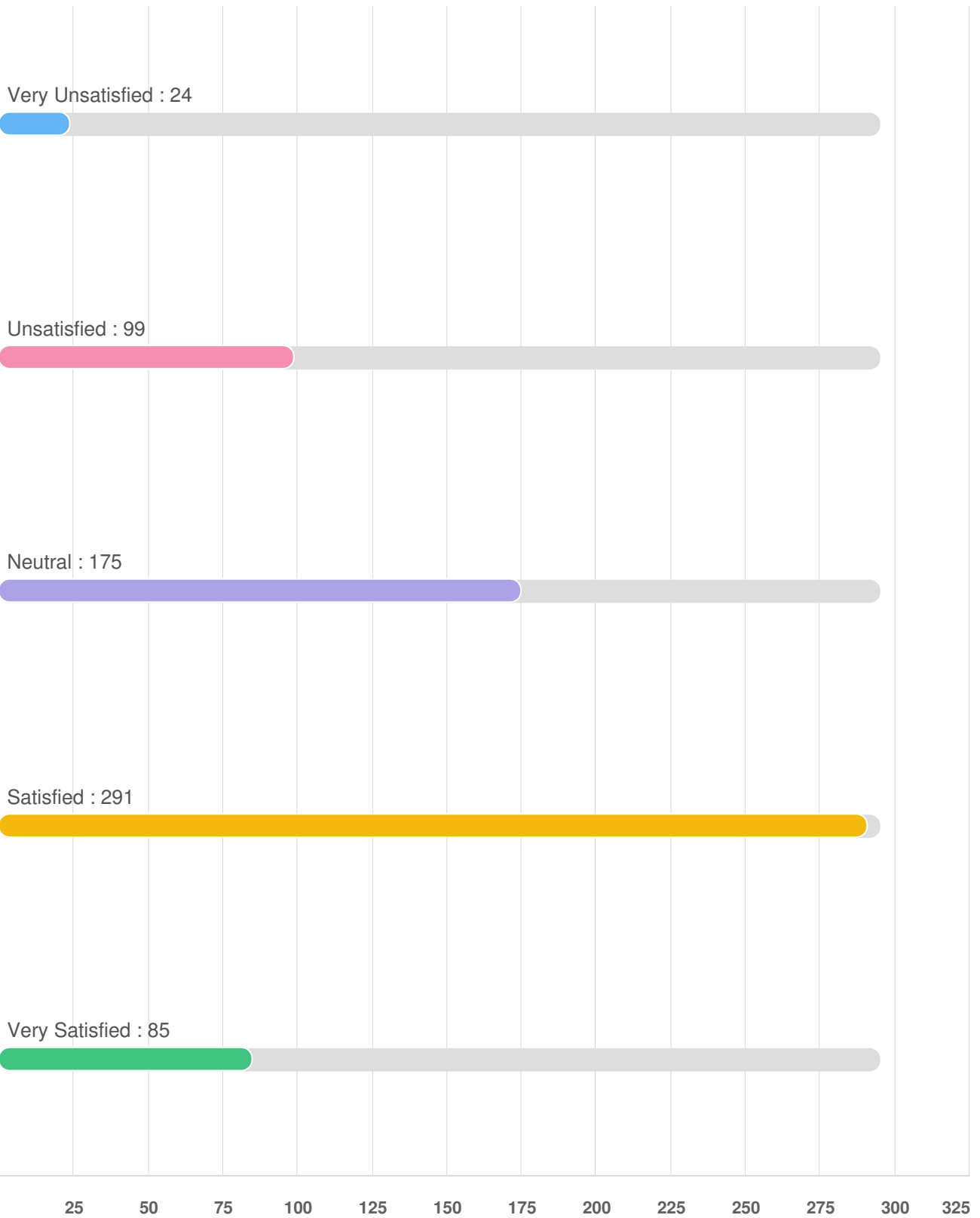


Very Satisfied : 48



25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200 225 250 275 300 325

Streetscaping (boulevards and trees)



Q5 Do you have any comments or suggestions to share on the City's transportation infrastructure budget?

Would like to see more investments in safe crossings, bicycle infrastructure, sidewalks and boulevards, and signal timing, etc. for frequent transit.

Stop building bike lanes! The bike lanes in the downtown core are completely unnecessary. We have enough now. Stop putting crosswalks in the middle of major busy streets (Douglas Blanchard). People can walk the 1/2 block to the nearest light. You don't need to disrupt traffic that is already overwhelming by putting another bike lane or crosswalk in the middle of a street when there is an intersection half a block away on either side.

Stop prioritizing vehicles and give more space to sustainable transportation.

More budget allocation to crosswalks and pedestrian infrastructure. Love the safe bike network, thank you!

I would emphasize that parking/car infrastructure is NOT a priority, and that transportation infrastructure for people IS: i.e. public transportation options, cycling supports and even walking must be prioritized to be more accessible, safe and affordable/attractive means for commuters, parents and errand-runners.

Please stop wasting much needed city funds on street scaping projects that bring no value or value to few.

Enough with the bike lanes. Spend some money fixing the roads and sidewalks in residential areas.

Expedite accessibility improvements re. longstanding barriers. Budget does not say what the City will do, unlike previous years.

Replant native trees, plant and landscape more spaces naturally. Reduce impervious surfaces where possible. Keep up the good work with bike lanes. Even people that also drive, bus, walk, and cycle like me love them.

Reduce the length of free time in parkades to 30 mins, 1 hour free parking is too long.

I'm very pleased with the focus on the AAA infrastructure.

bike lanes were poorly designed

Parking is not the devil! Neither are cars. Quit trying to make it hell on earth to own a car in this city! It's insanely expensive to park down town and it affects people who work and live down town. It's making life far less affordable and more stressful

We have too much vehicle parking, we need more secure bike parking. As a cyclist and an advocate, I see people wanting to trade in their vehicle for a bike, but too many get stolen. More safe infrastructure such as bike lanes and safe streets.

Please add some secure bicycle parking in Victoria. As a Cyclist on the Peninsula I can cycle Victoria, but not stay downtown for shopping, restaurants or concerts without secure bicycle parking.

Remove the pedestrian lane on St. Charles by Fairfield shopping centre. No one uses it and it impedes traffic. It is dangerous

Would love to see more pedestrian focused initiatives

free transit.

how is the electrical recharging network's building going? and yes for the battery powered 'wheelchairs' too ?

I would if I could find it. Clicked my way through all the links above. No bananas.

Traffic lights on north-south arterial roadways need to be synchronized .

Vancouver street idea is wonderful. More green spaces around the city would be beneficial for the public

The rating system is unclear here. I want to be able to share how I feel, but I can be satisfied or unsatisfied for very different reasons on each side of the spectrum! I love our bike lanes but we need many more complete streets. We need much less parking, so I am unsatisfied, but I don't want my dissatisfaction to signal that we need more. Crosswalks are overwhelmingly invisible--please paint more crosswalks, especially those that are legally there! Please convert on street parking to walking, biking, and co-op car share facilities. Roads need to be calmed, narrowed, and have fewer lanes and reduced speed limits. Sidewalks need building and widening. Streetscaping is not a priority--please revert plantings to sustainable native plants that need less maintenance.

Crosswalks and bike lanes need to be more inclusive to the blind community

The crosswalks on Oak Bay Avenue past Richmond need attention. The lines are faded and have not been painted in 4 years. The lighting is poor!

I do not understand why the bike lanes are so contentious - they are a good thing, and also not an unusual thing for a city of this size to have.

So many of our roads are in a terrible need of repair. Whether driving or biking on them, their condition is shocking.

We have more than enough bike lanes.

Free transit

There should be Light rail from the ferry to the city core, serving the peninsula and those communities in between. So, increase on the whole.

Fix the crumbling sidewalks downtown - they're a safety hazard that cause falls resulting in injury.

Addition of speed deterrents in protected bike lanes to discourage high speed travel in congested areas (Wharf Street)

Bike lanes being added on roads where there is no need (ie Humbolt, Richardson). Two-way bike lanes on one way streets are counterintuitive expensive and dangerous

Too much money spent on bike lanes that support too few

Increase and expand it, maybe take it from policing.

We need fare-free public transit for all, to reduce on street parking downtown, create more pedestrian space downtown, increase our protected bike network, and accelerate momentum on all these issues

Fix the roads!

even in some of the newer infrastructure changes curb cuts are not being placed at appropriate places. Plan with access in mind.

Noise and pollution level of diesel buses

More parking spaces are needed, especially downtown. The cost of parking is also too high.

All we wanted was bike lanes that don't block the flow of vehicle traffic.

Not really much to say about maintenance of bicycling network until it is actually completed.

I love the proportion for active transportation. SO Important!

pause bike lanes for awhile and get back to greenways development / road maintenance

must make public transport easy and relatively pleasant to use

No more huge car lots in the city. And couldn't some parking space be better used?

Infrastructure shouldn't take a back seat to tent cities, climate change and reconciliation

Cut down all the Ginkgo trees and those red berry trees along Pembroke street side of RAP. What a F-ing mess! Replace these with trees that grow human edible fruit and that will be harvested by neighbours and organizations like LifeCycles.

Care and maintenance of sidewalks, crosswalks and curbs that improve accessibility conditions. Walking with a walker always means eyes down.

I don't feel safe parking in the parkades now. Once the pandemic is over, there won't be enough parking spaces downtown. People will shop elsewhere and we could end up with the DTES in Victoria. Don't let that happen.

Please continue to prioritize active modes of transport.

Wish the bike lanes were more visible - don't stand out in low light

More frequent buses in Fairfield / less circuitous routes. More comprehensive thinking on the bike lanes. The bus stop issue regarding visually impaired people is indicative of poor quality for dollar consultants.

cross walks should all be consistent and include option for flashing lights

The new bike lane network is much appreciated and vital to developing a sustainable future for Victoria. Keeping the bus system operating in spite of COVID challenges is important. Developing the E&N corridor for commuter rail must be entered into the overall CRD plan.

Wider sidewalks wherever possible! I don't cycle but appreciate the new bike lane infrastructure very much as a pedestrian too, and also feel more comfortable with them as a driver than the non-separated bike lanes.

Always very pleased with the repair level of Victoria transpo infrastructure. Hope to see continued efforts to reduce private vehicle traffic downtown.

I am happy that we continue to invest in public transit, cycling and walking infrastructure. Thank you so much! <3

If you want people to take public transit more often make it free. There are many examples of cities successfully doing this.

Too much money spent on cycling infrastructure without adequate ensuring people know the rules of the road as it applies to cycling and proliferation of impunity for cycling violations.

I would like the city to push for the completion of the AAA bicycle network to be finished as soon as possible

Bike lanes on Vancouver Street significantly NEGATIVELY impact the neighbourhood. I am often stranded, unable to get out with all the construction on alternate north/south routes and now I read YYJ wants to remove another east/west option too, Dallas road.

In a city with many seniors and tourists, the confusing addition of two-way bike lanes on one-way streets has reduced parking and made it difficult to negotiate downtown streets safely. For the record, I do ride a bicycle.

Walking infrastructure and public transportation should be higher priorities than more cycling infrastructure.

Widen sidewalks and please keep infrastructure (traffic signs, electric poles, etc) off the sidewalk. The Harbour Rd bike lanes are excellent, but there's so much stuff occupying the sidewalk space the it's awkward to navigate when it's busy, for example.

Please prioritize

Wider sidewalks. Enforcement of bike lanes and cyclists.

It's time to step back this year from large scale road changes and focus on housing affordability and finding services for vulnerable populations. The police need help with the widespread social challenges.

The parking metres installed in parkades should be removed and return them to the way they were (first hour free, collect your parking ticket on the way in) to encourage more people to go downtown.

I like the approach and specific projects planned. The transportation staff seems excellent and their presentations are always thorough. Based on project outcomes to date, I am inclined to trust their expertise.

Traffic flow is terrible. Bidirectional bike lanes on a one way street is expensive, dangerous and terrible for traffic flow.

Removal of bike lanes. They only serve a select few. Improve bus system as it's inclusive for everyone

I support removing the roadway at Mile Zero to add green space; support moving forward quickly with the sustainable mobility infrastructure; more traffic calming; City should seek to reduce on-street parking and one-level parking lots. Close down Government Street to vehicle traffic

My wife and I drive our truck because it is more economical and efficient than transit. It shouldn't be! Make transit affordable and good.

We need GPS tracking on buses, it's embarrassing we still don't. Buses often leave early or late making for a long wait sometimes. And start investing in rail!

I'd like to see more street scraping along Bay Street. It's a main corridor and it would be nice to see it done similarly to how Esquimalt Road was done.

the deadmans inlet bridge on the galloping goose trail is extremely uncomfortable to ride on with a bike. please consider some solution to this.

I think prioritizing the completion of the bike network should continue to be a top priority. We're already about a year behind previous schedules and I think finishing the next parts along Fort/Pandora/Oak Bay Ave/ and on to Jubilee, followed by Gorge and James Bay connectors should be priorities. I like that the City is continuing to improve walkability/livability in neighbourhoods with speed bumps and crosswalks, for example (I have two on my street and I quite like them). I would caution that the Beacon Hill/Mile Zero thing may be a bit distracting and raise public ire when it doesn't need to be at the moment, but I still support it. Finally, I think we should make the road closure to cars at the north end of Beacon Hill to the ring road permanent and we should reinstate the blockage of Government St to cars.

Once it was reopened people in cars again are recklessly speeding up that narrow route and its both dangerous and a clear downgrade from what it used to be. Increasing bus only lanes would also be a good thing.

Vancouver street is now a real stupid move. It makes people drive around more and defeats the purpose. Also why is Rockland now opened up and not remained closed? If Vancouver street is for bikers why isn't Rockland now opened up. Cook street is getting too busy and some of the residential streets are also getting busier because of these bike lanes. Very worried about the side street traffic after Richardson is turned into bike lanes. Too much is being spent on bike lanes and not enough thought about people who cannot ride a bike or choose not to.

All crosswalks that don't already have lights need those solar powered pedestrian controlled lights.

Put some money into making sidewalks accessible for pedestrians; e.g. Fairfield Road between Blanshard and Quadra one cannot get a wheelchair down this sidewalk because of the power poles in the middle of the sidewalk - how about widening the sidewalks around the powerpoles. DOWNTOWN - how about getting the bicyclists OFF the sidewalks. Get the SMOKERS off the sidewalks so we can breathe relatively fresh air when walking downtown.

Too much attention to biking - we've caught up - back to balance

Protected bike lanes everywhere!

I have had it with bikes lanes to the exclusion of vehicles being able to move and find parking and to access business, restaurants (eg. Keg @ Wharf). Signage to accommodate bikes lanes is overwhelming and a distraction. New bus only lanes are good.

Love the bike lanes and commitment to active transportation

Bike lanes were done too hastily, creating ill will. A more gradual approach would have been better and more easily accepted by citizens. I also don't think it's necessary to have two-way bike lanes on Victoria's narrow and busy downtown streets. One-way bike lanes on alternate streets would have sufficed. On a positive note, the buses are exceptional. Perhaps do an advertising campaign to promote more bus ridership.

Consult public before cutting down trees for bike lanes.

Roads are in rough shape. Keep up the great work on bike lanes!

The roads are a mess, pot holes everywhere, yet money is being spent on bike lanes. I am a bike commuter but have yet to use the new lanes. I can see the traffic getting worse in part from the crazy bike lanes that make no sense. Why two way on a one way street? Also, the way the lights are arranged, traffic does not flow, especially on Douglas and Cook streets. It's almost like you want to pit vehicles against cyclists.

Put some money into repairing pot holes. We have a street which is a disaster to drive on. 1000 block of Redfern Street

The principle of recent developments on Dallas Road and Vancouver Street is good but the designs are disappointing. Detailed design review is needed. For example, the Dallas Road development misjudged high pedestrian volumes and creates a conflict between walkers and and cyclists immediately to the east of the breakwater. On Vancouver Street at McClure, the design doesn't reflect pedestrian desire lines and there's an unnecessary curb cut 'bump' for cyclists. The proposed Richardson Street AAA plan must be postponed and re-worked. There are higher priorities at this time.

More bike lanes and public transit.

I support improvements to pedestrian and bike lane infrastructure in hopes that these improvements will shift travel modes away from private vehicles.

Bike lanes are fine if they are bike lanes. Blocking off roads for bike priority is wrong

Hold off on any more investment in bike lanes, removal of street parking and closure of roads to make no traffic areas.

I support safe bike lane infrastructure and accessible infrastructure for those with mobility issues. Closer inspection should be given to non residents parking on residential streets. Although it has not been as much of an issue during the pandemic, living in North Park, next to Crystal Pool, Royal Athletic Park, and the Save-On stadium, there is often a struggle to find parking for residents because visitors occupy resident-only spaces and there is no enforcement unless called.

Without a good understanding of the costs associated w/ maintaining and building new transportation infrastructure, as well as spending increases over the longer term, (not just 2020-2021) with adjustment for inflation, etc. it is hard to comment on whether funds are being spent efficiently and equitably. The one comment is with bike lanes. I ride a bike frequently and commute to work via bike often but the reality is, is I believe when we see growth in economic inequality and exclusion from our local social and economic environments less money should be spent on improving a mode of

transportation that benefits generally those who have, than have not.

I believe this is currently already a priority or policy, but it would be fantastic to see boulevards be planted with native plants, and more native trees be planted in boulevards. As a cyclist and a car driver, I am so enthused to see all the safe bicycle infrastructure that has been installed over the recent years. The infrastructure makes my commutes and movements about the city WAY safer, and more pleasant and contributes to sustainability and health of our community. It also, in my experience makes for safer bicycle - car interactions, and minimizes the possibility for dangerous car-bicycle situations. Thanks for prioritizing sustainable transportation infrastructure. Victoria is a pleasant city to walk and cycle in!

Stop being an enemy of cars and people who drive them, rely on them and use them for employment

It would be nice to have more crosswalks available in the residential areas along busy roads such as Cook street, for example, and also wider sidewalks. Hopefully that would improve road safety and encourage people to take the streets back from the individual vehicles.

There is still a lot of work to do for accessibility in Victoria, especially outside the downtown core (widening sidewalks, making more space for pedestrians, lighting on trails like the Galloping Goose).

Who hired the lunatic that put two-way bike lanes on one way streets? And why are the bike lanes on Pandora and Fort of different sides of the street (making turning right a holy terror for drivers, but only half the time)? And why build a two way bike lane on Wharf street instead of converting government into a pedestrian/bike only street? The millions of dollars that have been wasted on this totally illogical and dangerous bike plan is infuriating. And yes, I'm a bicyclist. Finally, why has the city decided to throw out all reason and put a British style cross-walk in only one location. Total nonsense and dangerous for drivers and bicyclists alike.

I appreciate what you've done for bike infrastructure but there is more that can be done. I would like it so that children can safely bike this city alone - that is, more separated bike lanes are appreciated! Also would be great to see sidewalks widened in high traffic areas. I would also like to see the general speed limit reduced to 40km per hour in addition to the planned 30km/hr on local streets. The death /severe injury rate when cars hit bikes and pedestrians goes down dramatically at 40 km per hour and there is no reason to go at 50km/hr on Cook, Pandora, Bay, etc.

NO MORE BIKE LANES!!

Please spend more and faster on bike lanes. Please provide incentives for ZEVs, such as priority parking or reduced parking fees for ZEVs/higher parking fees for fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Please implement a congestion

fee for fossil fuel-powered vehicles entering the downtown core.

Less money on bike lanes. More money on repairs of sidewalks and roads.

Very grateful for the additional bike lanes and looking forward to making use of the new corridor on Vancouver street.

More parking downtown. Increase speed limit 50k on main roads (bus routes)

Very unsatisfied with on-street parking because there is too much. It should be more restricted and priced to reduce vehicle use. Also, current by-laws should be enforced (inc. distanced vehicles must be from curbs).

Abolish TransLink fees, they're just a tax on the poor. Instead, make all TransLink services free and pay for it with increases in property taxes and other wealth taxes

The city looks beautiful.

Repair: State of many roads unsafe for biking (potholes) and potentially damaging for some vehicles. Streetscapes: while well maintained, in my view, most new high-density developments are not allowing for boulevards and green layering of shrubs and trees which would contribute significantly to Victoria's urban design and modestly to GHG management.

Transportation should enable people to get from A to B efficiently and safely regardless of their chosen mode of transportation.

Pause on further bike lane infrastructure; fix pot holes; replace native vegetation (looks like weeds) on islands, intersections etc. and return to a beautiful blooming city that once was. The recent practice has removed a sense a pleasure and makes the city look dispirited, affecting our mental health.

Yes , fix the potholes on residential streets - Fairfield has become a minefield! Look at Ross street - dangerous - same with lower st Charles , and Wildwood ! Holes !

We need way more cycling infrastructure in a more expedient (but still engaging) manner that reflects global best practices - no 2-way paths. Less parking, less touching of the sidewalk by developers.

Building additional roads or widening existing roads will only serve to INCREASE traffic and road usage in the long-term. Improving public transportation options (e.g., frequency & types) can help ameliorate some of that, particularly for connections between the CRD municipalities.

Get rid of all transportation infrastructure that privileges car owners - residential parking should not be free. Read Neil Arason's book 'No Accident' and begin to implement inexpensive and easy to do changes that will save lives and make roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Reduce speeds on all neighbourhood roads to 30km/hour.

Less signage

More attention to potholes on streets and to damaged sidewalks that pose a hazard to pedestrians

Would love to see more pedestrian improvements.

Free bus passes for youth is working

There are many streets (eg. cook street) where cars parking on the street narrows the roads, making visibility difficult.

While I support bike lanes they are causing serious traffic load and safety issues on other streets, namely those by schools. Funds should be directed to prevent harm and accidents. Looking at Fairfield, between Cook and Foul Bay, Fernwood Ave and Cook Street near George Jay

A huge fan of all of the bike corridors! Safe, sustainable transportation for all is a major asset to residents living in the city.

Our transit system is archaic, need a better payment system such as Vancouver's compass cards or tapping visa or debit cards. Also, Fix my gutter that your city truck ripped off my house and defund the police.

Should be more options for people with disabilities and low income

I would like to see more accessible sidewalks and protected bike lanes.

we need lights at vic west skatepark! there isn't much daylight during the winter

At the start of the pandemic, busses were changed to a free fare overnight BUT before the pandemic city officials have said it would take years to make that change??? This doesn't add up. Also what happened to eliminating pay parking on Sunday in exchange for free transit??? MAKE TRANSIT FREE FOR ALL

The roads absolutely need reflective painting so we can see while driving at night, especially in rain.

Have more walkable areas downtown, reduce reliance on the motor vehicle

Free public transit

Increasing accessibility for folks with disabilities and mobility challenges is imperative.

We need more affordable parking options for downtown residents without parking available in their apartments and condos

Replacing street parking with bicycle lanes is short sighted. Some peoples commute cannot be transferred to a bicycle.

Fully electric/hydrogen busses

Create and easy to read and use guide for people to know all bike routes across the city

Make busses cheaper

The new one way on Vancouver st sucks.

I am a bicyclist and it can't understand the logic behind many of the bike lane decisions. For instance, putting in a giant grocery store on Vancouver street, a bike lane that lasts half a block, then forcing traffic onto other roads on Vancouver. The problem is that forcing traffic onto Cook and Vancouver actually makes it more stressful and scary for bicyclists that have to use those roads. The city has been slowly eliminating any 1 and 2 hour parking options around the downtown core. These are important for people who are lower income and need to quickly run errands. I am becoming more frightened on roads such as Chambers street, as cars are being diverted there by virtue of the slowing down of Cook street and elimination of cars on Vancouver. Its really important to look at longer term ramifications of these decisions. Vancouver should have always been a bike lane, but that should have been with printed indicators on the road, where cars know they have to share or yield. That way you don't force or constrict traffic. This often makes people rage on the road or maybe alternate routes less safe.

Allocate more funds to public transportation and bike lanes.

Stop spending money on bike lanes and tearing up primary roads. You are killing the downtown core. Keep bike lanes to low traffic roads.

Gorge Rd. from Harriet towards Tillicum really could use bigger sidewalks. It is hard on the nervous system walking along here with children. Parking in the parkade has gotten too expensive for me.

Add money for road repair. Ignoring roads isn't helpful, and will cost more in the long run if you don't do basic preventive maintenance now. Focus more on rapid bus lanes. If there isn't enough money to take on all your projects WITHOUT a tax increase, defer further bike lane expansion for a future year, vs. trying to expedite this.

It continues to shock me that a city like Victoria, with its aging population, still has such an incredible lack of sidewalks on both sides of the street, or sidewalks that would be navigable by people using mobility devices. I understand that right-of-ways make retroactively adding sidewalks challenging, but I am confident there are scenarios where a combination of priorities and political will are the main factors.

Far too much money is wasted on bike lanes.

I'm happy to see more bike lanes, but the civil design approach is poor. Some intersections are a terrible mess these days, with odd road rules and dividing lines and all sorts of things like that. I think it's worth the extra planning and money to make these changes designed for the long-term, with ease of use always in mind.

Actual cyclists (I'm talking about any of the number of high level road cyclists in Victoria... a good place to start would be TripleShot Cycling) SHOULD be consulted by the engineering firm contracted with making the bike lanes. I love that there are more cycling-protected areas to ride safely, however the newer lanes put in are quite dangerous (metal poles in a high speed turn on the waterfront?!? DANGER!). I think actual road cyclists are a great resource because they spend a lot of time in high-risk situations with cars, and understand the flow of traffic, and the best way to safely ride around our city.

Bay st. Is an active commuting lane to Esquimalt, and is horrible to bike on, the neighborhood routes adjacent to it are unworkable (haultain is only good til cook st.)

more public transportation options, expanded bus route & more affordable options for commute

The parkades are amazing. There is always a lot of construction on the

roads. I do not like what they've done to Vancouver street making different sections one day and such.

Concern about the lack of adherence to 30 kilometre zones in many neighborhoods and greenways. We need more speed bumps installed on these streets to force adherence to the posted zones. More time spent in local City of Victoria boundary neighborhoods due to pandemic has highlighted this problem because we are spending more time outside locally and it is not difficult to gauge both personal vehicles and commercial vehicles going above the 30km posted limit on a daily basis.

As a citizen who uses the bike lanes, walks and buses frequently at all times of the day, I am at a loss for why we wouldn't put more money towards this area to provide more temporary jobs with projects around the city. Extra jobs, even if temporary, will provide a wage for those who may turn to other ways of making money other wise, hence helping to keep citizens like myself safer at all hours of the day.

Money should only be spent on necessities right now. Beautification is not a priority when the budget is too low to fund housing for the homeless

Not enough parking and it's expensive. This discourages economic stimulation of the downtown core. More parades or additions to existing parades.

Don't spend excess on decorative sidewalks/crosswalks that don't last.

More streetcaping downtown

Please continue investments in sustainable transportation and reduce parking.

I'm all for the bike lanes popping up everywhere but please if you're spending all this money, re-pave the roads as well. The road conditions lately serve a double purpose of giving me an unintended massage on any commute.

more funding to give access to affordable/ free bc transit for those who need it!!

more bike lanes, free transit, train line between Victoria and surrounding communities

Free transportation for students

BC transit is inconsistent at best, especially the lesser travelled routes such

as bus 83

Cheaper bus fare, less busses where there's lots, more busses on routes like the 72 that comes only once every 30 minutes and is usually always full

Could a possible make work program for the jobless / homeless people be streetscaping and other unskilled tasks the city has?

I would say majority of our roads and sidewalks need repair. We also need more people in jobs cleaning the streets. Especially around downtown and high risk areas. It's actually very disgusting.

Bus passes should be assessed based on annual income and should be cheaper or free for low income folks and houseless people

Increase the amount of complete streets even if it means decreasing the total amount of parking spots. Make pedestrians top priority over vehicles.

I highly support the free youth bus passes program.

Everyone in my neighbourhood put all of our leaves in nice orderly piles at the front of our driveways in time for pick up. The city didn't show up until after the new year, picked up about half the leaves and left our neighbourhood in a bigger mess than they found it. Maybe it's time to start spending more money on basic road maintenance.

Stop wasting infrastructure money on "social engineering" projects, instead maintain what already exists.

With a lot of houses being built and many large, heavy trucks coming in and out of the Fairfield area, a lot of the old roads took quite a beating. Some of these roads have been patched but all the patch jobs did was create protrusion instead of holes, making for an equally undrivable road.

BC Transit is unreliable and inconsistent, and fares are too expensive. Public transportation should actually be PUBLIC meaning no upfront cost from those who take the bus.

appreciate bike lanes and hope to continue to see more; pedestrian infrastructure like sidewalks has seemed lacking now that people want more space from each other when walking

lets get some more trees planted please!

Make it more accessible for those with mobility devices such as canes and wheelchairs! Make the bike lanes have less potholes and hazards.

make parking more affordable/accessible

I appreciate the continued focus on multimodal transportation, both in terms of inclusion/accessibility as well as sustainability. I use the bike lane network everyday, and look forward to it's expansion. I also appreciate the widening of sidewalks and reclaiming of road space for use by pedestrians and cyclists throughout Covid-19. There are some crosswalks in town on busy roads (ex: Bay) that could use pedestrian activated lights, as opposed to just hoping fast-moving vehicles will see you and slow down.

Make public transportation FREE. No more bus passes.

Please, spend less money on the police and more money on providing housing and community supports.

Not enough residential parking with the number of properties becoming multi-unit due to the housing shortage

Please continue to support the expansion of all forms of active transportation, including transit, cycle and walking infrastructure. In particular, there are still big gaps in the bike map that need to be filled. Although Victoria has made some good progress in this area (excited for the Vancouver St. improvements!), there is still a lot of work to do before our infrastructure supports people of all ages and abilities cycling for their daily commutes. I choose to live car-free because of my concern for the environment. I commute between Saanich and Victoria for work everyday by walking, cycling or taking transit. Living without a vehicle is quite inconvenient when cities do not sufficiently support the infrastructure needed for active transportation. I think Victoria can do a lot better and I look forward to improvements that will make it easier for all of us to choose active transportation more frequently.

I think it should be given more funds to continue the great work they are doing improving accessibility.

In the future more night buses would be beneficial

More bike lanes are needed

Less cars, more public transport, more bikes.

More nature and boulevards. Less car traffic in the downtown core (buses

okay!)

Needs to be increased at expense of corporate head office activities and discretionary spending

Stop with the bike lanes

Bike lanes have not improved transportation, they have made it more confusing to drive in the city and therefore more dangerous to both cyclists and drivers. As a cyclist myself, I find I most likely travel into the city to purchase things. Since many live far from the city centre they are unlikely to be motivated bike a significant distance, especially if they need to bring things (shopping and such) home and especially if it's in the winter. A more consistent and better transit system would make it more likely for most to leave their car at home.

Please repave all horrible roadways and add a bike lane on shelbourne street!

The City of Victoria should continue to focus on sustainable transportation in the city by promoting biking and walking. This has started to happen by implementing large scale bike lanes running through the down town core. Further roads should be blocked off to promote pedestrian usage as was done to government street during most of 2020. Focusing on this will help bring many values together such as sustainability, safety, livable neighborhoods and social issues as well.

Eliminate dangerous left turns across Highway 17 and the Malahat at Goldstream Park. Improve street lighting throughout the city.

Please look at timing of traffic lights. The time it takes to drive through town is ridiculous, and is bad for the environment.

I support more bike lanes and boulevards to encourage alternative transportation.

While I applaud the efforts to increase safety for cycling I feel that cheaper upgrades for pedestrians are still being neglected. Glad to see there is some budget for pedestrian upgrades, but almost all of it is going to the Peter Pollen walkway not to neighbourhood connectivity.

no more bike lanes!! fix the roads!! repair and maintain or replace aging infrastructure.

Stop the insanity of the bike lanes.

There should be flashing lights at all crosswalks which would make it safer for pedestrians since vehicles would see ahead of time that they were there, and have more time to stop. Traffic would move better downtown if vehicles turning right didn't have to wait for pedestrians to cross at the light. By the time they have crossed, the light is ready to turn red again, and not many vehicles move through.

Continue to expand separated bike lanes beyond downtown to major arterials. Fund or advocate for CRD funding for electrified transit infrastructure and an efficient bus system. Decrease parking spot requirements for affordable housing developments. Close some of downtown entirely to motorized vehicles.

Bike lanes on Wharf Street are a nightmare for vehicle traffic flow without a left turn lane at Fort Street. Numerous street intersections have vegetation on adjacent properties that impede a motorist's view which is a safety hazard. The bike lane proposed for Kimta is totally unnecessary & will result in numerous parking spaces being lost. This proposal is an example of ideology taking precedent over common sense & undermines public support for council initiatives.

I'm baffled by the "Upgrades" on May Street and Memorial Crescent where I agree the city has made the curb appeal nicer but the function worse as both roads are now too narrow for two way traffic, especially since they are both bus roads. The upgrades could have done and not narrowed the roads. I also don't see the need to do a similar improvement at Mile Zero.

Please continue your efforts in making this city more walkable and pedestrian friendly. It adds to the vibrancy of the city.

My comment is that bike lanes are great and I am in support of this type of transportation even though i no longer commute this way. I think it was a very good investment to create a great cycling network although Im curious how the usage stats are year round. Weather is the main reason i choose not to cycle in the other 8 months of the year. I wonder what could incentivise people to cycle year round... I dont have an answer myself!

traffic lights that cause traffic backups on the main corridors and the mess you are making on Vancouver Street, Wharf Street, Humbolt Street, Richardson Street etc

Increase budget for public transportation and make it free for everyone. Budget should include process to begin building light rail to connect Victoria to suburbs and rest of the island.

Green transit, and make it affordable and accessible!

I support bike lanes and active transportation initiatives.

rapid transit, more bus lanes, more buses connecting suburbs to downtown core

A continued focus on sustainable, efficient transportation solutions is needed (buses, bikes, electric vehicles, pedestrian infrastructure), both in terms of the climate crisis and livability.

Less pedestrian vehicle interaction which would mean continuing with street safety measures like the one on Vancouver St. and the Johnson St. bridge area. The idea is contentious but ultimately it would encourage more people to break the habit of using their vehicles to drive short distances. Considering the economic recovery necessary because of the Pandemic this may not be prudent for 2021.

We need to worry more about pedestrians than bicyclists.

Less focus on bike lanes and more focus on maintaining infrastructure we have (ie potholes, dirty parkades).

Expand sustainable transportation infrastructure

Many benefits follow from focusing on pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly streets.

Please do not take anyway any more parking spaces, it's choking local business and driving customers to the west shore.

Keep up the good work on the bike lanes. It would be great to extend the bus pass program to seniors and low income folks. Sidewalks could use some improvement for accessibility (e.g., the sidewalks in Fernwood are sometimes too narrow with the hydro poles for folks with strollers or with mobility aids).

More flowers please

We need a better way to bring commuters in from the suburbs, light rail or ferry from western communities. We need to encourage drivers to choose other forms of transportation including an efficient bus system.

Please stop this bike lane madness. Please allow car traffic move more freely and pollute less. We can not all ride our kids in bubble wrap on a bike to school. it is not doable! plus for us it is not safe to walk them to school as we need to pass thru homeless infected areas. It is unsafe on the bike or walk. When you are fixing the roads, don't do patching, do it properly please. It

looks ridiculous and it needs a new fix soon after. Remove all the parking from main streets so traffic can move faster. This is ridiculous! all cities are trying to speed up their traffic not to clog it. Provide incentives for electric cars purchases if you care about environment. Cycling is not everyones cup of tea, don't force people to buy into your personal hype

this part of the budget should be used to make public transportation free

Good job

Increase speed limit to 50k on main roads

Stop building unnecessary traffic calming infrastructure when you can install a freaking speed bump. Seriously, people speed down alternative routes due to planters being installed in the middle of vancouver street.

Sidewalks need to be wider. People have bushes and trees that grow over the sidewalks. Street signs, telephone poles, fire hydrants and etc are on the sidewalks making the sidewalk, effectively, single lane only. How do people in wheel chairs, manual or electric, manage. My wife and I can't even walk side by side on many sidewalks in the Fernwood, North Park, Oaklands or other neighbourhoods.

The youth bus pass program appears to be not effective, as in the uptake by youth is small. I do not think the city should be pursuing this project. That money can be better deployed to road or sidewalk improvements.

I fully support free public transport for youth and for people with disabilities.

The City's transportation/infrastructure budget should reflect its values of inclusion and equity. For instance, streetscaping should not be used to exclude homeless people from camping and/or congregating. While bike lanes are great, we also need to ensure that there is adequate parking for seniors and people with disabilities. There should be equity assessments that guide the City's transportation infrastructure budget to ensure that decisions to fund/develop infrastructure do not further disadvantage people who are already disadvantaged.

The buses are a nightmare - buses of the same route arriving three at a time, buses not arriving at all on schedule (a regular occurrence)

Good work! Thank you.

Add on-street EV charging stations to encourage uptake of low-carbon

emission transportation options

More cycling infrastructure please!

Less parking, more streets closed off to cars

The current approach to establishing bike lane infrastructure needs to be revised. I support creating a safer environment for cycling, which includes designating lanes. Unfortunately, I believe the way that has been/is being done has been counterproductive in many instances (particularly in the core downtown area) and has resulted in traffic congestion, confusion and frustration and a less safe environment overall for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

When will we consider trains or other forms of rapid transport to or neighbouring municipalities. Also, what happened on Vancouver street with the bike lane? That was weird.

Make transportation free or you're just taxing the poor

Continuing to complete the connectivity of bike lanes to create an integrated system of bike lanes is an important aspect of moving towards alternate transportation options besides vehicles. Establishing a budget for further creation of priority lanes for buses, and HOV lanes, especially on Douglas past Uptown towards the Western Communities would help to mitigate the Colwood Crawl congestion. This would require setting coordinated budget goals with Saanich and the other affected municipalities ie. an integrated transportation plan for the region of Greater Victoria.

No more \$\$ for additional bike lanes at this time. Address the seagull problem. Spend additional money on horticulture and the flower/garden landscaping. Add more trash receptacles!!

Spend a greater share of the transportation budget on walking and cycling infrastructure. We have spent most of the last century focused mostly on automobile infrastructure, so there is a lot of catching up required.

Keep the focus on building safe bicycling routes. Do a better job to do the same for pedestrians.

There is an area in Vic West, near the Roundhouse, that has very few sidewalks. Considering the number of people who live and walk in this community, it would be great if the City would take a look, especially at Kimta Road. Also, the pedestrian area underneath the east side of the Johnston Street Bridge is becoming unsafe, with groups of people using it for social gatherings and not socially distancing. Perhaps there could be more

coordination between City departments to ensure there is input on transportation designs?

Bike lanes always seem the last ones to be maintained. More traffic calming would be welcomed and an improved design guide for road connections that doesn't always prioritize high-speed turns by vehicles.

More bike lanes, crosswalks, and street trees are needed. Parking should be more expensive.

Bike lanes start and then just disappear, putting bicyclists in conflict with cars. Bike infrastructure is cheap to build and maintain. Encourage more bicyclists by filling all the gaps and create a more complete and welcoming network.

Please prioritize regularly scheduled buses on smaller routes (to connect people to main routes, and encourage more people to use transit instead of having 2+ vehicles per household--our streets are not designed for the massive increase in vehicles). The slightly smaller new buses are amazing and all that is needed for the smaller routes--keep this up.

Do not spend any more money on bicycle lanes! Enough money has been spent already.

I really, really appreciate the plan to have a bikeable, walkable, accessible city. I'm not 100% sure of the layout of the Vancouver street bike lane (it's hard as a car to be redirected onto a dead end street (McClure?) and the current frustration of cars feels precarious as a cyclist. But in general, I have LOVED being able to safely and easily cycle through all of the city and I definitely bike more because of it. There are obviously still roads and sidewalks that need repair, but I have really appreciated the efficiency of the city in repairing anything that is flagged quickly (there was antisemitic graffiti on a sidewalk near our house and when I reported it, I was told they were already aware and then it was repaved in a number of days). The extra safety measures at crosswalks, especially the new flashing lights, are excellent. When building new sidewalks, ensuring they're wide enough for wheelchairs is great. And the added COVID sidewalks are excellent - in the Quadra Village, it would be nice to have one on the main street rather than behind Fairways (which typically is not high traffic)

Push for a Royal Bay-Ship Point ferry (or similar downtown terminus), increase active transportation funding, support electrified express trolleys along E&N right of way (rail corridor).

Thank you for making bike infrastructure a priority.

More investment to keep expanding the cycling network. Do not listen to NIMBY and car-centric perspectives. Investment is needed in safe bike parking facilities downtown. Increase parking fees to reflect the value of land

it takes up.

The roads in Victoria need a lot of work. Piecemeal patchwork is not an appropriate solution, we need a complete replacement of most of the city's main roads.

there is far too much emphasis on car culture, we need to move toward car-free/car-lite lifestyles, please invest more in bike lanes, streetscaping and pedestrian safety

I don't agree with the idea of charging for street parking on Sundays in order to finance youth bus passes. Return free parking on Sundays.

Please put in more crosswalks.

We need to prioritize long term accessibility in the public realm including the widening of sidewalks and increased retrofit of crosswalk curb ramps. The pandemic has clearly shown that this type of infrastructure benefits both able-bodied and disabled people in significant ways.

Need more and more reliable public transportation. Bike lanes are moving in the right direction, but the city should pursue making the downtown area more walkable and accessible without an automobile.

bike lanes need to be true aaa and we need to make this on all bike lanes that exist. We also need to lower speed limits and increase the satisfaction of transit users.

I think the transit shelters all over the city are getting unsightly, the old ones are just old and all of them are filthy. Waste containers seemingly never cleaned and take too long to empty

FREE BUS PASSES

TELL CITY COUNCIL TO STOP WITH THE BIKE LANES!!!! MAKE ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS WALK AND NO SPECIAL PARKING FOR THEM.

You need to address the major parking issues downtown. Never enough parking,

More complete streets upgrades, more pedestrian only spaces. Phase out cars over time.

Many of the roads are in extremely bad condition and need repaving not just patchwork repairs - many potholes

Happy to see more streets move away from being priority car routes and towards more inclusive pedestrian and cycling routes.

I would like to see more investment in safe, active transportation options, including protected bike lanes and safer intersections for cyclists and pedestrians.

Some crossings seems unsafe still, but that seems more to do with drivers.

Stop with the bike lanes and repair the roads. So many potholes, bad for cars and bikes.

Too many bike lanes, fix roads and support those who need to use cars for transportation

More bike lanes, more public transportation.

No

Enough money on bike lanes already!

Try lower cost bike improvements. Ours were very expensive and I'm not sure we got money worth when vancouver threw down some cement barriers and paint and essentially outcome is the same.

The south west corner of Blanshard and Pandora has no handicapped parking or drop off spot suitable for elderly folk nearby.

Less money bike lanes. Half the people don't use them.

Repair the roads. Many are more patchwork than pavement.

The flow of traffic has been impeded with excessive bike lanes. I am all for safe bike lanes but not the overkill design that have been implemented

The streets are becoming more like the result of a design nightmare - almost impossible to navigate! Disgusting - not co-ordinated plan!

Stop the assault on cars. I drive, walk, use transit and cycle (for pleasure and commuting) and I will no longer come into downtown unless I have absolutely no other option. Why? Driving is a nightmare. Public transit grinds to a snail's pace on some streets. Cycling is unnecessarily complex and I can't get to

town walking.

For years the streets of victoria have been a mess. There are too many construction projects happening simultaneously leading to traffic congestion and confusion. Also the variable bike lane/ car traffic lane on Humbolt street is confusing and I feel very dangerous. I suppose the bridge replacement is now a thing of the past, but replacing an iconic 3 lane bridge with another 3 lane bridge that looks like an upside-down nike swoosh seemed like an enormous waste of money.

You know what doesn't need more bike lanes? Quiet residential thoroughfares (Harbour Rd? It was literally the easiest bike connection, now it's frustrating and difficult to connect to Vic West and downtown unless you're already on it.)

Lines on Douglas are impossible to see at night in rain. Very dangerous .

I am a pedestrian, cyclist (for recreation, exercise and commuting), and a motorist. I feel that there is an inappropriate distribution of resources for transportation infrastructure. I find that many of the bike lanes are overly/poorly engineered, causing some safety concerns, and causing a lot of frustration to motorists (and the attitude of "they'll get used to it" to be arrogant and dangerous considering the city hosts lots of visitors not used to the strange road rules around bike lanes). Conversely, I also find that some of the new traffic calming measures may be somewhat useful for pedestrians, but puts cyclists at greater risk, either because they need to move into a vehicle lane or because there is an unexpected obstacle in the path of the cyclist. Rather than obstructing/narrowing streets, I would prefer to see large speed humps (like along St. Charles), the terrifically reflective panels that have been added to the poles with pedestrian crossing signs, and the kind of pedestrian crossing flashers installed on Cook St in North Park village. I can think of many infrastructure improvements that would increase the safety of a much wider swath of the population. For one, the white and yellow line paint is not at all reflective at night and this city does not use any road reflectors and in many chases there aren't any signs above on the light standards indicating when a lane is a forced turn. When driving at night in the rain, the driver needs to look for difference in reflection on the road to be able to detect where there is paint on the road because the paint itself is not reflective. On more than one occasion driving at night in the rain I have found myself on the wrong side of the road after crossing an intersection because I was in the left lane that was a forced left turn (e.g. travelling east on Southgate at Douglas)

Not very accessible for people with mobility issues

Stop pissing away money on useless items.

more car-friendly

Please put a 3 way stop, which is cheaper than a roundabout, at Dallas and Douglas, when you join the park to mile 0. it will be dangerous to turn left from Douglas to Dallas if no 3 way stop, as you can't see traffic coming from the right. You should also consider the same for Cook and Dallas, for the same reason.

How can we build for a future that includes light rail?

The road closures on Vancouver and upcoming on Richardson are ridiculous and uncalled for. There is no evidence that these roads require such drastic action where some minor adjustments would suffice. This is catering to a small elite group of zealots

Wheelchair accessibility needs to be considered in every inch of our city infrastructure

Continue with cycling infrasture.

Please simplify bike lanes. Stop with the elaborate 2-way bike lanes that need traffic lights and take away parking and through streets for cars.

Chill on non-essential spending on new bike lanes, pedestrian walkways till more urgent issues resolved

While it's enjoyable to be able to ride bikes around downtown without the fear of being runoff the road by a car, far too much concrete and disruption was caused in the cities core. Lisa helps and her band of misfits have really muddled downtowns beautiful visual cityscapes. Wharf and Fort Street are almost impossible to drive down with the narrow lanes. Dallas Road looks like a concrete jungle. Not enough effort and attention is being put in to keeping the downtown core green. In my opinion, instead of wreaking havoc all over the downtown core; Douglas to wharf, Parliament buildings to Chinatown, should have been left without all of the added concrete and extra traffic lights, and simply been left as is and made car free.

Remove bike lanes from Vancouver Street, put a left turn lane off of Warf St onto Fort St, and fix the potholes rather than create congestion and unsafe roads through bike lanes. We need to focus on businesses and accessibility for people with income and room to carry purchases home aka vehicle traffic versus bicycle traffic which only come downtown for coffee,m and then order on amazon. We need to encourage downtown business rather than scenic bicycle riders who don't put money into the city.

Offer less on street parking, too much space used to park vehicles

Maintain all regions with Victoria at the same level of maintenance. Do not maintain richer neighbourhoods at a higher level.

I support any infrastructure that shifts the priority from single occupancy vehicles to active transportation and public transit. Any infrastructure upgrades need to have pedestrians and non-car road users built in.

The budget needs to be sustainable (think about the long game to partner with other levels of government), and it needs to be transparent in a way that the average taxpayer can understand and provide input. The city needs to 'up its game' when it comes to transportation planning that will support affordable housing in the CRD and promote climate leadership - you can't have one without the other.

Fix the damn potholes

Please stop adding bike lanes and please stop congesting vehicle traffic. There are businesses that need to run, and you don't seem to get that. The

The roads in the city are a mess. The large projects (sewer/water mains, bike lanes) and general construction, have left streets with potholes and broken pavement. Even after projects are completed roads are not repaved, just patched

Stay the course, 20 years from now the naysayers will realize how vibrant our city is. Edmonton has bike lanes for crying out loud!

I love the bike lanes but the area of their reach could well be expanded.

No

I would also like to see efforts made to reduce the cost of monthly passes for busing overall and allocating more funds towards this.

Stop spending on bike lanes. Pay more attention to residential speeding issues.

I would like to see bike lanes put on hold until sidewalks can be restored to a safe condition to accommodate all ability users, such as strollers, walkers, and scooters. Uneven surfaces make it difficult to navigate. I would like to see this type of alternative transportation supported.

We need to be cutting more on-street parking, especially on crowded residential roads where parking on both sides of the street makes traffic significantly more hazardous. The amount of parking in this city is a fertility drug for over-use of cars and we need to reclaim that space for better functioning public transit, bike, and pedestrian mobility.

Why are there still so many potholes in fernwood?

Too much money is being spent on bike lanes that are over built and too costly. The wasteful amount of money spent on Vancouver street which has disrupted our Neighbourhood (Vancouver and McClure) causing confusion, higher cost in gas for residents getting out of the area to head north, more time wasted in getting to where we need to go. Extreme waste in money with over-engineered and designed bike lanes!

Focus needs to be on sustainable transportation, not roads and parking lots for vehicles. More mid-block crosswalks are needed.

I would like to see more traffic calmed areas with particular attention to ensure the areas are accessible (eg. ramps for sidewalks, wide sidewalks, good signage - that is easily understandable even if unable to read, wide benches, abolish use of "homeless/sleeping deterrence", including benches with midspan railings, spikes along areas where people seek shelter, etc).

Road resurfacing needs to be a priority. Pot holes are a disaster and watching the same one get quickly filled to only open again a few days later is frustrating. Maybe time to resurface some of these roads... especially Fern Street.

Stop with the bike lanes, please. Money could be better spent improving public buses, rapid transit., etc

Should add to pedestrians to yield signs on right turn lanes

Stop spending \$ on bike lanes. Roads are falling apart. Far too many patch jobs. Bay st is awful.

The roads are suggesting while bike lanes are being built

Stop wasting money on Bike lanes and barriers, nobody will come downtown when they have to deal with constant obstructions.

More infrastructure that encourages active transportation.

More bike lanes!

More light up crosswalks like the ones on Cook Street @ Balmoral and North Park. I see near misses far too often at the unlit crosswalks. Hydro poles in the middle of sidewalks limit accessibility for wheelchair/scooters as well. (Oak Bay ave near Bank street is a good example. It limits the sidewalk to about 1.5 feet). With the diverter at Vancouver & Balmoral, a lot of traffic is now trying to turn left onto Cook Street. Is it possible to get a light there?

Ensuring all construction keeps in mind accessibility - contractors must ensure pathways better or be fined

I would rather climate initiatives take precedence over any infrastructural expenses that are not acutely necessary for public safety, as nice roads will matter very little in a 1.5+ degree warmed world.

Love the development of additional bike lanes (even though it affects car travel) because it allows communities to interact with their city in a new way, it's sustainable and equitable way to get around, and it promotes a healthy lifestyle.

It's certainly worth getting matching dollars from other jurisdictions, but inflationary pressure in the sector remains strong.

Realistically, if we are serious about addressing climate change there will need to be a rethink of how people and goods are transported. People who are able to walk, bike, or use other means of transport without emissions are going to need to give up individual ownership of cars and more to a community-controlled public transport system that is fueled off renewable and non-polluting sources. We will also need to move away from air shipping of goods. That is a huge shift from where we're at right now and the budget needs to reflect a realistic plan around how this transition will work and what the resources implications are.

making more pedestrian friendly spaces

The bike lanes have jammed up the flow of people in and out of the core. While it'd be nice to have less reliance on cars that is not the reality. Please look at fixing the traffic lights and change some of those bike lanes into public transit lanes.

We need transportation to grow to help reduce cars in the downtown core! More busses and shorter routes/options. Sidewalk and street repair is some of the worst I have ever seen out of the 15 cities I've lived in in Canada - especially for a city that does not have to deal with snow and ice often. Street cleaning is rarely done and this leads to damage to our sewer systems and creates dangerous conditions for cars, cyclists and pedestrians during

the wet winter months. Our streets here are also quite dirty with human litter. Compared to Other capital regions, we do a very poor job of keeping our street and pedestrians spaces free of garbage.

Dallas Rd and Cook Street should be a three way stop. Wider sidewalk space should be created when possible as sidewalks are very narrow. More bike lanes! I'm very happy with the recent transition for Vancouver into a bike route--more of that please!

Implementing low-no cost transit for all.

nope

Cars need to be de-prioritized and eliminated from as many downtown roads as possible to make a safe, walk-able city.

no

Safe shoulders for biking. Not every route needs full-on bike lanes, but there are many arteries that are simply unsafe to bike on right now because there is no room.

Free transit for all disabled is a must. Low income adults and youth also need free passes.

There needs to be vision zero applied to bikes and bike lanes . Bikes need safe speed limits. insurance and plates . If you are commuting on a bike this is a must. The fees can go towards user pay for this bike lane infrastructure . Icbc / Victoria ...Concerned the city will be sued as we have bikes doing 30k beside pedestrians This can also raise money \$

prompt repair of road surfaces near the curb would allow cyclists to use roads more safely in the absence of bicycle lanes; longer operating times for transit buses would enable late night workers to travel more safely and reliably; granting all persons with disabilities a no-cost transit pass would greatly raise the standard of living and ease financial and overall hardship

Boulevards could be food gardens instead of grass — at the very least pollinator gardens

You should re allocate some of the police budget to this area.

Please continue to invest in more bike lanes. I love being able to get to new places safely with my family, by bike.

No more developments without adequate underground parking. Anywhere in the city.

Overall, I think it's great. Investments in sidewalks, curb ramps, and other aspects of city streets is much needed and very important for creating a more accessible city. Also happy to see the removal of roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park. I've been enjoying the new pathways & upgrades along Dallas Rd. I would also like to see improved bus transportation infrastructure, as I believe doing everything we can to encourage public & alternative modes of transportation to and from the downtown core is a critical part of fostering a more livable city.

The more people feel comfortable biking around the city in protected bike lanes, the more people will bike and stoke a culture of bicycle transportation

Please ensure the bike network is completed by 2022. Given the explosion of families, kids and seniors cycling, and the increasing availability of ebikes, we need safe and accessible bike paths

None at the moment.

Stop making cycling a priority. I know if I don't see on the outside of the house of parks repair nothing about the housing that are doing how

stop extending bikelanes. Have licenses compulsory for bikes and enforce laws on bikes i.e. no riding on sidewalks, stop at crosswalks, stop at stop signs and red lights, no riding the wrong way up one way streets etc

Improve the safety of routes and crosswalks that are used for bicycle commuting to school (outside of designated bike routes). For example Haultain and Richmond (for commuting with young children to school (South Jubilee area to Oaklands).

Start repairing roads downtown.

another city parkade would be good

I agree with the emphasis on active transportation. Victoria is small enough that any able bodied person can walk from one end to the other in 30 minutes. The city should work with regional partners to strengthen bus use as the pandemic winds down.

Sidewalks throughout the City have been neglected. There are many uneven or raised sections. I have fallen twice both serious causing scarring on my knee. The latest in 2020 causing a "hole" in my knee. Roads are in poor shape. I will send you my car suspension repair bill. Current infrastructure

has cars idling or sitting in traffic longer. eg. Cook St. Allocate the funds to fix the current issues and don't create infrastructure issues. eg. bike lanes (I am a cyclist) so you won't go over budget.

Love what you've done to increase bike lanes. Keep it up please! As you know, lots of bike lanes end and bikers have to merge back onto shared roads. As you increase bike lines, these problems will be reduced and the city will continue to be biker friendly.

separated bike lanes do not need to be so elaborate. Use planters and traffic quieting measures. Vancouver Street was fine as it was and now it is a mess. As is Richardson Street. I do ride quite a bit and appreciate all the efforts, the emphasis on alternative to cars

Please continue to develop the bike lane network at pace, and do not reduce its scope. Our network is a leader nationwide and something all Victorians can be proud of, and will benefit the City for generations.

The city makes revenue from car parking. Implement High-Tech Bike parking into city parking lots i.e. community waiting areas, bike shop on ground level of parking lots. Pop-up city parking near the harbour parking lot - encouraging more bikers with families into the area for shopping, eating etc.

I'd like to see more frequent buses within the city on all routes, lower cost public transit, and investment in light rail or other sustainable options regionally.

Upgrading and increasing bus transportation routes in between downtown, UVic, and other neighbourhoods. Improving public and alternative transportation infrastructure so that more people use bikes or the bus to commute or travel.

Please god stop providing a gold plated bike path and enforce fines for cyclists breaking the law. No bike helmets are a threat to everyone and so is running lights and stop signs. Please make public the investigation into bridge fiasco. If parkade is 90 percent empty then reduce price til its 90 percent full. Those parkers will not only park but shop. Right now they go to mayfair or hillside.

Gorge Road needs a safe bicycle lane. In the initial surveys it was identified as one of the top three in priority by citizens. It's off the radar now. So much for public consultation.

More cross walks.

Consider the blind and disabled when adding infrastructure.

Electric busses would be great.

Instead of a small number of high-cost, high-concept, high-signage bike highways that serve a limited geographic area, create an integral grid of low-cost, N/S and E-W bike lanes on existing roads by using green paint and strategic safety bollards to separate cars and cyclists.

Revisit free public transit and public bicycles

Optional question (367 response(s), 342 skipped)

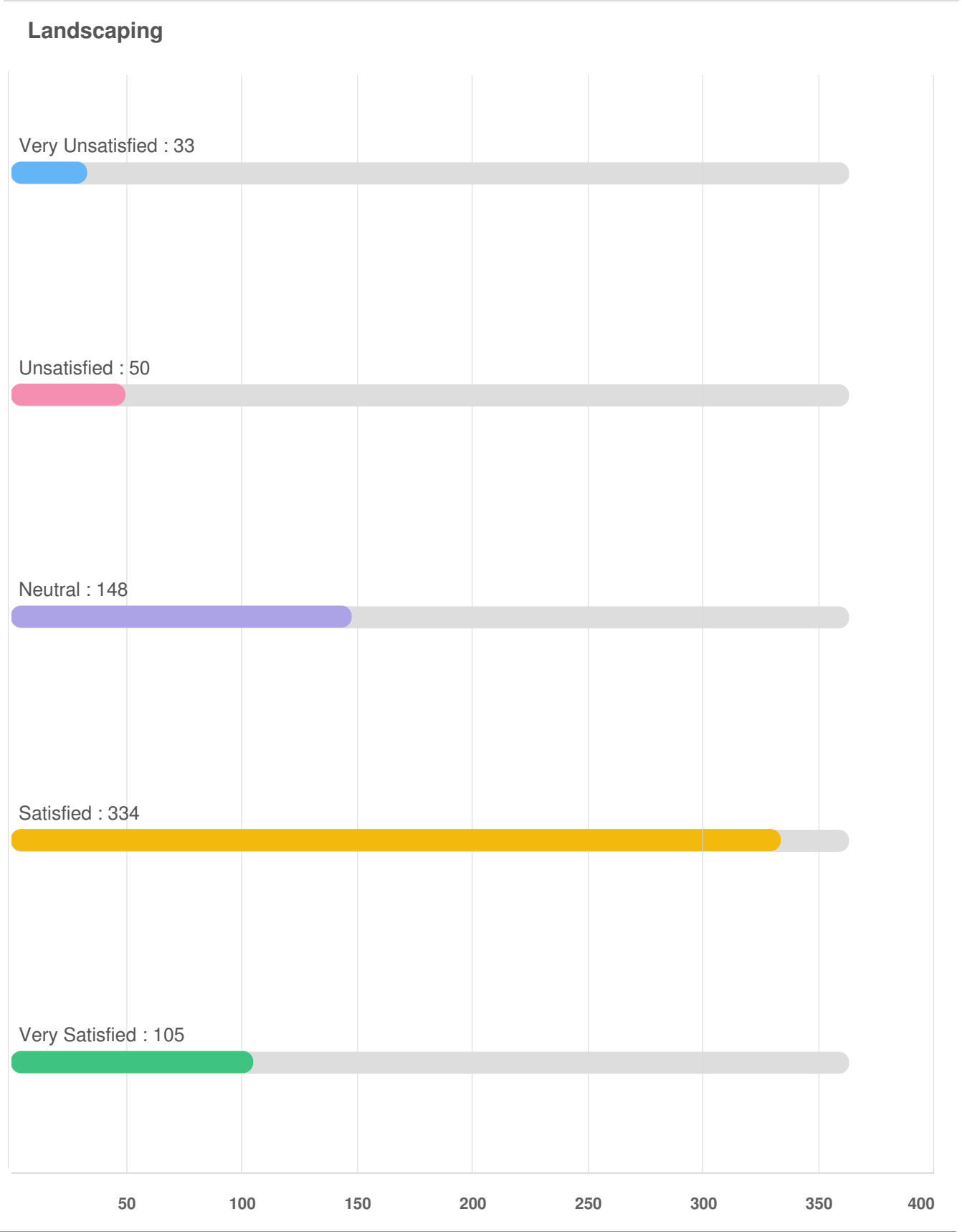
Question type: Essay Question

Q6 How satisfied are you with the availability, repair or maintenance of Victoria's parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities?

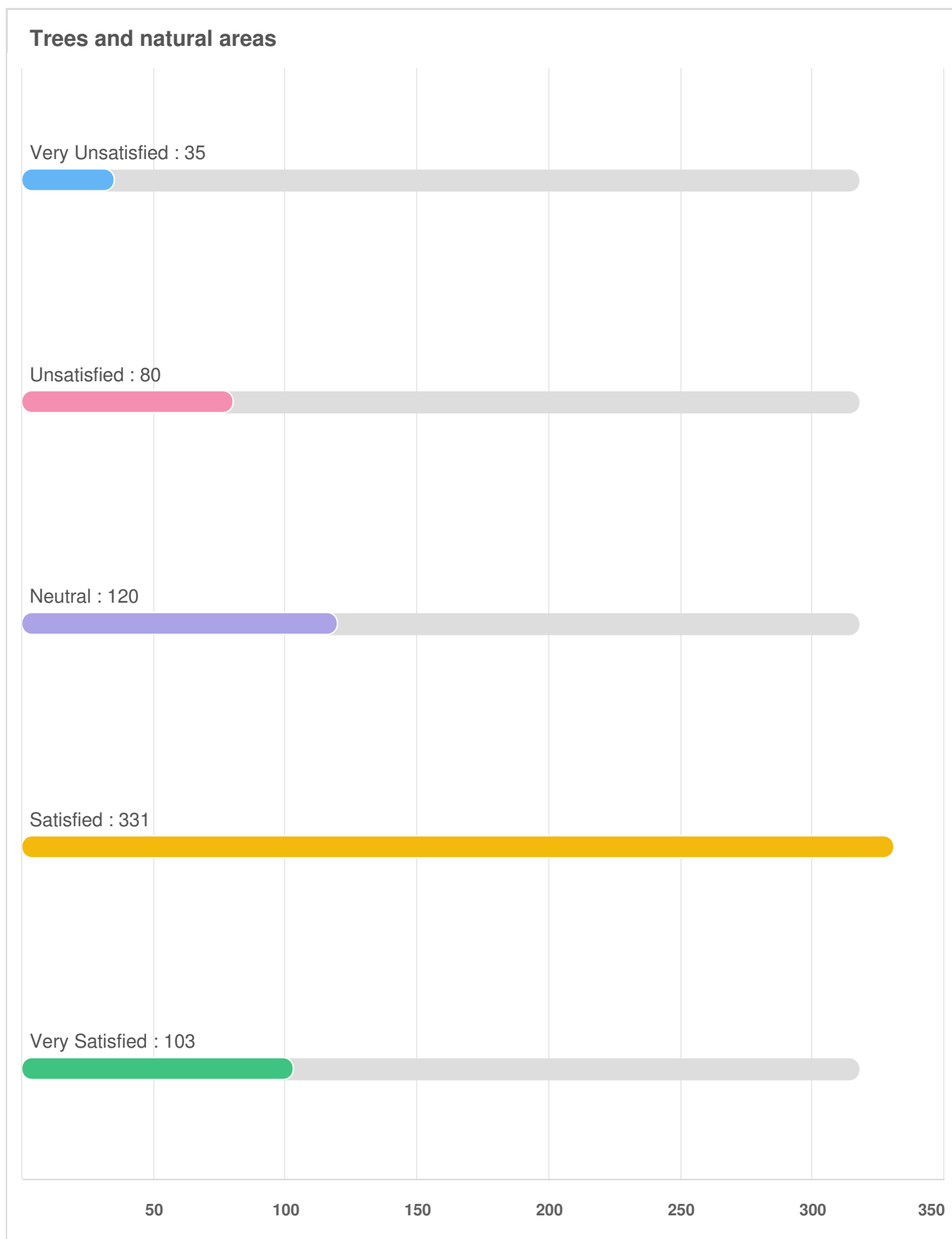


Optional question (686 response(s), 23 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

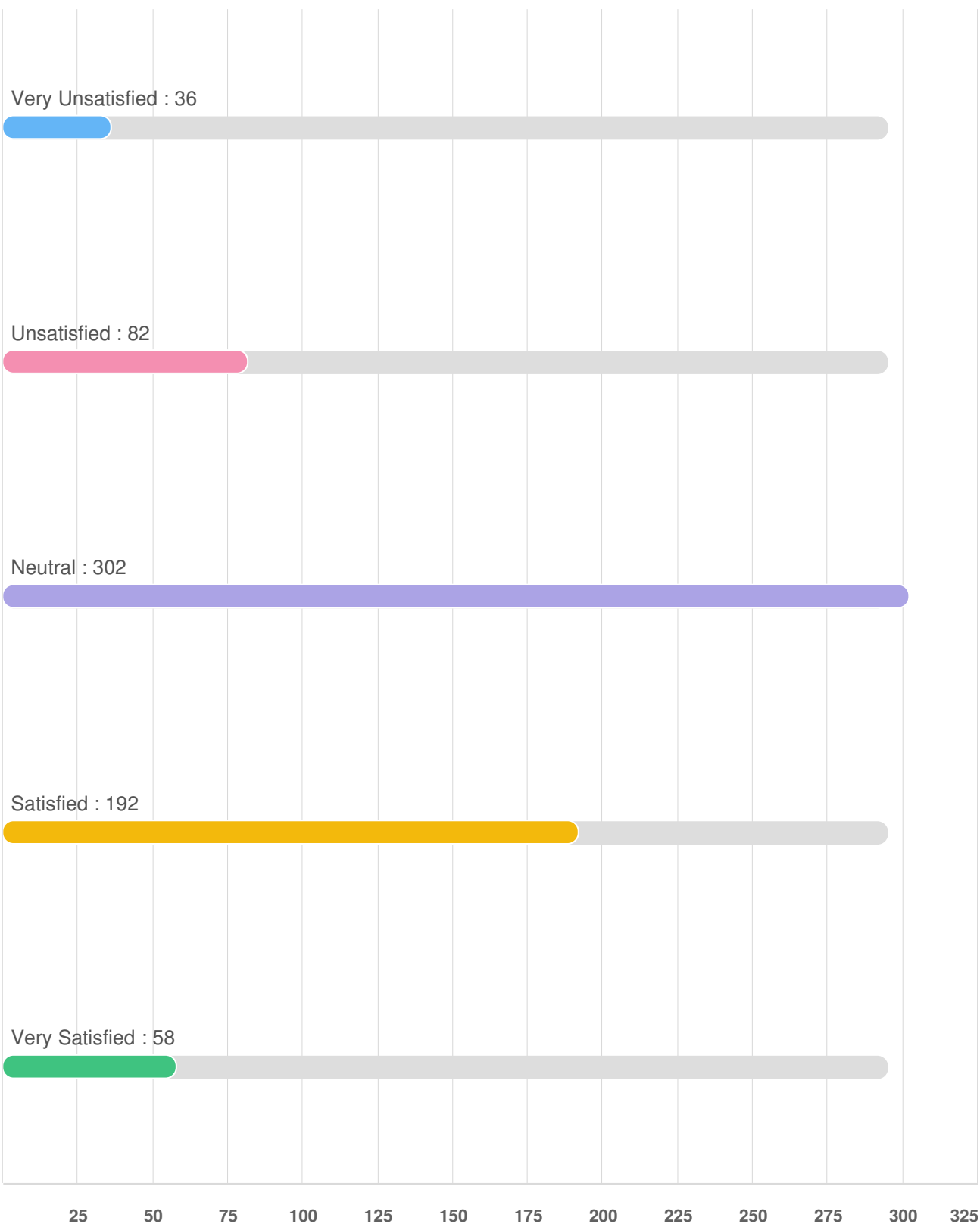
Q6 | How satisfied are you with the availability, repair or maintenance of Victoria’s parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities?



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Off-leash areas



Outdoor recreation (plazas, skatepark, bike park, fitness areas)

Very Unsatisfied : 54



Unsatisfied : 114



Neutral : 190



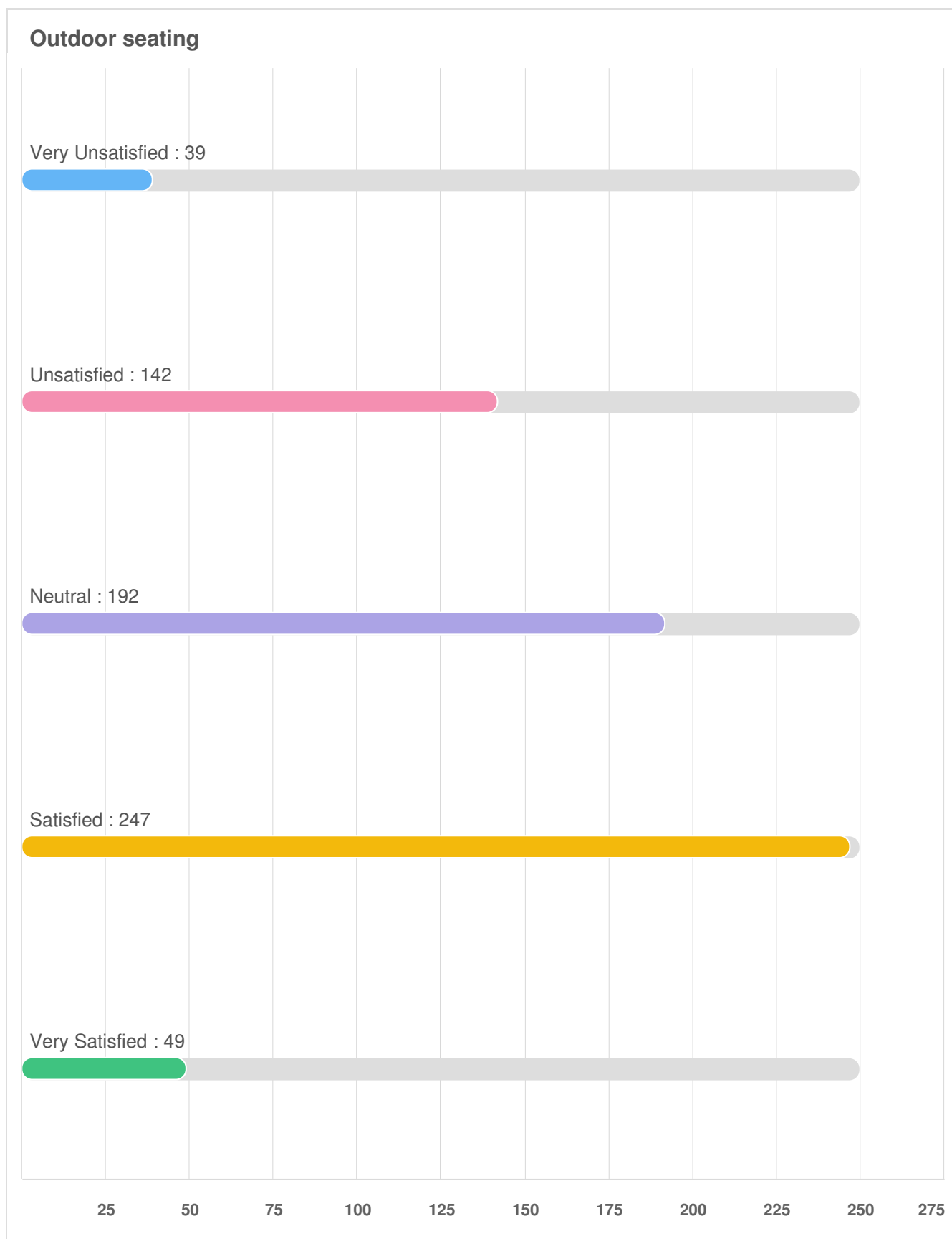
Satisfied : 276



Very Satisfied : 46



25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200 225 250 275 300



Park washrooms

Very Unsatisfied : 91



Unsatisfied : 220



Neutral : 179



Satisfied : 156



Very Satisfied : 27



25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200 225 250

Playground equipment

Very Unsatisfied : 21



Unsatisfied : 33



Neutral : 330



Satisfied : 230

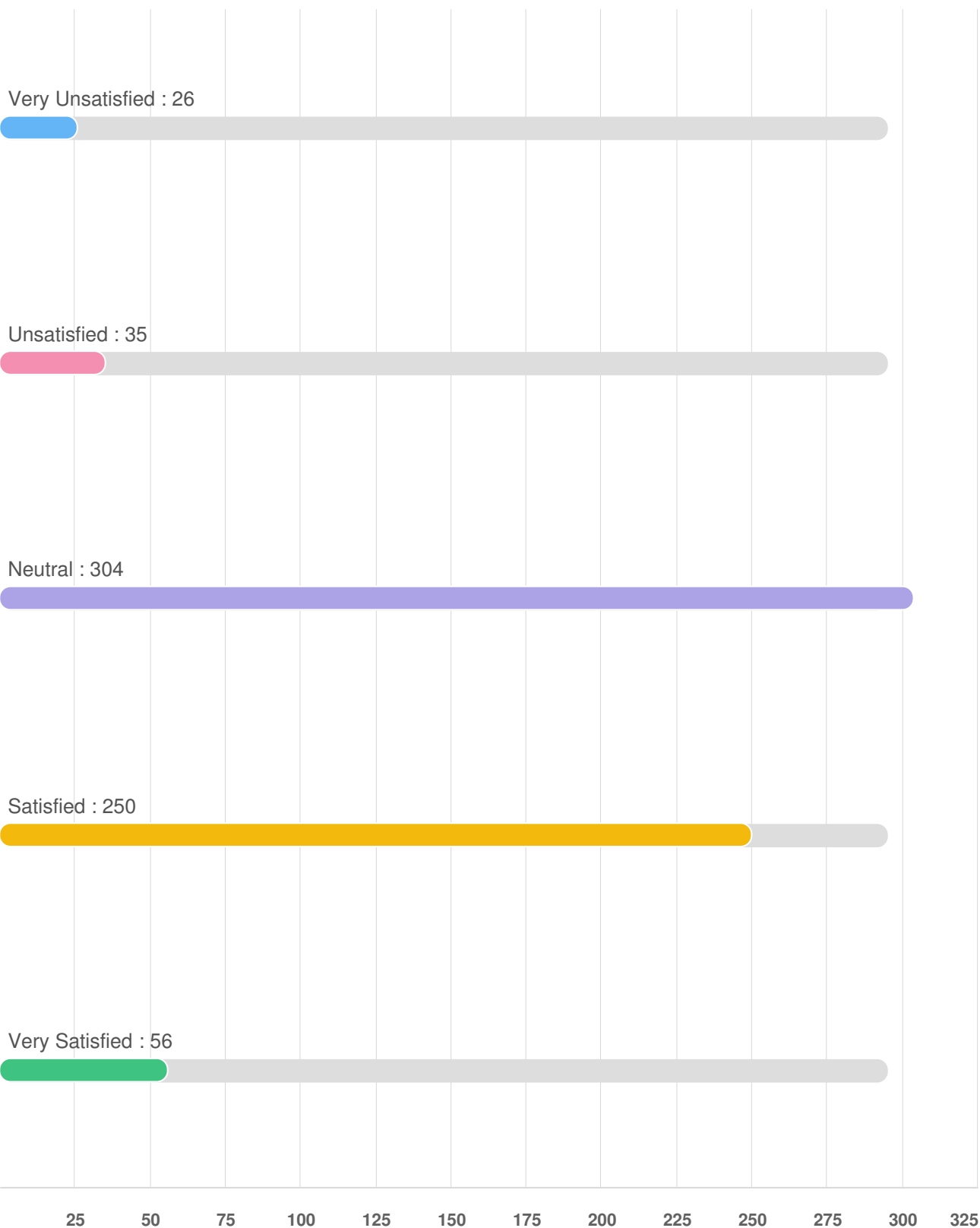


Very Satisfied : 58



50 100 150 200 250 300 350

Sport fields



Lighting

Very Unsatisfied : 64



Unsatisfied : 115



Neutral : 209



Satisfied : 250



Very Satisfied : 40



25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200 225 250 275

Q7 Do you have any comments or suggestions to share on the City's parks and public spaces infrastructure/amenities budgets?

Let's keep making improvements to our parks so they can be places where we gather, socialize and recreate. More seating, including picnic tables and covered seating areas for all seasons; better playground equipment, a splash park, more community gardens.

The City needs to acknowledge and honour the Beacon Hill Park Trust. Remove the homeless campers from the park and ensure the park is never again used as a living space.

More programming and ways to use parks is needed.

Please open Royal Athletic Park to the public. A for profit sports facility that costs taxpayers money while remaining locked and earning profit for the owner of the harborcats is a shameful waste.

It would be great if there was a shade/ shelter structure around Songhees Hilltop Park. Also a water feature by the park would be great since it is an off leash park. It gets tremendously hot in the summer there since it is an open area, so shade and/or water would be great.

It would be great to see more xeriscaping with an eye to warming temps and water use, from parks to decorative urban elements. Green roof retrofits would also be an interesting thing to explore for qualifying structures.

Integration of fenced off-leash areas into existing (not overly ecologically sensitive) park space and playgrounds might be a good way to meet dog park demand.

Parks and public spaces have been desecrated by homeless sheltering in the parks. Park infrastructure is acceptable the enjoyment and safety of these spaces has been compromised. Clean up the parks and make them safe for tax payers to use.

All of the parks are currently unavailable to me, especially the Beacon Hill Park. There is a massive tent across the street from me that houses a man who is abusive towards his partner daily. I no longer feel safe in my own neighbourhood. I also no longer have access to the pool and recreation centre. As a person living with a disability I rely on these city services.

Get the homeless out of Beacon hill park. It is disgusting what you have allowed to happen to that once beautiful park.

1. Stop adding new off-leash areas until environmental degradation addressed. Don't assume that unsatisfied re. off-leash areas = wanting more.
2. Create equal no-pets areas. Make healthfulness of plantings a priority.

Use solar powered lighting where possible.

need more off leash dog parks (Jackson park or other parks with underutilized green space), outdoor recreation (more bike/skate parks) and park lighting (see Oaklands park path)

More public washrooms, better lighting in residential neighbourhoods

I am extremely worried about our ongoing loss of greenspace and mature tree canopy. We need more parks and natural areas in order to maintain livability in the city.

Give us back our parks/playgrounds. I can no longer take my children to my neighbourhood parks as they are homeless camps.

Can we try to love within our means this year council? Stop spending money to rip up roadways to add green space. Clean up beacon hill and just put the money in more important places (like not increasing taxes, water infrastructure, homelessness and helping residents and businesses survive!

We could use more outdoor covered seating.

Do not permit campers in Beacon Hill park and if they cannot be relocated, then they should have to keep their camp grounds clean. Deduct from their social assistance, welfare, government funding the cost of accommodation, services and clean up.

Would love to see more family focused green space downtown. Centennial square is in dire need of a revamp. Interactive ground level fountain for kids, chess boards, green space, food vendors, playground. Any and All would be welcome additions. Centennial square could be a gem.

we need the people of Victoria to understand that public means public. as in anyone can access these spaces. we need to de-stigmatize homelessness, addiction and mental health issues

you are going in the right direction ,keep , keeping your eyes on world-leadership , healthy cities is wisdom

Public washrooms in park areas need more frequent cleaning. Perhaps full time attendant in areas used by homeless campers is appropriate. Give some of the "homeless" part time jobs cleaning washrooms and picking up litter.

Definitely lacking plazas, public areas, skateparks. More lighting around certain key places in the city is needed.

Again the rating system is unclear in what it communicates. For more clarity:
- landscaping is not a priority: just convert to low maintenance native plants - trees and natural areas - please advocate for an urban limit to growth at the

urban fringe with the CRD. Langford needs to stop sprawling! The Highlands needs to revert to forest. - off-leash areas. It's horrendous how Dallas road has been commandeered by the dog owners. Our jewel of a waterfront is now a play pen for dogs. It stinks of piss and shit, and now the waterfront excludes anyone without a dog. - Outdoor recreation: we need a downtown park for recreation (sport). Please make sure it gets created. It's named in the OCP, but we need a site. What about Harris Green? - Outdoor seating: there aren't many places to sit down and eat lunch downtown that aren't private land. Please look at creating more seating downtown. - park washrooms: every park should have at least one. This should be a public good that is available at every park as well as within at least 400m from every location in the city. - sport fields: we need one downtown - lighting is fine, except for Dallas road along Beacon Hill. We need better lighting for pedestrians crossing the park at night.

Warm showers and more toilets must be made available to those sheltering in parks.

Vic west skatepark would be much safer with lighting installed (motion activated, solar). The vulnerable communities that skate at night or early in the morning are at risk of injury/ theft in the dark

Could always use more green space. Also the 'new' streetlights are sort of disruptively bright. It would be worth installing them with shades (or perhaps several shades) by default so they don't blare into people's windows. Keep up the good work.

Under normal circumstances, I'm very happy with all our park spaces. I've been waiting 31 years for something to be done with the space north of the inner causeway that's now parking. Hopefully that will be happening in the next couple of years and won't take forever to complete.

Do not want to risk the dangers (sharps, assaults) taking my kid to the playground. What an awful childhood.

End 24/7 camping and end it now.

Postage stamp parks are not parks, they are green spaces. This should be reflected in future, so we can design true parks in the city.

Improve washrooms and lighting.

Increase the number sheltered picnic areas in city parks.

Get the campers out so the general public can safely use the parks

Too much emphasis and money on 'place making'

increase and expand, maybe take from policing.

There are so many opportunities for added green space downtown - the three waterfront parking lots, the poorly used space at Pandora and Government across from Centennial Square, the unused fenced grassy area on Fort behind View Towers. We need to move forward on better utilizing this space. I would also love to see pollinator corridors along boulevards that connect between sensitive habitats, community gardens, etc., like what Seattle has done. I also feel like we're falling way behind on our tree planting targets.

Get the homeless out of our parks and STOP enabling the criminal element.

all playgrounds should be accessible and inclusive and more work needs to be done to achieve this. More spaces for off leash dogs and more areas for youth to be active also.

Enforce day use only

Get rid of tents

Camping should be banned in all parks. Drug users and other ne'er do wells should be promptly removed. Parks should be clean and safe places.

Camping in the Parks has been a zoning and by-law disaster. The management responsibility for Beacon Hill Park should be taken away from the City of Victoria and given to CRD Parks.

Nope

field mtnce is comical.....injuries abound on uneven turf and long grass makes some sports difficult

more public/volunteer engagement especially re native plantings and eradication of invasives

Need more trees and community gardens, including small boulevard gardens.

Need more off-leash space. REALLY need more outdoor seating to get geriatrics like me out an walking.

OMG the lighting such as what is current in Central Park is blinding. Who thought that one up, eh! There are no park washroom facilities in Central Park. The sport fields in Central Park continue to flood in the rainy season despite a half-assed remediation about 10 years ago that applied a coating of sand but no piped drainage system. Go figure. What a waste of money that was. Forget using the playground equipment in Central Park with all the homeless whose presence is at the very least, intimidating.

Introduce playgrounds for seniors in public parks. A major missing amenity. Integrated with regular play spaces to encourage intergenerational opportunities.

Beacon Hill is our crown jewel and it makes me so sad that the city is turning a blind eye to its demise. It is no longer safe, clean or peaceful. What was once an oasis is becoming a cesspool. You have a responsibility to all citizens, which you abdicated to play politics.

More bike parking at all city properties

The City needs more professional ecologists and parks workers. I understand there are TWO professionals to care for all of Beacon Hill Park in terms of invasive plants etc. During COVID the city needs dedicated mask "rig dig" type crews as the proliferation of discarded masks is appalling. Provide free tongs and biodegradable bags for citizens who want to do mask patrols, and designated drop off places.

Outdoor fitness structures for adults would be nice

In general, there are inadequate toilet facilities in Victoria and CRD parks and along bicycle trails.

Please improve lighting in all public spaces to help address safety and make these spaces more appealing in the darker months.

I would prefer the city to prioritize indigenous species over ornamental ones, and I would love to see more food production on public space.

Take them back for families as intended

Vancouver street does not need Parks and seating.

The crown jewel of the city park system - Beacon Hill Park - and other green

spaces which have always been welcoming oases, are now a disaster. What money is being budgeted for restoration of these spaces? What money is being budgeted to ensure that they do not become permanent camping spaces?

more trees and washrooms and green spaces including rooftop gardens

- Parks wrecked by homeless camping/vans/tvs and associated crime, drug use, etc. Need major rehabilitation and end to camping. - Need more parks to have outdoor fitness circuits given that indoor fitness spaces may be unsafe indefinitely.

Get the camper out of Beacon Hill Park immediately. This was one of the worst decisions I've ever seen by a government.

Now that we've allowed homeless encampments in our parks, the City should invest in the tools to clean up debris, including metal detector sweeps to locate and remove discarded syringes.

If you need to reduce spending, the Mile Zero Beacon Hill road to grass conversion could certainly be delayed.

You allow 24 hour camping in the parks and have ruined them for the majority. Your disregard for environmental stewardship is shocking. Too scared to take my young family to the parks after getting yelled at by some campers.

Would like to see when replacing trees to consider fruit bearing trees

Get the tents out!! Buy property outside the city and house them there. There is no reason they need to be downtown

More public restrooms with hand hygiene stations are needed. Support tree planting initiative

If the best place for people without homes to shelter is parks, then they should shelter in parks. Maybe we can do better, and build homes.

It's hard to find a public washroom. This isn't just a Victoria thing but seems to be a Canadian thing. Many European cities have stand alone urinals and toilets for example. I don't understand how Victoria has tried to position itself as a tourists paradise with so few public washrooms.

Just be nice to get tenters out of parks and indoors - it's not right for them to not have shelter, warmth and safety. It also damages our parks having long term camping. It's not nice having to sweep for used needles before allowing

kids to play. Even doing a pre- play sweep, I overlooked some and I can't believe the potential consequences.

Thanks to all the City who assisted the unhoused residents to live in the parks during this emergency. Caring for people with needs is a high priority. There is no unresolvable incompatibility with other park uses. Emphasis should be on support, not punishment.

I'd love to see a park added at the corner of Fort and Quadra - I'm not sure who owns that vacant lot but it would be nice to purchase and turn into something useful given the lack of greenspace for downtown residents.

We 100% need more off leash/dogs allowed areas for dog owners. We have been pushed into smaller and smaller spaces with more and more restrictions. Some beaches you're allowed to take your dog in the summer would be nice, they want to swim too! Maybe a dogs allowed time frame for summer, late evening, as in 6pm onwards dogs are allowed?

NOte on showers in public parks to support the unhouse community who are currently living in parks in the COV.

Get the smokers out of the park spaces and rest areas downtown so one can breathe!

Don't want people to camp in them. If that's the way things are going lets do away with parks.

More off-leash dog spaces please

My comments above reflect the anarchy created by the so called homeless campers. The City got themselves into this mess by allowing overnight camping. The taxpayers will now be faced with huge bills to eventually rehabilitate the parks never mind the time and public access restricitons over months when the money could have gone to better maintaining and improving our parks and playgrounds. Get the housing, force the people off the parks into the housing and if they come back or don't leave; jail them.

I've noticed an improvement in the washrooms and appreciate it

24/7 camping in parks has ruined our parks and it will take a long time to bring them back to their former state. I suggest that campers be evicted/relocated during the winter rather than waiting till the end of March when the weather is warmer and more campers will have set up tents.

Supporting local gardeners to grow food by starting plants in city's greenhouse was an excellent project. Provide more support to homeowners who have significant, heritage trees - by reducing taxes to assist with arborist

maintenance and costs of insurance for liability.

Public washrooms often very unclean. Poor job maintaining boulevards and parks in lower income parts of the city ie. outside of Fairfield James bay and Rockland

Get the campers out of our parks.

Camps in parks have made a mess and the parks need to be improved when the camping ends. We need more outdoor, weather-friendly places to gather (in small groups) in commercial districts. We need more public washrooms (and associated maintenance) in parks and commercial areas

More public washrooms

Please do not stop people from tenting in parks until they have access to safe, secure housing. Enforcement of the 7-7 bylaw is cruel and further marginalizes our most vulnerable populations.

more street lighting! More boulevard gardens

24/7 tenting should not be allowed in parks

Every basketball court is constantly in use. Please consider adding more.

Restrict camping in public parks.

The priority should be making sure that those without homes are not evicted and that they have the amenities they need, such as hot showers. It is absolutely shameful that the city prevented grassroots efforts to provide for those less fortunate. Living across the street from a park, I see all the maintenance that goes into the care of the lawn, the trees, the fencing. If even a fraction of this budget was redirected towards ensuring the comfort and reintegration of the unhoused population instead of policing them, then we would have a more equitable society. It's terrible that most of the city's residents despise poor people and value public greenery more than human lives. I imagine that those voices will be over-represented in this survey as they tend to be the voices of white, elderly people who have time to do surveys.

Similar general comment as the transportation breakdown. Generally though, when the problem we face is underrepresented and underserved people and we are presented with a finite resource (the budget) then it would be nice to

see more of the money going to services that support those in need rather than to lawns.

Again, I would emphasize the importance of getting native plantings in the landscaping in city parks and greenspaces, even on the tiniest of boulevards. They have the added benefit of being lower maintenance. I feel like there is a lot of parks that are big open grassy fields, and while this is important for sports events, I'd prefer to see more of the parks with wooded or semi wooded green spaces (for example, spaces like Beacon Hill, Stadacona, Summit Park & Moss rocks seem to serve the general populous better, in my opinion, compared to Parks like Oaklands, Brooks, David Spencer, Topaz, Royal Athletic, Central park etc. which seem to be very user defined - i.e. for sporting events and with minimal tree coverage.) I don't use off leash areas/playgrounds/sports fields all that often, so have no comment there, and don't tend to gravitate toward overly constructed spaces either i.e. plazas skateparks, etc. The park washrooms that I use most often are Beacon Hill, and it tends to always be pretty gross in there - lots of water on the floor, no soap....ick. More maintenance here perhaps. I find streetlights to be overly bright! As a cyclist they are great, but as a resident in an urban centre, they shine so brightly into every home I've ever lived in. Not sure if there's anything to be done about this - but perhaps covers or something that shine light more directly onto roads and not into peoples bedrooms?

Disappointed with the total lack of Holiday lighting in 2020. Its tragic that you aren't replacing our flowering trees with similar flowering trees. These are things that make our city special. Your ideology is too focused on active transportation and you're losing the plot for regular, tax paying property owner constituents.

More trees along busy paved streets would definitely help in the hotter months.

There is a lack of parks downtown and north of downtown.

Victoria has done a great job of providing parks and landscaping. I do appreciate it. However, a few suggestions: (1) more washrooms (the elderly can't travel far without one). (2) Covered picnic areas to allow more outside activity (really noticed in pandemic there were no picnic areas that had covers from rain). (3) Widen the path directly beside the cliff on Dallas road. The one near the cliff is too narrow especially with pandemic. Plus given how narrow it is, so many walkers are using the shared wider paths with bikes that it is pretty impossible to bike. I've tried. (4) I don't get out at night much but please be sure your lighting is Dark Sky compliant, if you haven't already considered that. Thanks! I also look forward to when there will be enough housing that the tents can be removed from public parks... I know it was a short term solution, but the tents in Beacon Hill Park long term have been concerning.

END 24/7 CAMPING

Please devise and implement a more effective strategy for ending camping in parks.

Only allow overnight camping in designated areas where washrooms are available - Beacon Hill Park should not be a designated area.

It is not safe to go to Beacon Hill Park. why don't campers have a designated area like the field off of Douglas Street? My family hasn't been able to enjoy the park since the pandemic started. I used to walk to the park on my way home but my daughter asked me to stop she was worried for my safety.

For the love of god, please add washrooms to all playgrounds and parks. Banfield Park, George Jay Park, and Alexander Park are good examples- so many little kids (including my own) pee and poop in the bushes there because there are no washroom facilities. This can be paid for by increasing taxes on the wealthy and on luxury items.

I wish there were more public washrooms. Especially at night.

Availability: I moved to Victoria because of park amenity and the amazing jobs Parks does in creating and maintaining them. However, despite living close to Beacon Hill Park I don't use it any more due to the significant and enduring homeless presence there - along with all the detritus from that occupancy. Washrooms: I don't feel safe using the washrooms at Beacon Hill and I absolutely would not let my grandchildren use them. Once again...tenters have made what was once a jewel of a park a no go zone.

As a result of neglecting to protect and preserve public spaces many have become unusable or unsafe for general use. Please ensure appropriate use and work to improve these public amenities.

We live in a micro-climate that allows us to surround ourselves with botanical beauty - please take advantage of this and return Victoria to a city of flowers and gardens.

Why is Peter Pollen Park not being completed

Please consider reducing the number of invasive plants and species (e.g., Scottish Broom).

While we have a pandemic ongoing we need to recognize that 'our' parks (I put the word parks in quotes since they are unceded Indigenous land) may need to be used for sheltering and that we should be flexible and helpful rather than punitive and rigid as Bylaw and the city governments have been

with campers. Open washrooms, provide water for washing and drinking, provide electricity etc. etc. You know what the right thing is to do - show some political spine and do it.

The LED street lights are brutal and bright. Consideration of residents
Windows should be at installment not complaint

Want to see Beacon Hill Park restored to its former beauty ... it should not be a homeless camp ground as there are more suitable places that do not interfere with public enjoyment ... especially for families wishing to take their children there ... especially important when the BH Farm animals return post pandemic

I am afraid to spend time with my family at most of Victoria's public parks due to the fact that the City of Victoria is not enforcing bylaw restrictions regarding public camping. Not feeling safe to use these parks and playgrounds makes me supremely disappointed in understanding the choices of council.

Increase safety, I shouldn't have to sweep for needles

More public washrooms and gathering places are needed. Especially during the pandemic.

No more tents

COVID has shown how little public washroom, park and recreation spaces there are for Victoria residents. Meanwhile, the population in congregate housing grows. Divert more funds to more public washrooms, park space/seating/covered areas and playgrounds

either more bathrooms, or have the ones you do have open more often.
what's the point of a washroom if they're locked 24/7?

Side streets are poorly lit and could use more lighting to make them safer

Some parks could have better lighting for safety.

We really need lights at Vic West Skatepark!

Need lights at Vic west skate park for congestion of park users during lighted hours.. and a new skate park too, but lights will help the congestion for now

Please add lights to vic west skatepark!!!!

Fix my gutter that your city truck ripped off my house & defund the police.

Lights to be installed at vic west skate park

We need to make it easier for people to spend extended amounts of time outside. That includes specifically washrooms, covered areas, places to sit, tables for eating or reading, and similar infrastructure.

Need public washrooms in all major parks in neighborhoods. Some better street lighting

Any tree cover that could be added to the urban landscape would be beneficial to people and the environment (more carbon sinks). We love the new outdoor seating on Dallas Road and would love to see more of this.

The skateparks need lighting

Adding lighting to the local skatepark to allow for more hours of usage in the colder months

lights at vic west skatepark & a indoor skate park!

Install lights to the VicWest Skatepark! This is the largest most populated skatepark in Victoria & the skate community would benefit massively from the installation of lights

Bright and high coverage lighting have two really important benefits (1) increases safety and (2) allows outdoor spaces to be useful for more hours of the day, important for overall well being and especially during a pandemic

More covered outdoor space. Especially in times of Covid to be outside barring weather

We need lights at the vic west skate park please!

Please add lights to Vic west skatepark, and break ground on topaz skate park

Vic West skate park needs lighting. Now more than ever!

Lights at Vic West Skatepark to allow skaters to skate and be active for longer periods of time during the day.

We need lights for the skateparks! Preferably to a later hour so adults are able to skate more with far less risk of collision with children when the park is very crowded during the day. This will also prevent people to attempt skating at night, or in places not desirable to others.

Please add lights to Vic west skatepark and build topaz skatepark

There needs to be lights at Victoria West Skatepark

Keep public washrooms available and clean at all times for unhoused people, including showers

Better lighting in dimly-lit areas of the city, particularly for folks who are more vulnerable.

Need lights at Vic West Skatepark

More lighting in skateparks

Living in Canada we are subjected to long, dark winters. An outdoor facility is not being used to its fullest extent if it depends solely on sunshine to be well lit. The Vic West skatepark should follow suit of the majority of skateparks across BC and Canada, and should have lights installed an on from dusk until late in the evening. The park is a massive safety hazard after dark because of the lack of light.

Lights at the skateboard / bike parks

Lights at Vic West skatepark

Public showers for the vulnerable community should be priority one

The Victoria West skatepark is becoming increasingly overpopulated and nearly impossible to use comfortably, particularly during late fall, winter, and early spring. The lack of daylight hours results in a bottleneck of hundreds of

people showing up within a small window of time. I believe the community would greatly benefit from having lights installed for use between sunset and 10~12. I know there's a significant upfront costs as well as maintenance/power resources. I suggest that a system in which an individual can pay (such as a parking meter) and the lights will come on for a set amount of time, thus cutting down on wasted power and providing a monetary incentive for the city to install these lights. Thousands of people rely on Vic West skatepark as a place to socialize, exercise, and self-improve. This has become increasingly difficult and I personally know many people who have given up because they are unable to skate in the overpopulated park. Please, something needs to be done to maintain the community people have worked so hard to establish in this city.

We need lights at vic west skatepark.

As it gets dark very early, I wish there were more lights in the parks, such as off leash parks and skateparks. There is very limited playing time during winter. This will result more spread out activity times and it's good for social distancing. Besides, it is very important for safety too.

Please install and use low consumption lights in park to keep them safe while using renewable energy

VicWest skatepark should have lights to skate past 6pm.

Lights at the vic west skatepark to make it look cleaner, and have it more accessible during darker times of the year

Please make lights at vic west skatepark.

These areas are all in disrepair due to ongoing homeless encampments. Many parks and green spaces are now filled with needles and garbage, and are not a safe or fair place to let members of our community continue to live in. Those without homes deserve better than camping in muddy parks without appropriate facilities.

Losing uvic as an off leash dog play area was a big loss. We need more designated areas for animals. More outdoor seating that allows people to lay down and rest their legs. More public washrooms (especially now that so many places are closed). More skate and bike parks

Get rid of anti-homeless architecture (spikes/metal bars on benches, etc)

Stop giving the homeless our public spaces.

Small scale spaces for skateboards bikes and scooters are needed throughout the eastern portion of victoria

We need lights at vic west skatepark

Put lights in the skatepark!!!

Please support those who need housing who are currently in tents in the parks.

END 24-HOUR CAMPING IN ALL PUBLIC PARKS. It is inconsistent with the Beacon Hill Park Trust, and establishing semi-permanent homeless encampments creates a sharp divide between campers and local park users, as well as creating safety issues for nearby residents and City workers. This is NOT acceptable. The legal decision only gave campers the right for overnight tenting, not 24-hour. This is creating social issues and increasing costs to the City for remediation.

We really need lights at Vic West Skate park

More public free restrooms

Get the homeless out of the parks. Put them in parkades. Dry, warm and away from damaging or hurting the public.

they should put up more street lights at vic west skate park so you can see when you skate at night

The amount and location of skateboard parks in Victoria is very poor.

Have you seen how busy the Vic west skatepark is?? It's packed every day that the ground is dry. We need more skateparks ASAP! This is a hot spot for youth exercise and community. Each park is considered a treasure to those who use it. At the very least add lights to the Vic west skatepark so we can skate until 9pm (and spread out the use over the day). We need more skateparks in the city, and make one of them dedicated to young kids and kids on scooters.

I am concerned by the anti-homeless nature of much of the architecture of Victoria's parks, such as bars on benches, with little alternative housing for

those without homes. In addition, when resources such as the local showers were built by concerned citizens to accommodate the local unhoused population, these were dismantled by the VicPD and alternatives were not provided.

Lights need to be installed at the skatepark. This is issue #1 for so many Victorians, you probably don't hear this because the primary users of the space are young people who aren't as politically involved. The skatepark and adjacent basketball area also have ongoing drainage issues and would benefit from perimeter drains. Victoria also has a complete lack of dry spaces to skate at, which is causing an ongoing battle between skateboarders and security staff at the city's parkades and at other parkade areas. No one wants to skate inside a car park, we are just out of options every winter. This is not a small community, Victoria is a destination for skaters from all across Canada. In recent years the population of skateboarders in the city has exploded due to a number of factors I won't get into here, but the fact remains that we've collectively outgrown the city's limited infrastructure for the sport and its beginning to cause problems which could be resolved by making it more accessible in two basic and effective ways; Make skateboarding viable at night, with lights. Make skateboarding accessible in the rain, with a sheltered skatepark. (Vancouver has done this to some degree and I can personally attest to its success with parks like Coopers Park and the Granville Island Bowl)

more public washrooms available

consider making the public washrooms accessible 24/7, as it would benefit many people in the community who work odd hours

Lighting fit vic west skate park

All playgrounds should be accessible to wheelchairs. This excludes children, parents and caregivers who use wheelchairs. All skateparks should have ample lighting. They foster amazing community in our city and they should be able to use this incredible space when it's dark out. More public washrooms.

The budget for 2021 and 2022 needs to be spent remediating the damage to many local parks due to 24/7 camping.

Vic West needs lights, and the Victoria needs an under cover place for people to skateboard. We wouldn't be taking to the streets and parkades if so.

We could really use some lights at the Vic West skatepark.

Have more spaces designated where people can set up shelter within city limits or parks to help ease friction between those who come to the park as a break from their current living space, and those who don't have a current home.

More public bathrooms

Lighting at skateparks (especially Vic West!) Crosswalks NEED to have flashing lights that pedestrians can press when crossing.

Don't spend money on implementing architecture that is hostile to the unhoused (centennial square for example). Money would be better spend on solutions for these folks instead of big fences.

Would like to see areas of smooth pavement available for roller skaters/bladers as many trails aren't suitable for these activities (parts of the Goose) or banned from participating (David Foster Walkway)

Cleaner public outdoor washrooms- especially amid Covid-19 pandemic

Improved lighting for safety of walking at night. Also if parks are continued to be used for camping/housing for homeless, there should be sufficient funds to provide adequate facilities and for park clean up in high traffic areas.

More public washrooms. Don't understand why waterfountains are turned off in winter along bike lanes and in parks (not during COVID-19)

Should have public washrooms at parks, especially for unhoused community.

Vic West skatepark really needs lights!!

Having lights installed at Vic west skatepark, similar to the Whistler skatepark where the lights are button activated and on a timer setting

Getting lighting installed at Vic West Skatepark would be a very good use of this budget.

I think replacing the turf field at Topaz Park is a huge waste of resources, especially as we cannot hold events for the foreseeable future. I also think removing the road between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill, while nice to have extra green space, doesn't consider accessibility for those who have trouble walking long distances.

There are so many empty and underutilizes outdoor parking lots, please

repurpose more spaces for the growing demand of housing and the homeless crisis!

Provide more places for the houseless to access showers, toilets and clean drinking water.

stop repeatedly removing unhoused people from public spaces if you dont have other resources for them!! that is awful and completely inhumane, create safe spaces for homeless people in lekwungen territories

install showers in parks so house insecure people can bathe. open for washrooms with running water in parks.

Skateparks should have lights at night.

Add solar energy systems

add more public washrooms

Sometimes I would really like if there was a couple lights set up at Vic West Skatepark

Lights at Vic West skatepark, more outdoor fitness equipment/calisthenics equipment

Please include lights at the Vic west skatepark

We need self cleaning washrooms for the homeless population.

Lights at Victoria west skatepark! And lights for the topaz park when ever it actually gets built... build it!!

Park washrooms should be open for use 24/7 for access by houseless people and folks who work overnight,.

Lights at Victoria west skatepark so that users can use the park into the evenings, especially during the winter when days are so short.

The parks are being used as shelter for the homeless which is unacceptable both for the homeless (who need housing, obviously) and tax-paying citizens who pay for use of parks but are currently unable to.

I can no longer take my two young children to the nearest park due to the amount of people camping in it. I also have stopped taking my two young children to Beacon Hill Park. It is impossible to prevent a four year old from exploring while I am pushing a stroller with a one year old. I can't sweep the parks for needles beforehand as the signs you put up instruct me to do. Spend money to get campers out, remediate the parks and give them back to the tax payers.

It's laughable that a city which has turned over at least two of its parks to squatters has the nerve to ask about the state of its parks budget.

The public washrooms around beacon hill and Dallas road need to be taken care of better. They are a great resource for the public and homeless community and a little extra attention would go a long way.

Build another skatepark, there is extreme overuse of the only 2 there is. Which is dangerous as recently there was a collision which unfortunately killed a man. Skateparks are so over crowded with scooters that is forces us to take to street skating which the city does not like either. Build more parks & put lights at a park or an indoor?

Vic West Skatepark needs lighting!!

Increasing lights on streets would be helpful for driving and walking at night, would help to increase safety as well

Need to create community gardens and more sustainable green spaces that are for everyone. Beacon Hill park or other green spaces are for all! Need to house the homeless and those with mental health issues and keep green spaces for all to enjoy.

We need lights at Vic west skatepark!

off leash areas should be fenced in or away from other users. Dallas road is dangerous and no longer walkable thanks to the uncontrolled dogs. Need more appropriate locations (and more of them)

There needs to be more places for skateboarding and lights installed at the Vic West park! Vic west park is currently heavily overcrowded and becomes unsafe due to that. With the increased popularity of scooters for young children, lots of kids are being hurt partially due to the overcrowding and the parents' negligence of teaching their kid to look before they go.

Build lights at lightless skateboard parks.

It would be great to see more calisthenics infrastructure at parks (dip bars

and platforms) for safe outdoor workouts - i usually have to use playgrounds like the one at Central Middle School

Focusing on bringing programming, community events, etc, including events that support struggling music, literary and arts sectors, to parks and outdoor rec spaces would be a nice way to ease back into community spirit and group activities as the pandemic winds down

Lighting at the skatepark

Lights at vic west skatepark

lets put more showers in public washrooms for unhoused community members that way we can prevent the spread of illnesses such as covid 19

More public washrooms and dignity for unhoused populations

make space for homeless to exist without police presence and harassment.

Stop investing in displacing unhoused people by relying on neoliberal conservation practices for environments degraded by urban development. Accessible, gender inclusive 24/7 bathrooms, showers, hand washing stations, drinking water stations should be ALL over the city. Public outdoors spaces to sleep, meet, play music, exist without criminalization would be nice. No more police or bylaw threatening our community members.

I have noticed the deterioration of several local Garry Oak ecosystems. People trample these rare and endangered ecosystems, allowing their dogs free rein of the areas. I think that vernal pools should be fenced off, at the very least, to avoid further destruction.

Provide more public washrooms and showers for the unhoused population.

It's so aggressive that the city put up extreme lighting in Beacon Hill Park where homeless people were trying to sleep. Also, I often find that our public bathrooms are not very clean.

More parks that allow dogs off leash, and more bylaw/animal control around monitoring for bad owners not cleaning up after there dog. Or use camera monitoring if it's easier, penalize the bad owners ruining it for the majority of owners that do clean up after there dogs.

I think they could use with more money to improve covered spaces and creating clean safe washrooms and public showers.

The more support for biodiversity in green spaces the better!

More blue lighting and less anti homeless infrastructure.

Lights at Vic West skate park would be good. More greenspace. Less cars.

More covered outdoor seating would be great. It's hard to find good seating in the surrounding area of the downtown core. And I would like more lighting, especially for bikers and pedestrians

Question 6 may be misleading. My und=satisfactory designations for 2 items does not mean more expenditures required. In fact the opposite. By unsatisfactory for bike park etc and washrooms, suggest no more funding goes towards such items (the useless ping pong table) until the City proves it will end the games and wastage we see almost daily through fluff projects rather than long-ago committed infrastructure.

Don't feel safe in the parks with dirty needles, drugs and garbage being left behind.

Please consider extended hours for public park washrooms as many people rely on them and it is especially important to have access to running water and soap during these times.

Parks are too over developed and landscaped and do not allow space for native vegetation and species

Please provide vicwest skatepark with night lights or build a indoor skatepark for public use.

Please put lights at the Vic West skatepark

Vic west skate park need night light for kids. Under cover recreation for winter.

Victoria Skate Park lacks lighting itself and certain areas other areas around the city that lack lighting are quite unsafe. Victoria during the day is typically a safe city but recently, we have seen robberies take place downtown showing just how unsafe it can be.

I would like welcoming green spaces and food production spaces to take priority over cosmetic/non-edible landscaping

Better, cleaner toilets. No free standing toilets anywhere within the Core.
Improve street lighting. More litter removal from sidewalks and more funds to combat graffiti

More public washrooms

-more space and services available for homeless people to shelter in place with access to water and showers - less money going towards by-law enforcement that pushes out and puts at risk the city's most marginalized people

There needs to be a solid plan to remove the campers from Beacon Hill park and remediate the damage. It is unacceptable that a family can no enjoy the space without seeing people drinking, swearing and otherwise conducting themselves which is not suitable for a public space.

There are not adequate facilities providing clean water, bathrooms, and showers to people who are sheltering outside.

Once parks are decamped from all the homeless tenters, please do not "refurbish" them through unnecessary spending to prevent future tenters. It's a waste of money and only further marginalizes where people can or cannot camp when they literally have no where else to sleep at night besides a tent in a park.

We need a central space for Indigenous BIPOC LGBTQ2S to gather for culture in Victoria

We want our parks back.

Please no overnight camping/tents/homeless camps in our parks and public spaces!

I support continuing to expand more accessible green spaces

More outdoor public washrooms for our unhoused communities.

I am very unhappy that the biggest chunk of the capital budget is going to turf replacement at Topaz. This is a great benefit to REGIONAL organised sports and of limited benefit to the neighbourhood. I note that the skate and bike skills park at Topaz is still in the planning phase. This despite the neighbourhood advocating for years. In terms of Royal Athletic Park this should be returned to public use. In order to have 80 operational days that are all paid events it is locked up, unavailable to the neighbourhood. For

years I thought it was a private facility and was stunned to find it was city owned. Parks priorities seem to reflect the backgrounds of parks director and do not reflect neighbourhood interests.

At this time do not spend \$760,000 on additional crosswalks etc. Do not spend \$4.8 million on artificial turf and playground upgrades. Only spend funds on absolute necessities. 1 road that is in need of repaving is Yates st a main artery into the city.

Keep them as parks, more consideration for the tax payers.

More covered spaces for socially distanced socialization in parks would be great

The parks were very nice places to go before the homeless encampments. Now I do not feel that they are a safe place to be. There could be more seating around the city for elderly people.

How dare the Mayor and Councilors exclude the public from accessing the parks that we pay for with our tax dollars by allowing 24/7 tenting by high risk and high needs people. Crime has doubled in some categories (break and enters) along with sexual assaults' increasing. The park in my area has been filled with garbage, prostitutes and the washroom destroyed on a daily basis. The cost to the City to support 24/7 tenting has cost more than \$1M according to the Mayor. I want a refund on my taxes as I paid for a service (parks) that I can't access.

Emphasize native and fruit trees for shade, climate mitigation, and a food source for those who need it. Increase space for outdoor seating to support local businesses hit hard by COVID. Allow continued camping and develop additional infrastructure to support the unhoused on city land, including parks, but restrict these activities to certain areas in certain parks and develop maintenance standards. Support the Victoria Extreme Weather Protocol Conestoga Hut program to replace tents with warmer and more secure structures in areas where tenting is to be allowed.

The full 8 lane track should be maintained at Vic High. Parks should be used for recreation, not emergency housing. Mayor Help's promise to reopen Clover Point to cars should be honoured. QUESTION: Has anyone bothered in the past count the number of vehicles that used it daily. Count the number of occupants? Ages? Visits on stormy days? The proposal to restrict it to pedestrian use only will deprive all sorts of people (seniors, people with disabilities, storm averse users etc) from visiting. This is another example of Council following ideology rather than common sense.

Remove the showers at Clover Point (put in without consultation) and allow parking as soon as possible at the Clover Point. Facilitating tenting, bus passes etc. Build it and they will come.

Adding more trees and natural areas would be appreciated. Native ecosystem restoration is important, especially the Garry Oak ecosystems.

I don't visit these spaces unfortunately. A main reason I avoid parks/public spaces is because they have turned into a housing option for the homeless. The closest parks to me is Stadacona and Crystal Pool. Both of these sites are housing many homeless folks at the moment. My family and I go to Margaret Jenkins Elementary School to use basketball hoops and generally avoid City parks.

What this council has done to the public spaces and parks is disgraceful and an absolute travesty

Stop wasting money building split cedar fences as "unfriendly design" to displace homeless people under the guise of ecological restoration. Allocate more funding to create more public seating, more public covered areas, more public washrooms, more public water. Reduce policing and surveillance in public areas. Allocate money to keep public washrooms open longer hours and make sure they are cleaned regularly. Reduce money spent on bylaw officers used to harass and police homeless people.

Increase food security so that anything planted/landscape has the capacity to feed those who need it!

Victoria city should do a disability/accessibility audit of its infrastructure. There should be more spaces for folks to sit, indoors or under cover, that don't charge money to be there so that folks who are homeless have a safe, dry place to go during the day. More gender-neutral and accessible washrooms throughout the city.

An increased focus on food security through our public green spaces is needed - fruit & nut orchards, food forests, etc. Increased lighting is needed from Banfield Park, across the Selkirk Trestle, and through Cecelia Ravine Park.

Green spaces and recreational areas must remain available and safe for the citizens who use them for recreational leisure and community engagement. Parks and public spaces are not suitable for sheltering encampments for any reason.

More seating and washroom facilities (one in all of Beacon Hill Park isn't enough!)

More public space and amenities to allow for safe distanced socializing

Dog-friendly is NOT environmentally friendly. Dogs as pets to city-dwellers come at significant overall environmental cost.

Please don't funnel parks money into other ways to criminalize unhoused folks living in parks.

More dog parks please

We know that covid has put pressure on resources for the homeless but the impact has been very negative on parks. The city has a shortage of green space. I would love to see building lots assembled and turned into green space.

We need playgrounds with gazebos or some sort of cover. We have long rainy season and cant use playgrounds ass they are too wet. Other cities have this.

money in this part of the budget should be used to build infrastructure and amenities that would support the survival activities of marginalized and homeless people - there should be 24 hour access to water, toilets and showers in the city's parks and public spaces

I remember wanting there to be a bench somewhere once but I might be imagining it

The abundance of park space in Victoria should be used to house the homeless during this pandemic. Otherwise it is clear that the city values, prioritizing landscaping and irresponsible gardening practices, OVER human lives. City gardens should be planted with perennials. Planting and removing items is wasteful, it is wasteful to continually spent the budget on frivolous and temporary plants. It is 2021, we should be beyond this harmful showmanship.

Allow people without homes to live in parks

More family oriented areas, obstacles course. I live 4 blocks from Beacon Hill and do not feel safe in the park

For the most park they remain unsafe, unkept and unused for their intended uses.

Clean up the garbage. Plant more trees.

There needs to be lighting on the stretch of the Goose between Harbour Rd and Mayfair as it is currently a hazard to pedestrians and bikers, esp when pedestrians are often lacking any reflective gear. I recommend adding a reflective paint strip along the path between the bike and pedestrian portions as the separation is not visible at night. I also recommend posting signs

reminding pedestrians to be visible at dusk, night, and dawn. I also recommend signs asking pedestrians to walk on the "brick" portion as too many walk on the bike portion when travelling south.

People will continue to live outside after the pandemic is over due to skyrocketing rent prices and evictions. While the City strategizes on maintaining and creating affordable rentals, we need to also invest in creating and maintaining parks for the dual purpose of leisure and survival needs. A priority for the City should be increasing the amount of public washrooms and showers, covered cooking spaces, and storage in public parks. We have many people living outside and not having public washrooms available creates conflict between the housed and unhoused community.

Great work! More trees and green space please.

It's challenging to comment positively on the maintenance of the park areas when so many areas are occupied 24/7 by tent cities.

Please complete the Ship Point Plan. Which was expected to start in 2020

More food and native plant plantings

Stop allowing and enabling camping in City parks and public spaces. It is completely inappropriate, at any time. Parks and public spaces should be safe, clean, welcoming places for all members of the community; they should not be "free" bedrooms and toilets for individuals.

We could always use more lighting.

Let's house some homeless people there shall we? Until you get your whole 'government takes care of it's people' stuff together.

Protecting and preserving our green spaces and parks is paramount for the health and well-being of our citizens and visitors to our region. Densification of our downtown core makes every possible green space and park even more important for all to enjoy. Especially in this time of the pandemic the mental well being of all living in our region includes protecting these spaces and their natural habitat for all living things.

Get the vagrants out. Police them, make the space attractive to and desirable for our resident population and businesses

Create more car-free areas in Beacon Hill Park and other parks.

Campers and their detritus have negatively impacted park enjoyment

More parks, plazas and outdoor spaces are needed. Make the outdoor patios permanent!

Happy with public bathrooms, but can always use more.

More lighting is needed in some of the parks to ensure safety after 5pm for much of the year.

Off-leash areas need more fencing for the safety of all. (E.g. Dallas Rd - fencing is more ornamental than functional.)

Ensuring there are garbages in or close to the the bathrooms would be great.

More funding for programming at RAP,

Please consider some lighting on the galloping goose from the trestle to harbour road. It's unsafe to walk at night.

Vic west skate park needs lights.

more trees, natural areas and 'wild' or restored green spaces, improve accessibility to pathways in city parks

Get the homeless out of our public parks.

I'm very disappointed and concerned about the way the showers and sanitation facilities for Meegan/Beacon Hill were removed without concern for house less folks staying the camp. It seemed unnecessarily punitive and created a barrier to supporting all of the community's ability to follow PHO orders.

They are unwelcoming towards and designed to deter the unhoused population

Increased public rest areas and washrooms are needed throughout the city, and hostile architecture that prevents homeless people from resting should not be used anywhere.

Lights at vic west skatepark! Build Topaz skatepark (with lights). More public seating at vic west skatepark. NO SPRINKLERS AT VIC WEST SKATEPARK. There have been a lot of accidents at vic west skatepark due to overcrowding, including one death. The "scooter gang" (usually around 15 or so teen boys) show no respect for the park with no park etiquette, excessive littering, and bullying. They are essentially an uncoached football team and many adult spectators of the park have mentioned their rampant disrespect. Skateparks have traditionally been used by individuals and small groups, allowing everyone to share the space. The scooter crew hang out in packs and essentially monopolize the space. Requests of adherence to the etiquette are met with further disrespect. It's a big problem. Signed, Former Skate Park Host with a Child and Youth Care degree, Carla Hyslop Please contact me to discuss these issues. 250-818-0394

Preservation and expansion of green space, particularly around Quadra village is important for equitable access to the outdoors.

I think we should have more public art and more public washrooms.

Anything of any modern significance to me doesn't seem to be located in the city of Victoria but other municipalities; ie decent sports fieldstone Rec centres are unappealing

HOUSING CRISIS

Sanitation is a human right, and the people living in Beacon Hill Park desperately need access to showers. Public washroom availability has decreased significantly because of Covid, and this makes life significantly harder for our most vulnerable (unhoused, seniors, people with disabilities).

You need to address the numerous tent city's in the parks. I agree that affordable housing is an issue but not everyone in the parks wants to be housed and creating an environment for individuals to build tent communities does not encourage the necessary changes needed.

Stop putting the junkies and homeless in the parks. Please leave parks for the law abiding, tax-paying citizens that obey the rules and pay the property taxes to run the city. Let the other municipalities do their part. Time to end the 24/7 camping in parks. The homeless are from all over the CRD yet Victoria has to bear the burden for some reason.

Would love to see more native plants, covered seating, and public washrooms available!

I would like to see greater availability of and access to public washrooms.

More washrooms are needed. And the tents in parks has made them less used for intended purposes, not that I blame those folks.

Stop the campers in the parks. No more tents.

The availability of public washrooms across the city has always been a concern for me; with both the closure and restrictions around commercial spaces, libraries, and cafes due to COVID-19, the situation has become ever more dire. Without access to the Fernwood Community Centre or Little June, where can you pee in Fernwood? Where, other than a couple public toilets near Bastion and Centennial Square, can we count on having public, free, and round-the-clock access to a toilet or hand-washing station? While this is always a concern for those sheltering in parks or other public spaces, it is also increasingly affecting those of us who are attempting to follow social distancing measures by meeting with friends for walks in the city and in parks. Increasing free 24-hour publicly accessible washrooms should be a priority: not only for those listed above, but for children and families, people with disabilities and gastrointestinal issues , and elders.

Priority should be to keep trees and maintain/increase outdoor liveable healthy nature spaces

More public washrooms.

No it's a beautiful city

Overrun by the homeless that residents can't use them anymore. It's not safe.

We no longer go to Beacon Hill Park. We do not feel safe, due to the large population of homeless.

Yes . They are no longer safe. They are nothing more then cess pools of crime now

Lack of bylaw enforcement using Covid as an excuse is wearing very thin! get on with solving the homeless situation which was instigated by the City of Victoria Council! How can Victorted obviously!

Sections of the Goose are too dark to use after dusk.

I'd be happier if the park was safer and not covered in trash and beer cans and tents all the time.

Please remove the "unhoused" and bike chop-shops from Beacon Hill Park now!

Defund bylaw by 30% at least .their main function in the parks is to criminalize our unhoused neighbours

Existing off leash areas are mud pits throughout the winter. I don't know if there is any solution, but a park that isn't so muddy would be really welcomed. Also, there doesn't seem to be an off leash area that is lit so unless you get off work very early and it's still light out, then there is no where to take a dog in the winter in the evenings.

I would be more satisfied if people were more allowed to tent and live in the parks. The red zones are not covid friendly. They should be allowed to spread out. It's also more safe for them in other ways.

Keep parks as parks and end the 24 hour camping.

Get rid of campers

You are destroying our ability to go to the parks by allowing 24 hr camping. We used to walk there daily, and take the dog, now it's unsafe. Thanks for excluding all the tax payers from using the parks

Its practically impossible to use a City Park without fear of needles, excrement, violence or theft

The big problem with parks is the campers, not the infrastructure.

More public washrooms

Many (homeless tents nearby) public bathrooms are unsafe.

Get homeless out of parks

More garbage cans

All of the money being spent on these beautiful things is being wasted. None of these areas are being enjoyed by the general public, as downtown has

become increasingly unsafe, and taken over by tents and drug addicts.

Get the homeless out and create more dog friendly places and things for youth to do

Stop turning our parks and green spaces into homeless camps. You cannot have safe public parks coexisting with violent drug addicted homeless camps.

Investing in public showers, washrooms, and shelters available 24/7.

stop allowing full time campers in parks as remediation costs are too high

Central Park needs many upgrades to bring it in line with other parks. The annual flooding needs to be addressed.

I would like to see continued focus on native plant species, more green spaces downtown, more covered outdoor areas. I'm also pretty worried about light pollution and how it affects native species, not to mention people, so I think those worries should be factored into lighting considerations.

Fully enforce the existing bylaws within the city's purview. There is full recognition that the housing and homelessness issue requires multiple levels of government and stakeholders to buy in, but the city's lack of action has resulted in a lack of trust by the citizens that it can actually be effective. There is a middle ground - the elected officials represent ALL citizens, not just a faction.

increase access to washrooms, improve lighting at night in parks ie Topaz Park has two dimly lit bulbs for the entire path, it's dark to walk through at night but is a main thoroughfare for our neighbourhood. lack of access to 24/7 or accessible (including for non-men, disabled folks) in and around the downtown core

get the tents out of all parks

Please stop 24/7 camping in parks. This allows criminals to operate theft and drug activities, without being held accountable.

increase access to 24/7 washrooms in and around the downtown core

Most parks are or have been filled with 24/7 campers making them unusable. Topaz was fenced off for months afterwards. Beacon Hill and Central are unsafe and will need millions of dollars in remediation

Please add lights to the galloping goose trail through cecelia ravine park and across the Selkirk trestle.

Aside from the need for more investment in creating more public washrooms throughout the city that are accessible 24/7 i am satisfied with this budget.

Remember that Victoria doesn't just mean downtown and tourist areas. It's important to beautify and maintain all neighbourhoods.

If all levels of government, including municipal, fail to provide housing to its most vulnerable citizens, then people should be allowed to shelter 24/7 in parks - no questions asked.

It may just be where I tend to go, but there doesn't seem to be a public washroom around when I need one. This is not meant to be a major complaint though.

The Vic West skatepark needs lighting.

They should not be used for tents

Issue zero tenting and camping enforcement to prevent absorbitant cost of remediation.

I understand that washrooms could be a target for destruction by those that love to wreck things. Maybe that convenient washroom by the duck/boat pond on Dallas Road could use a fix up.

We need more trees and more parks downtown

we need to allow homeless people to resie in parks (as they are not housed properly by the city) and have open bathrooms

I think we should have less of a focus on pet friendly areas and more of a focus on people friendly areas, which includes on leash dog areas. Some park washrooms aren't accessible for those with wheelchairs or walkers and this could be improved. Hand washing stations should be distributed throughout the city, particularly in parks (decrease spread of COVID), bathrooms should be more plentiful for all people (standing washroom at Pandora and Gov't is great, but difficult for transgender/females/people with disabilities). Access to toilets and washing station is an essential human right that should be embodied within the number of facilities available to folks in the city. Would like to see an expansion of the city program that grew food plant starts for distribution along with development of city spaces for

community gardens as the city currently has very few community gardening opportunities, particularly in North Park/Vic West.

Keep the trust of beacon Hill exactly that. It should not be used for the homeless where we now feel unsafe to use the park because it has been destroyed. Sand in fern street park should be refilled periodically

More dedicated dog areas with large dog and separate small dog areas. For a population of dogs lovers, Victoria one of the least dog friendly places I know.

Too much \$ being spent on park clean up after homeless have occupied the park. Cut down on light pollution at night! Stop planting trees on boulevards that constantly need pruning and that have destructive root systems.

Rather than budget for "[e]xpanded services to mitigate impacts relating to increased outdoor sheltering," there should be a higher priority on allocating funds to support public housing programs for unhoused folks sheltering on park land.

There should be more allocation to urban garden and permaculture spaces and skate parks in the City. They are not only an asset to youth, but provides skills and a sense of community well being to many demographics.

Community spaces to grow food and be active together and build community are crucial to the health of any urban space.

I would like to request that the COV have another look at the possibility of a Portland Toilet at Bamfield Park.

More outdoor, covered spaces would be nice. More seating and less defensive architecture.

- Open Royal athletic park to the public year round for free community access. It is a huge park, that makes up half of North Park's allotted greenspace and is not accessible to the community. - A bench overlooking the pickle ball court in Franklin Green

More public washrooms are needed

I would rather climate initiatives take precedence over any infrastructural expenses that are not acutely necessary for public safety, as nice roads will matter very little in a 1.5+ degree warmed world. Though I appreciate the attempt at balancing the many various intricate needs of many different communities, spending almost 5 million dollars to replace a turf feels like a luxury we don't have in 3 State of Emergency's (COVID, Opioid Epidemic and the Climate Crisis).

I would like to see more environmental restoration and natural park areas within the city. Also, possibly daylighting sections of bowker creek in the Oaklands area.

A splash pad like the one in Esquimalt would be lovely!

Parks and public spaces serve multiple purposes and are not only recreational spaces but also survival spaces for people who are unhoused. Instead of using hostile architecture (e.g., benches with arms preventing people from laying down, removing seating) and refusing to install survival basics out of fear this will "enable" people to be homeless, I want the City to both prioritize resources for affordable and adequate housing, and also in the meantime admit that at the current rate of new builds and with the failure to address causes of homelessness (e.g., colonialism, poverty, relationship violence, family violence against 2Spirit and queer/trans/non-binary kids) people are, for many years to come, still going to have no option other than living in parks and public spaces. It is long overdue for the City to stop its hostile relationship and surveillance/punishment orientation with unhoused people, and create an appropriately resourced working group with the mandate to ensure that human rights are respected and map out a prioritized plan for installation of infrastructure needed in parks to support people sheltering outside. This is not just a need in COVID-times but is especially critical right now given the current respiratory pandemic which requires high intensity access to COVID-safe (e.g., foot-pedal-powered) handwashing, drinking water taps, etc. The City should include in the 2021/22 Draft Financial Plan funds to rapidly assess compliance with the United Nations' "National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada" and to address all areas where the City is out of compliance. This is an emergency in a dual public health crisis, and emergency reserves are appropriate to use for this purpose.

making more pedestrian friendly spaces , benches, places to sit and eat, etc would be good to include in the plan. Opening up Government street was a great idea, lets do more of that!

I don't have young children any longer, but I feel more family friendly fixtures would be welcome in parks: playgrounds, skate and bike parks, putting greens, anything to keep kids wanting to get outside, socializing without organized play.

Victoria does a good job of recreational spaces - sports field, skateparks, seating areas - but we do not have nearly enough green spaces per neighbourhood for an adequate resident-to-green-space ratio. For one of the most densely populated regions on the country, and a high level of condo renters, we need more greenery! Far too many new builds have moved forward with concrete where grass could be. With a bench, where a tree should be. Victoria is, in my experience, also one of the most dog-UNfriendly cities. Very few rentals allow pets (in Toronto, it is illegal to not allow pets and pets deposits are not taken), and with so many people living in rentals, access to yards for these pets doesn't exist. They NEED more available spaces for off-leash play and to socialize with other dogs - this is VITAL for

their well being! Every neighbourhood needs to have a minimum of 2 off leash spaces - even smaller like the one in Dockside Green. This is standard for top-level cities. I would also like to see more green space for the sake of green space - this means simple fields and trees/gardens that are not simply a small section of a larger paved rec space.

We need way more public washrooms and also spaces for homeless people to access services like showers.

Gender inclusive, 24 hour restrooms and showering facilities for i housed communities are required. Bylaws preventing sheltering in parks should be abolished.

We really need more fully fenced off leash parks for dogs.

nope

The washroom situation is severely lacking in parks across the city. More lit 24 hour toilets and warm showers need to be installed.

no

In these times when we can only see each other outside, the lack of public space is glaring. I think everyone would benefit from some creative problem solving and the construction of more spaces that are dry (at least mostly), have seating, and are free to be in, and shared. Gazebos, covered picnic tables, more un-landscaped green spaces.

Yes, immediately install some permanent hot water showers in Beacon Hill Park for both the current unhoused population and the residents and tourists who like to use the park for athletics.

Tent cities make public spaces into private spaces. Other housing solutions are needed.

There are no other places than the reduced area to walk dogs or pets than Dallas rd. Propose tuesdays and thursdays off leash "walks " for animals under control " two call" along the galloping goose trail Johnston st water front to esquimalt . Possible athlete "walks " off leash . Days and hour restricted. Pets add to our inclusive city. Laural pt new waterfront could use an outdoor pool .. glass side towards the ocean ...

accommodate the usage of park spaces for as-needed sheltering. our parks are capable of serving all members of the community. it is frankly ridiculous that those most in need of a place to rest are the ones most immediately approached and displaced. compromise is essential; those with the privilege

of returning to a house must participate in that compromise.

Too bright! Also way more need for food and pollinator gardening, and more washrooms that are open to all including under housed populations (also washrooms should be gender inclusive)

I would feel safer if you defunded the police.

I look forward to a day when most people are housed and not needing to live in our parks. I would like more lighting on pathways in parks for evening walking/biking to feel safe. I also appreciated the Growing City plant starts this year.

More lighting along the goose especially around Cecilia ravine

I would like to see more covered / rain-friendly covered outdoor spaces in city parks. I've been trying to find covid-safe meeting spaces throughout the pandemic, and I've realized this is a very difficult task when it's raining - as I couldn't think of or find any covered outdoor public spaces with seating in any city parks. I would also like to see more public washrooms - both in parks, and in the downtown core (...which would also greatly benefit from more green space). Compared to other cities I've visited within Canada, and thinking of the 9 years I've lived in Victoria, I've been disappointed by the noticeable lack of green spaces, including trees, natural areas, and parks, in the downtown core. That said, I am happy with the park infrastructure in many of the neighbourhoods surrounding downtown.

All pedestrian cross walks should be equipped with flashing pedestrian activated lights

END THE HARASSMENT OF PEOPLE SHELTERING IN THE PARKS. THE LAWN BOWLING CLUB VIOLATES THE BEACON HILL TRUST. REMOVE IT.

- Victoria does not have a large fenced off-leash dog park. Some dogs (especially rescue dogs) can't function in unfenced dog parks. - Victoria does not have a skatepark. This kind of strange when you think about all of the other types of facilities that do exist for other physical activities. - Pretty much all washrooms in public parks are not well maintained. Factor in homeless campers using them, and the situation gets even worse. - I wish there were more green pedestrian walk-ways. ie corridors that cut through neighbourhoods and are pedestrian only. So much money has been spent on all-ability bicycle lanes, and think it's only fair that pedestrians start to be considered more. - More park space downtown. Esp dog friendly and child friendly spaces. - It would be great to see Ship Point turned into a large amphitheatre for music performances and festivals, or at the very least a re-design of Centennial Square to accommodate large scale events.

We need more playgrounds that are downtown and downtown adjacent to accommodate increasing demand and families that live downtown

Focus on Urban Agriculture as its very helpful for people to grow their own healthy foods and create a local economy.

Start to enforce park bylaws. Community is healthy no community isn't safe so that should be your priority

The drainage of Redfern Park needs to be improved. Redfern Park is the main amenity of the South Jubilee neighbourhood. During the wet season, the grassy areas in both the dog park and playground areas are extremely wet and are basically unusable. This park also drains into the adjacent properties and causes flooding.

No camping in parks

public washrooms should be better and cleaner and more accessible.

I feel there could be more public washrooms.

You do a fantastic job keeping parks and public spaces well maintained and wonderful to be in. More street lighting in residential areas all throughout the city is desperately needed. I would also love to see stronger bylaw enforcement of dogs off leash in on leash areas.

To much emphasis on dogs in our society at the expense of underprivileged humans.

Really appreciate increased lighting along Dallas Rd - makes walking during the pandemic feel much safer for single people and women walking alone,. More outdoor socially distanced spaces would be appreciated. Could we get more places to have an outdoor fire pit or charcoal BBQ structures to support outdoor gathering (once we are allowed again)?

Hard to access these resources when there are unpredictable homeless populations in the area. I will not risk the safety of my kids.

Public spaces would benefit from green spaces that serve ecology roles above aesthetic

NA

More public washrooms, covered outdoor spaces to gather. I've been particularly disappointed in the lack of support for people sheltering outside in Beacon Hill Park - to remove water when community found a way to provide badly needed showers was not an appropriate response. I'd like to see more public space for growing food, and/or an increase in the food plants in existing park spaces. While I appreciate many of the ornamental plantings in our parks, I think we need to integrate and expand food growing capacity. I thought Parks' work on producing vegetable seedlings for the public was a great use of resources.

More covered outdoor spaces for small gatherings would be appreciated. While COVID-19 pushes socialization outdoors, realistically the same infrastructure could serve similar purposes post-pandemic.

You morons have turned our parks into a national disgrace. Open sewer and toxic needles. Use the parking area off Ogden Point or strike a deal for unused barracks at the naval base. Think outside the box instead of handing the keys to the inmates who are now running this city.

It's not safe to go to our parks. This needs to change.

You have handed over our parks and some public space to the homeless. Not a solution.

More lighting in parks and on trails. More playground/bike infrastructure in all parks like Cecelia Ravine.

I think the city should have allowed 24/7 camping on the unused dirt soccer fields at the southern end of Beacon Hill Park, to better provide services to the unhoused during COVID, and to protect sensitive ecosystems in the park.

People who are living outside in parks deserve proper hygiene amenities.

City residents need our public spaces like parks, playgrounds, walkways, and rec centres to be well-maintained, inviting spaces for leisure and recreation.

The pandemic has really shone a light on how few public bathrooms are available, particularly when the city is struggling to help those faced with homelessness. We need more public facilities.

I urge you not to cave to the deluge of callous and comfortable people who are furious that people living on the very edge are sheltering in their precious parks that they stroll through. Parks are for everyone, yes, but some people needed them more in 2020 than others and I am ashamed that my fellow housed citizens couldn't come to terms with that. And fwiw I happily used the parks alongside unhoused people all year without discomfort or incident. Also we should give the parks back to the local Nations, frankly.

Optional question (432 response(s), 277 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q8 For 2021, what level of priority do you place on the following for our city?



Optional question (686 response(s), 23 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

Q8 For 2021, what level of priority do you place on the following for our city?

Our community is welcoming

Not a Priority : 53



Low Priority : 97



Medium Priority : 230



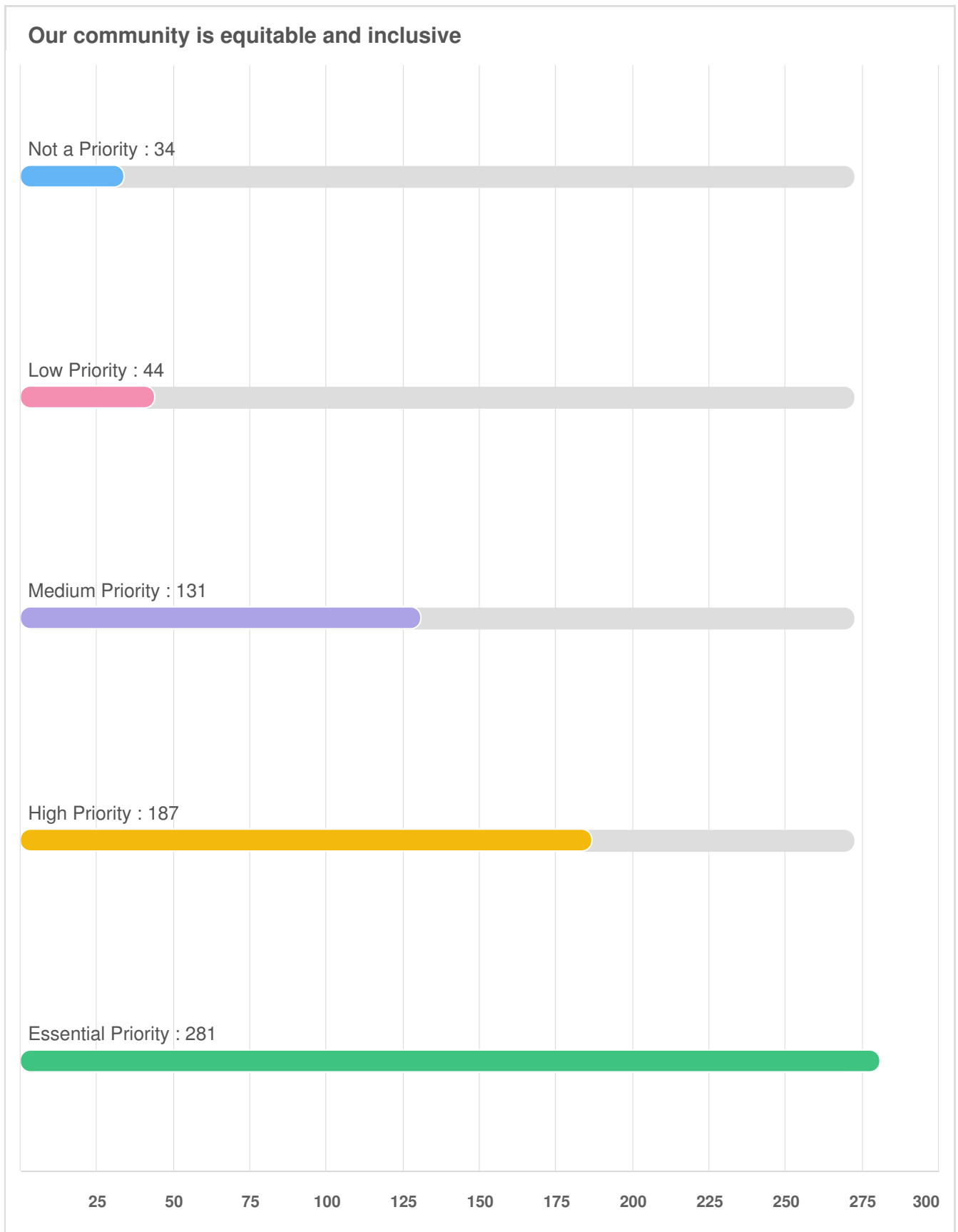
High Priority : 206

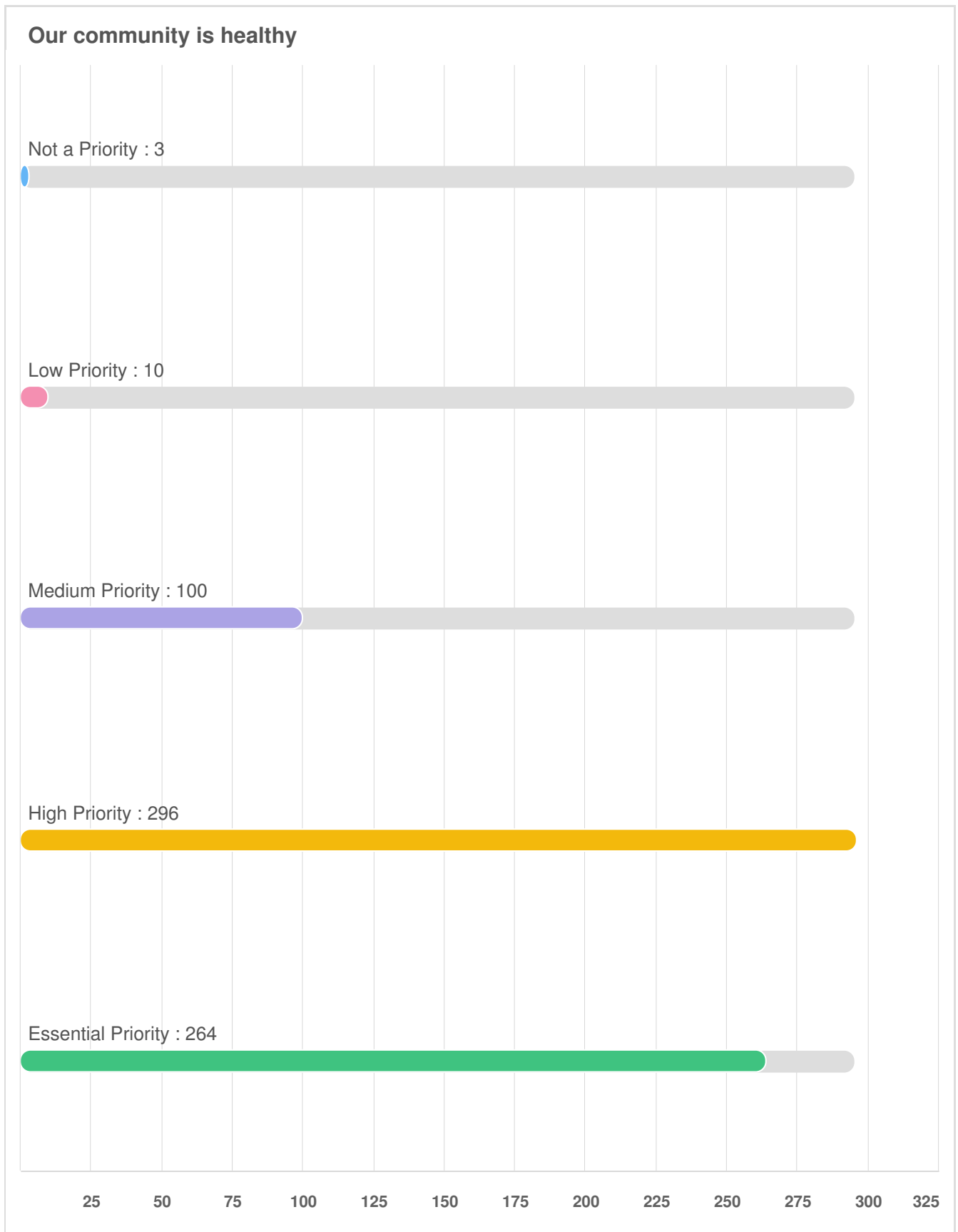


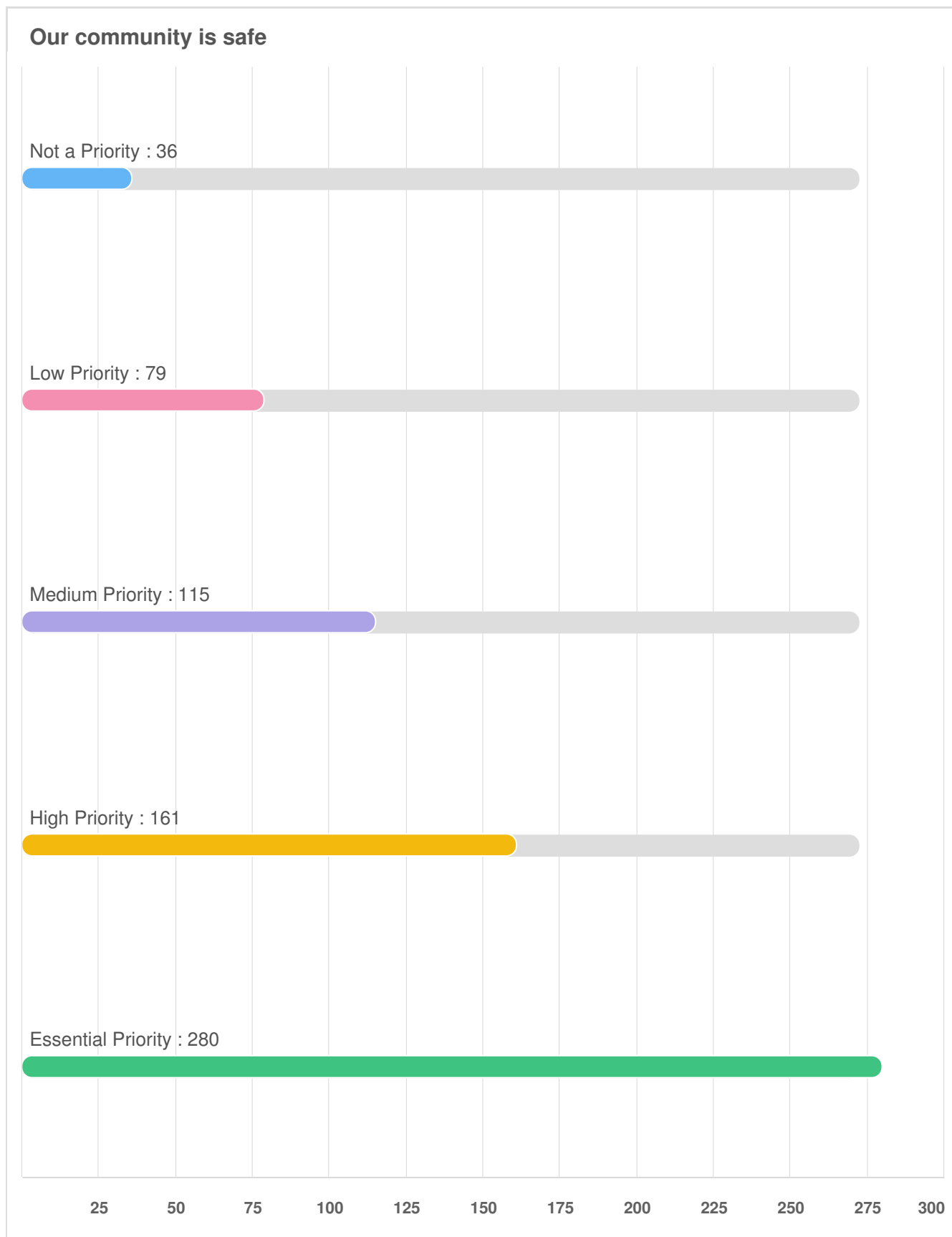
Essential Priority : 87



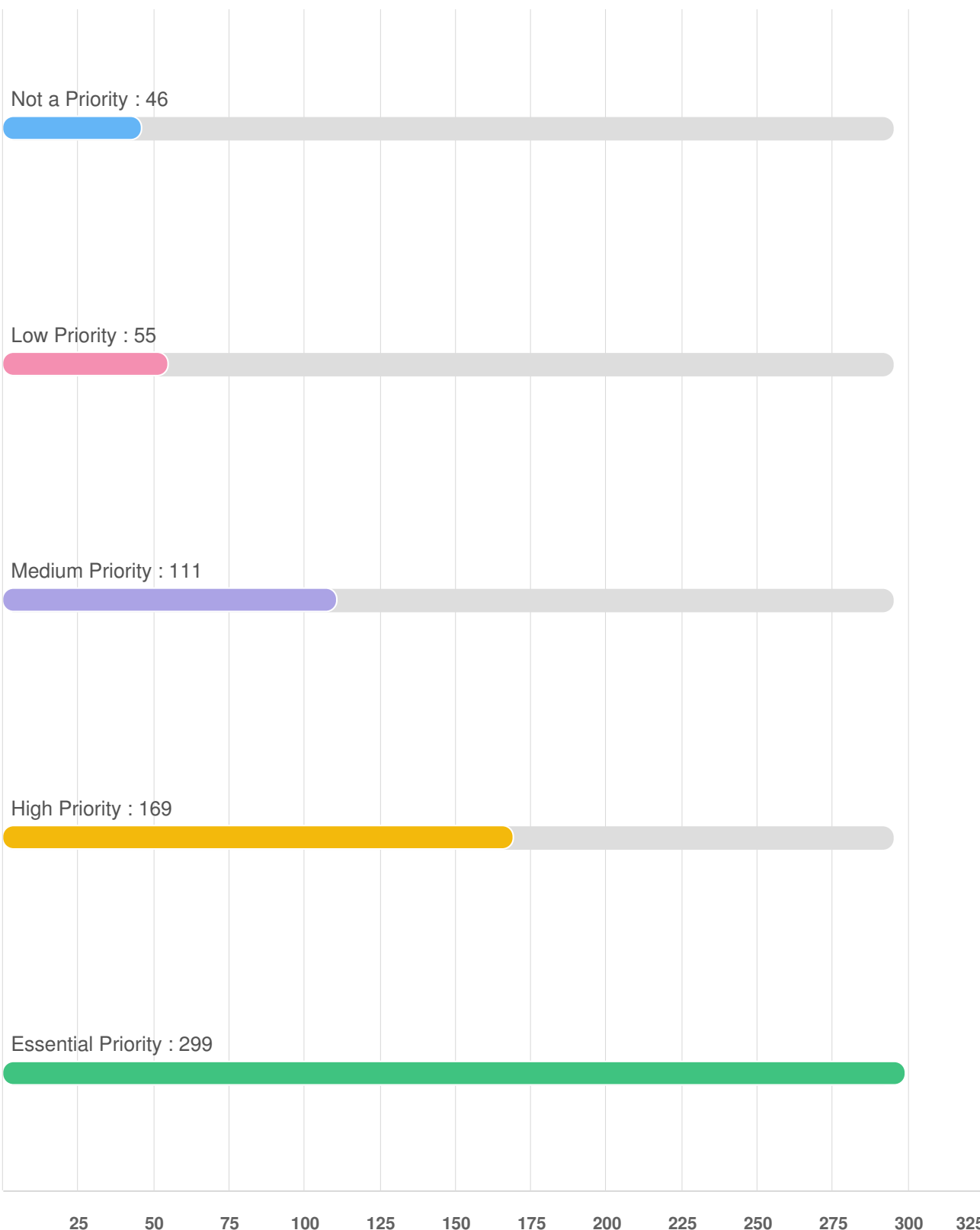
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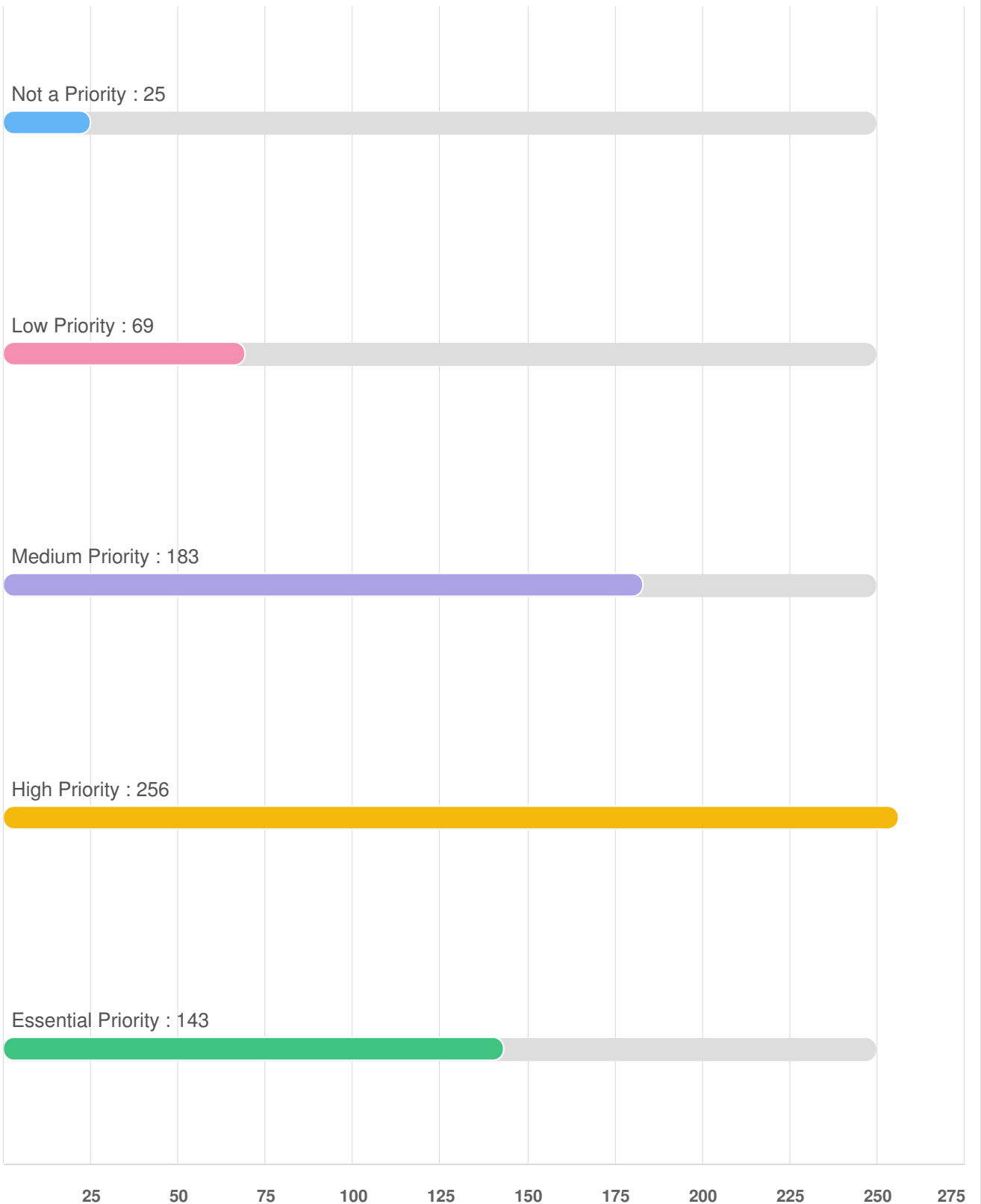


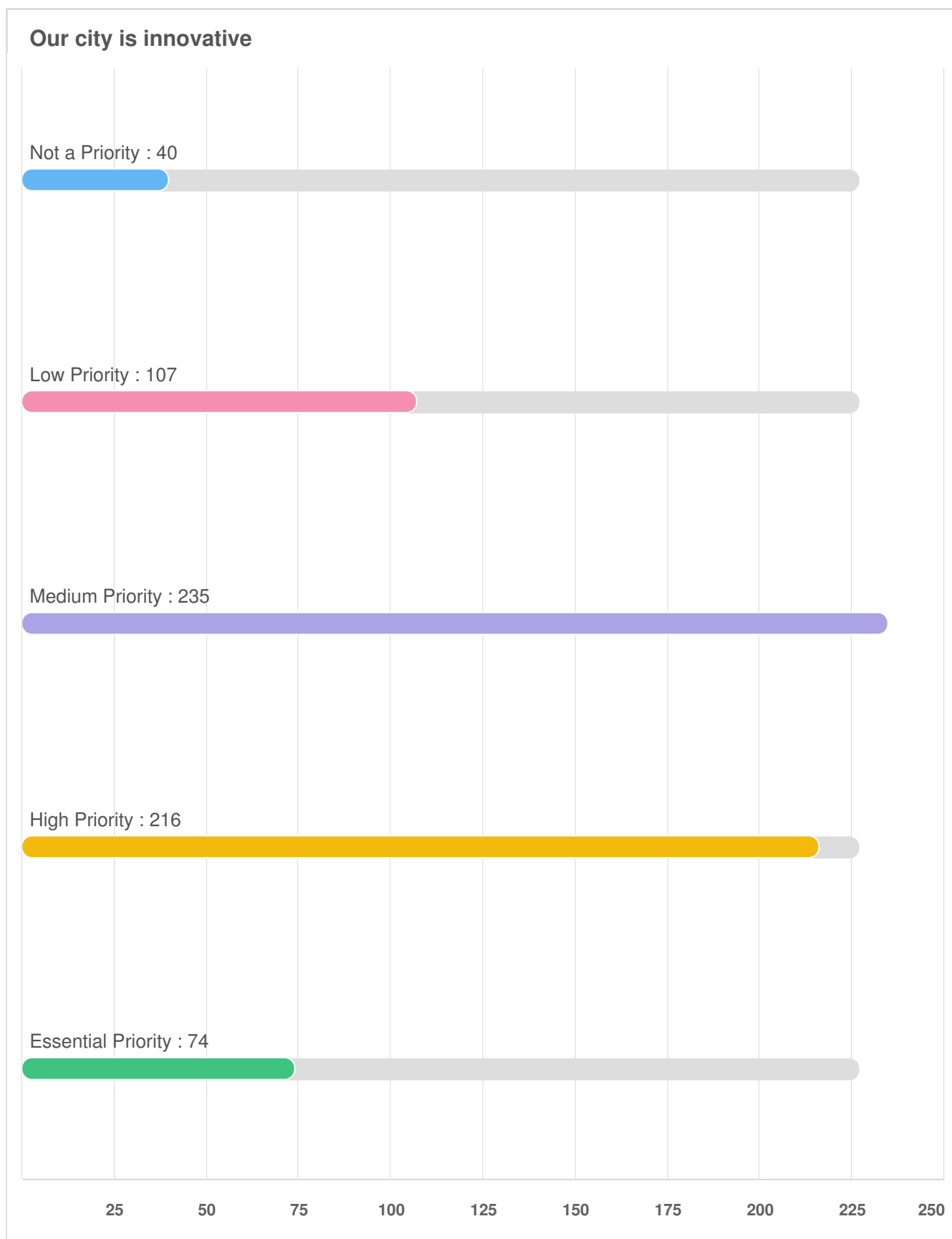


Our community is a leader in climate action and sustainability

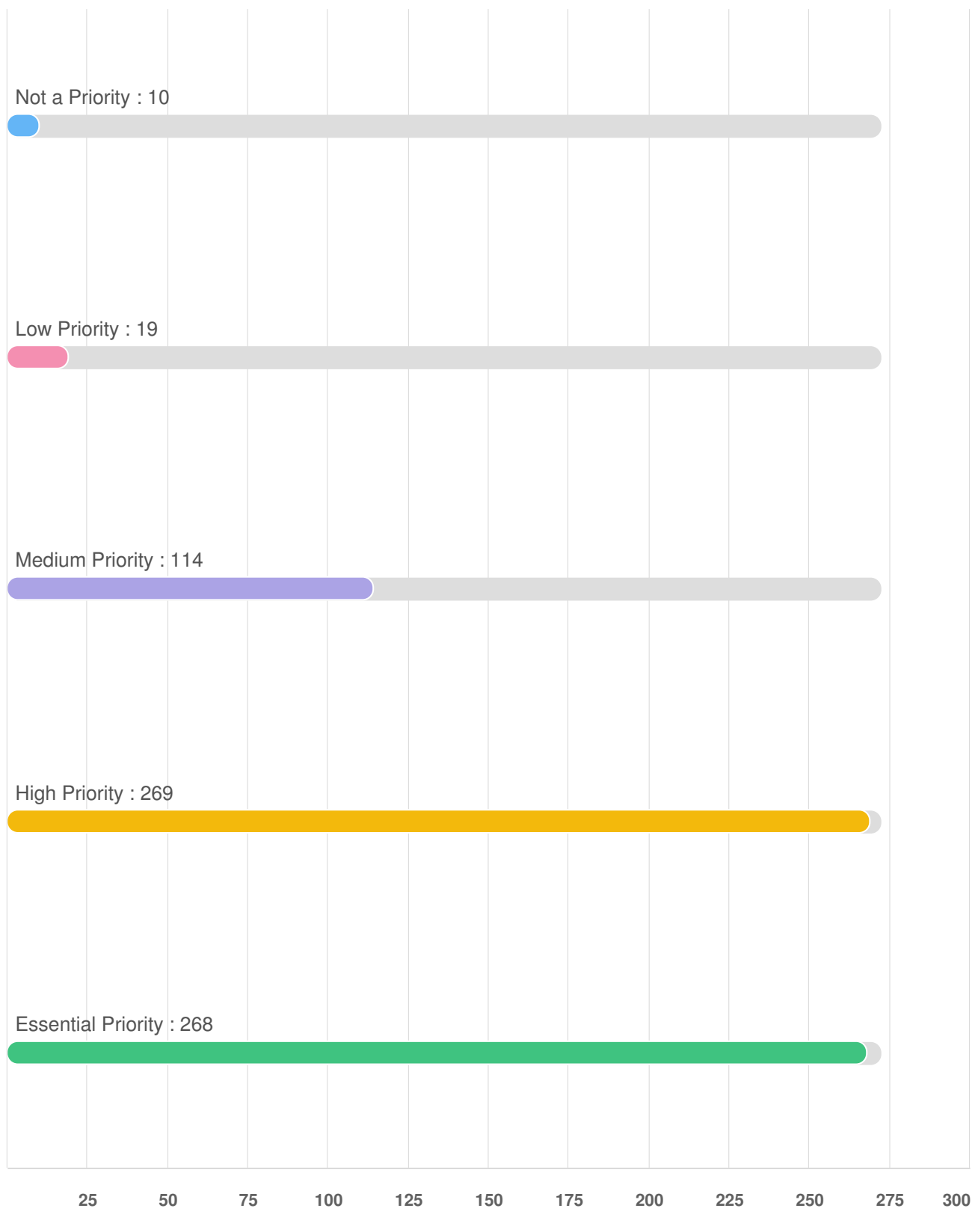


Our city embraces arts and culture

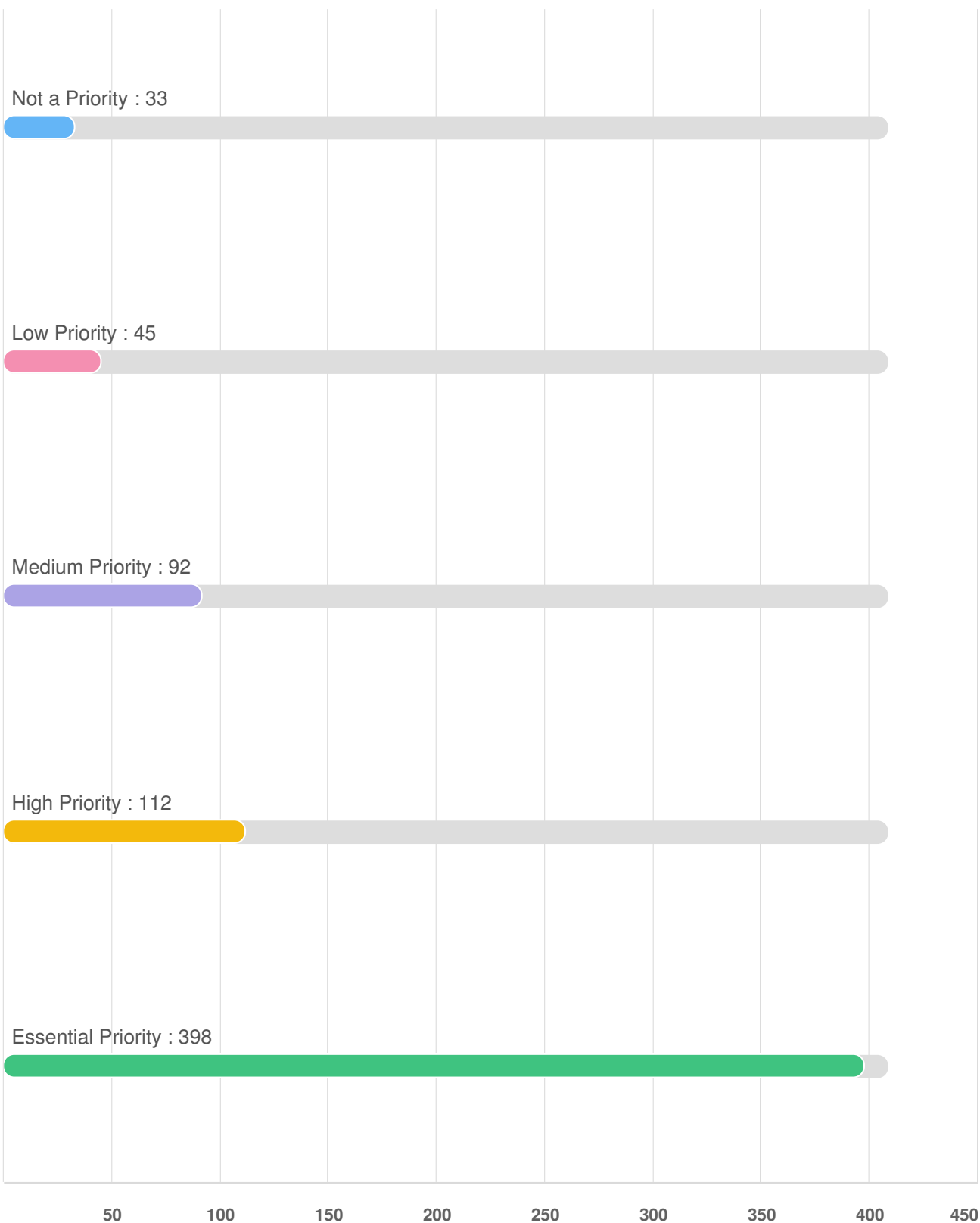




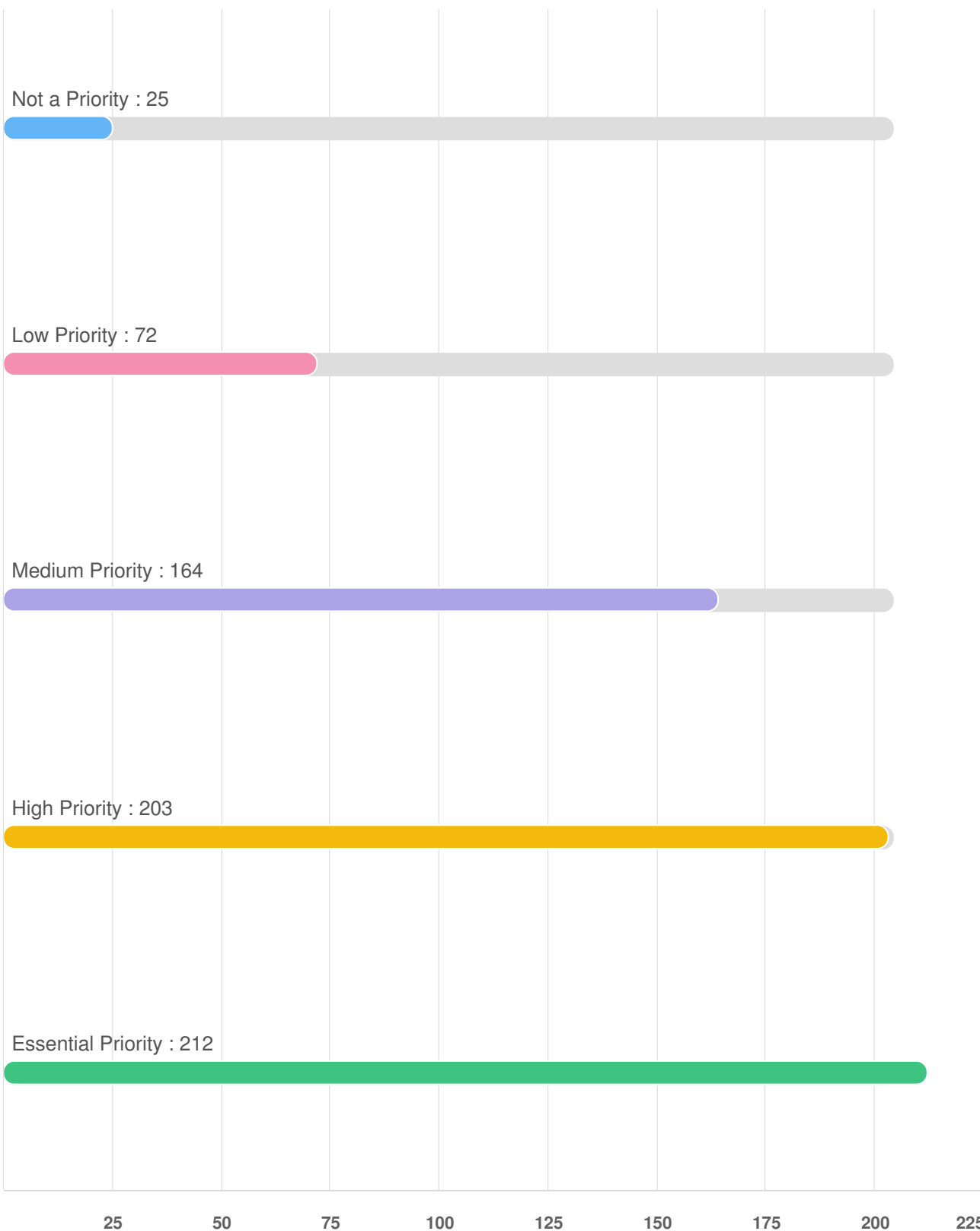
Our city supports local businesses and economic recovery



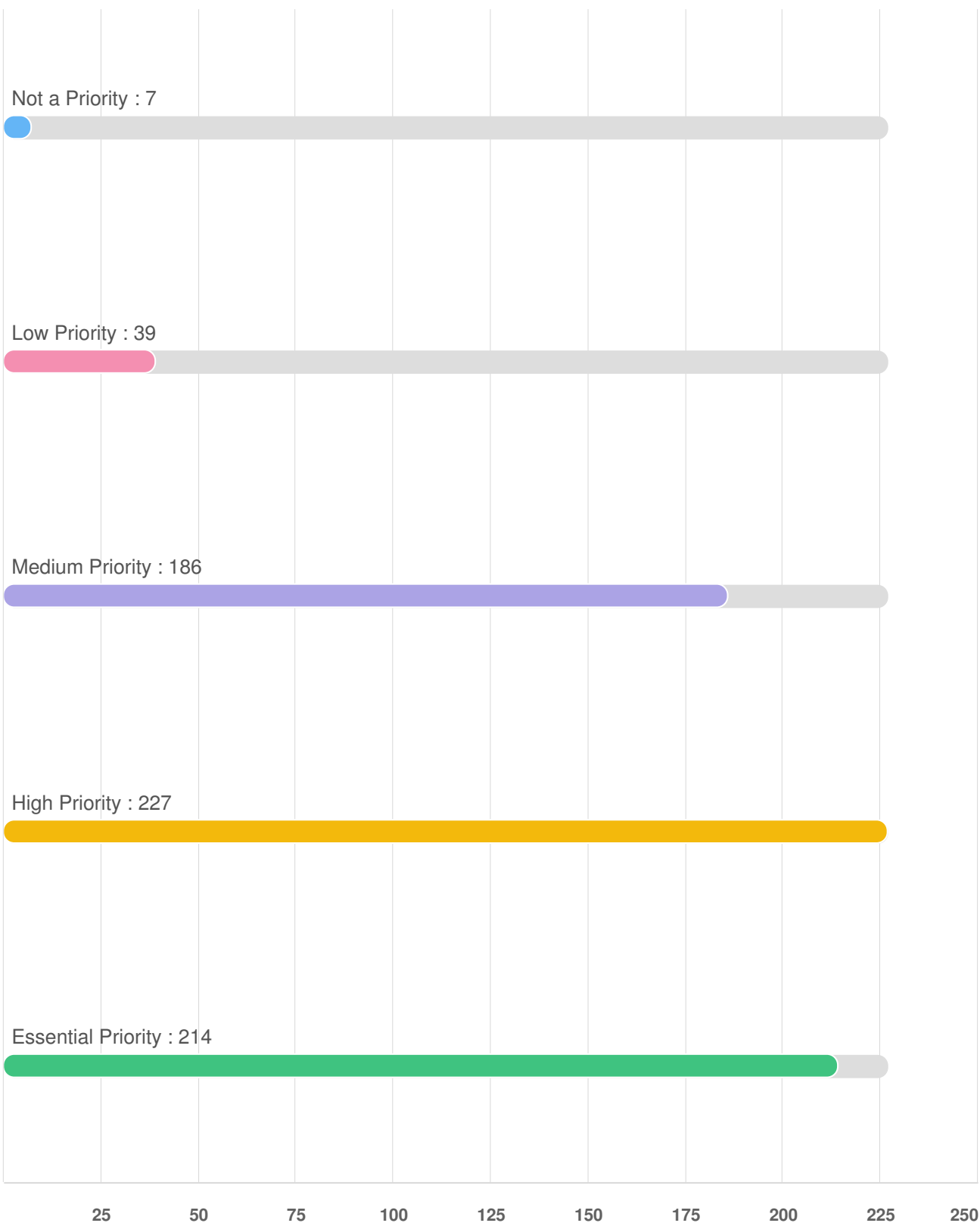
Our city supports vulnerable populations



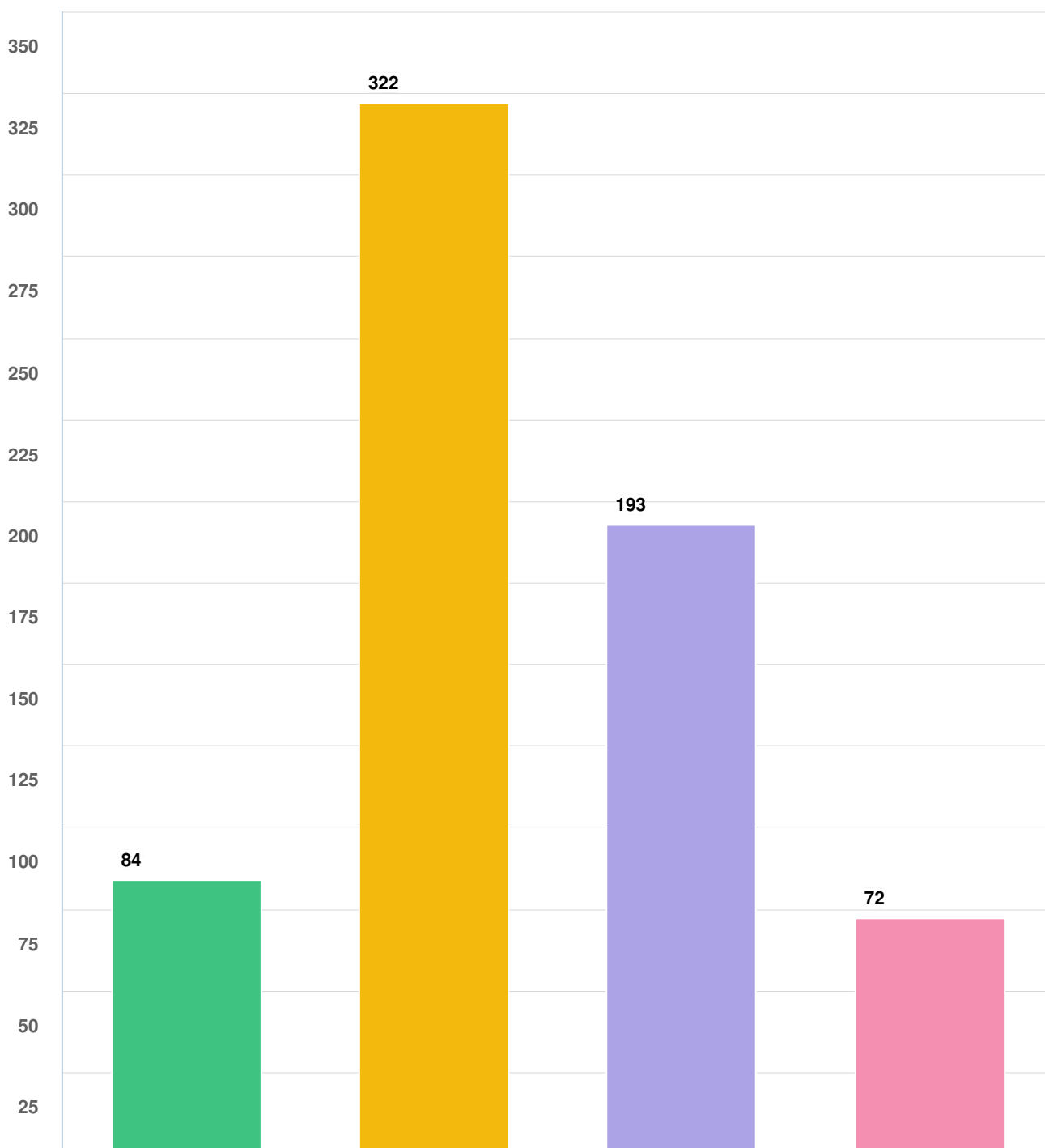
Our city supports multi-modal transportation



Our city has the infrastructure it needs for the future



Q9 Thinking about all the programs, services and capital projects you receive from the City of Victoria, would you say that overall you get:



Question options

- ☐ Very poor value for your tax dollars ☐ Fairly poor value for your tax dollars ☐ Fairly good value for your tax dollars ☐ Very good value for your tax dollars

Optional question (671 response(s), 38 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q10 | Do you have any further comments or suggestions you would like to share about the 2021 Draft Financial Plan (City Budget)?

In this economic climate, lets consider limiting the commercial tax increase to inflation, not inflation plus 1%. Let's consider dedicating 1% of the budget to the affordable housing fund to move projects forward. Let's complete a parks acquisition and improvement plan and ensure new development contributes to funding improvements, and increase funding for parks especially in under-served areas as budget allows.

Seek low-cost ways to achieve goals. Eg. Leading Pedestrian Intervals — a huge safety win that shows respect for the lives of those of use who live centrally and walk. Free and would have an incredible impact. More street trees - an investment that makes streets shady and walkable, while saving infrastructure money through wastewater benefits. Smart spending.

By following climate change as the guiding priority, this vital framework will inform the subsequent resilience and health of all other overlapping sectors/priority areas identified in this survey and the plan. Even arts programming can be benefited from a climate lens, and likewise economic prosperity, health, community safety, social and cultural justice, and even pandemic prevention cannot succeed outside environmental/climate best practices.

Getting our tourism revenues up by making the city a welcoming and safe place for visitors is critical for economic recovery. Too many handouts has made it a destination for homeless and drug addicted, rather than a tourist destination. Provide support to those who need it, but have accountability in place. Provide a hand up, not hand outs!

Please stick to city business. Each time you step out of what you are there to mange much needed services are eroded and we become less healthy overall as a community. You are seeing this play out on the streets.

Be explicit about the resources spent on accessibility. Let Council make choices about how much to fund. The Accessibility Framework says this will happen, but not in the draft document I read. Make infrastructure improvements on priority basis, not convenience - when doing something else. Get rid of barriers in James Bay. Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility of crosswalks and sidewalks. (Wish this survey was more in-depth. I read most of draft Financial Plan for this and didn't need to.)

Lumping accessibility with inclusiveness makes it seem to many as a "nice to have" that can be sacrificed. I'm sure accessibility alone would rank higher. Will everyone have the same idea of what is included in the various strategic priorities as meant by the City? Is the survey available in other languages? Is assistance in completing the survey available? If not, you know you are missing folks.

Why is the police patrol budget increasing by 1M? Couldn't this money be better spent on social workers, outreach programs? I think policing is getting a higher priority in funding than programs that would reduce social problems.

This is a good budget, so many improvements are being funded such as crosswalks, bike lanes, traffic calming and closing the gap between mile zero and beacon hill park.

Where did our new pool go????

Why do t oh I get an increase of 1% plus inflation, when some members of your community don't even get an increase of inflation, or lost their jobs and are struggling to make ends meet? STOP RAPING MY POCKETS FOR YOUR DREAM CITY PLANS AND GET REAL! Live within YOUR means and stay in your lane. Between you all loving to take bigger pieces of my income, strata taking bigger and bigger bites my standard of living has gone down in the last 3 years.... and I've actually gotten promotions in that time! Now I can't even sell my condo (that has been on the market for I we 6 months) because no one wants to live in the city you run!

I am a homeowner in Victoria, our property value increases rapidly due to how beautiful and desirable victoria is. I'm in favour of increasing our tax dollars to continue this. I want the council to focus on missing middle housing and active transportation. We need all of the bike routes to be approved desperately. We need to make Victoria more walkable by increasing density and ensuring more corner stores are opened as the need for them is established.

Do not change Mile Zero road. It is fine as it stands. This will be a waste of money. No free bus passes.

Thank you for asking and listening

Mayor needs to do better job keeping council members focused upon priority objectives within municipal jurisdiction. Some councilors waste time and staff resources on self promoting issues in apparent attempts to grow their public profiles. Too many council members are enthralled by the sound of their own voices.

Please re-think about the amount of money the city is spending on the police force. The city is truly lacking on areas for the community's well being. Unfortunately this city isn't very welcoming to everybody. I know we can do better, and we are definitely heading in the right direction!

Defund the police. Seriously: so much could be done with their budget. Their work does not create value and it does not scale. Build safer streets through sustainable transportation design and suddenly you don't need to spend \$10,000 to issue and collect on a \$150 speeding ticket because drivers *can't*

speed due to design. Increase funding for active mobility infrastructure.

Increase funding for public land acquisition for affordable housing.

Defund the police to fund essential community services. Why is there no question regarding the police budget or public satisfaction with their services?

Defund the police, please.

I think the phrasing of "our community is safe" is leading and biased. Of course everyone wants the community to be "safe" who would ever opt for "unsafe"? But while I support the idea of a safe community - I do not support the idea of evicting people from tent cities or displacing homeless people off the streets of downtown just to send them somewhere less visible. I don't support removing showers or housing that people have built as offerings of solidarity. It's about what "safe" means to you. The police do not make me feel "safe". And more police or a higher budget for them will not change that. Fund social workers, or people who actually have adequate training to engage these sorts of problems. Follow Denver's lead and implement a program like their "STAR" program.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2020/09/06/denver-star-program-mental-health-police/> If I say I support a "safe strong community" then you will use that as a trojan horse to put more money towards policing. Which is not what safe means to me. It's pretty gross. This survey reminds me of the sad excuse for a survey that the Liberal government used to argue that "nobody wanted electoral reform".

A safe and clean city, with support for local businesses, the arts and sports, as well as well-maintained green spaces for all to enjoy. These things will help keep folks engaged with a sense of belonging.

DEFUND THE VICTORIA POLICE

We need affordable housing for all!

Police are eating up a quarter of the city budget, their reputation is poor. One of their jobs is traffic safety and enforcement and I haven't ever be witness to them pulling someone over in the city for speeding, reckless driving, running red lights, where I could see value. I mainly see them harassing the homeless and vulnerable populations. What value are we actually getting when they can't even preform duties that would actually make me feel safer? I have a better change of being killed by the reckless drivers in this city than those people police target and don't care about. Defund them and put dollars to social services and housing and we can talk about improvement on all of the strategic goals and how much easier it will be for us to achieve them.

Improve the strategic plan to better communicate with high levels of government how they can provide the resources necessary to allow the City to provide wrap-around support for vulnerable populations.

pls slow down on bike lanes

I lot more could be done for and felt by tax payers if you moved monies from policing into other sectors.

Manage the city and STOP your social agenda. Do the work of the city and wake up. Steven Andrew's win should me make all of you realise that your special interest group agenda is coming to an end in 2022.

I would prefer to see police funding reduced and that money redistributed to supporting rather than policing the unhoused populations.

prioritize pedestrian over bike budgeting: sidewalks, lighted crossings, traffic calming etc.

Control your costs. The City should have furloughed or laid off non-working City Staff during the pandemic like Vancouver did.

I think the work being done with active transportation is really important and will yield great long-term results.

why begin with additional taxes? Cannot you begin with a zero based budget. Examine every aspect of the city's services and ask (a) why do we do them ? (b) can they be done more cost effectively? (c) do they need to be done in the first place? (d) are city staff the best at delivering them? EG: is private business more cost effective / efficient

Nothing specifically pertaining to mental health crisis worsening due to Covid

Better support for locally owned businesses.

Stay in your lane YYJ city hall. Let BC and Ottawa worry about big ticket items- you focus on fixing pot holes and improving police budgets + relations. Shame on Council for allowing 'art' that disrespects those who we ask to protect us. #disgusting

Are we still shipping our recyclables out of Victoria or dumping them in landfills? Ongoing high profile communication on priority issues identified by the citizens needs, in itself to be a priority. I think that a similar model of communication such as the example of COVID updates hosted by Dr. Henry and the Provincial Health Minister needs to be initiated by Council and

hosted by the Mayor.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

The next year should be about the basics. We need to rebuild and recover from the economic hit in 2020. It's not the time for "nice to have's" in the budget.

Survey questions like "Our city is innovative" and "Our city is healthy" are so general as to be meaningless. Please be specific in future surveys as "high level strategic" phrases can be used to justify operationalizing anything, many times not at all what the citizen /. resident had in mind.

Not OK to allow camping in parks without public washrooms - serious public health hazard!

Don't be afraid to raise taxes.

We need more doctors

Disappointed to see increases to police budget. Both police and bylaw continue to dedicate resources to displacing folks that that are just trying to survive.

I would like to see the alternative response model implemented - we know we cannot police our way out of the mental health and affordability crisis we find ourselves in.

Defund the police. Invest instead in accessible and affordable housing for all, no strings attached and you will find that the people you criminalize for trying to survive actually don't need to be harassed by cops, they need stable living situations.

House homeless in other municipalities besides YYJ core. Give people back our Beacon Hill Park, for recreation, not residential camping.

Six years ago I would have answered this survey differently because Victoria was a safe, vibrant easily navigable city. Current Council priorities have made it less safe, less clean, less welcoming, less beautiful and less healthy. I would love to see it return to some shadow of its former self, but that will require a significant shift in priorities!

- some funds from the police budget set aside for neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood police stations - money to train police officers in dealing with people suffering from mental health and substance disorders - more rehab facilities for those dealing with mental health and substance disorders

I can't believe this is the only question in this survey that deals explicitly with the budget. Last year I participated in a much better framed engagement around the budget. We had the opportunity to weigh in on individual line items. In the absence of this truly transparent and meaningful engagement, I will only say that the proposed budget contains way too much money for Vic PD! I supported the City of Victoria's decision last year to slash the proposed budget increase for the police. You should continue in this vein, and explore other ways to deliver public safety beyond just relying on police and their expensive hi-tech equipment.

- I previously would have supported more funding for arts, but completed projects too divisive (eg, ACAB mural, film that whitewashes the criminality homeless encampments) so I can no longer support arts funding.

Get back to managing a city and stop 100% of the initiatives and announcements that are outside your jurisdiction.

I'd like to see rapid response, first responder social services i.e mental health workers deployed to respond to social emergencies. Let police focus on police work. Reallocate police funds to create this new emergency response division.

I'd like to see multi level government action on homelessness and the root issues around it. How we address it locally this year will set the groundwork for many more years to come. The city infrastructure, roads and parks look really good due to the great work of staff this last few years. The road and park improvements can go by the wayside this year. It is imperative to address and plan for homeless populations and the challenges police are facing due to the poor infrastructure around assisting this population. The downtown businesses will benefit from having the homeless issue addressed wholeheartedly. Once the social issues are addressed then we can get back to fixing damaged parks and planning for our future.

1. The budget lists measures & 2019-20 projects, but where is the report card on how we actually did against the measures in 2019-20? Did the \$ we spent achieve the goals we intended? 2. I know the city doesn't control Police, but the Police section of the budget is quite difficult to understand.

More money to Police and Bylaw less money to bike lanes

Way too much money goes to policing given how few crimes are actually solved and how the police operate in this community. Fewer armed officers and less emphasis on policing marginalized peoples would make our community safer. I also dislike seeing expenditures on items such as drive-thru light shows, holiday decorations, and temporary artwork (i.e. paintings and murals). Investments should prioritize public health and community safety (safer transportation, mobility, reductions in emissions and pollution).

Infrastructure is key at this time. Invest for the future

Defund the police

If you're serious about helping the businesses in the downtown core in 2021 you should put the Christmas decorations up. They bring a lot of light and colour to a dark time of year, they make downtown more inviting. I understand this year The Downtown Holiday Decorations were mostly cancelled due to this idea that the decorations represent Christianity? The stars that normally go up could represent Diwali in November, Hanukkah, Christmas and more! Perhaps think of it as Holiday Decor and invest in more inclusive options. It was depressing not seeing our city done up this year. I had to leave town to see nice lights in Ladysmith and Sidney.

Police budget way too high in comparison with other municipalities and local needs. It could easily be cut by 10% without loss of services.

You have noted an increase in taxation to fund police duties, and also a very high policing budget. The citizens of Victoria have made it very clear that policing as it stands today is toxic and cannot continue. There was even the incident that police dismantled the community care tent in beacon hill against your (council's) recommendation. Why are you still supporting them? We need a budget that creates more mental health workers and social workers and less policing that serves only to escalate and incarcerate.

Put the \$\$ towards the following high priority items: - Health and Safety (i.e., policing, supports for homelessness, wellness initiatives, parks and outdoor spaces) - infrastructure (especially ROADS which are a disgrace, IE Blanshard between Pandora & Fort!) - encourage multiple housing units on a single property - EG basement suites, laneway housing, MAKE IT EASY to get approval - rezone blocks and neighbourhoods to allow for these uses instead of one property at a time and leave it up to homeowners to add these amenities if they so choose - stick to local and important issues - City Council - keep your nose out of places that don't concern you, IE federal/provincial responsibilities - quit nickel and diming the police force. The city is growing and adequate and appropriate policing is necessary. Enable the police force to be innovative and to add special constables who are trained to deal with and/or work with mental health specialists, which then allows regular status police to deal with crime etc. - if really wanting to tackle homelessness, why don't you get on with the project that is gaining steam and \$\$ to provide tiny home living on a downtown site?

I'd like to see less going to the police budget. It's a key area that could use reform or refocusing/reprioritization that could free up funds and I think the organization commands too much political power and deference. I'd like to see some concrete action from the City's climate plan put into motion. On the EV charging front, it would be good to see some of the new cash dedicate

from this budget put to fast chargers, not the Level 2 stations, which are fairly well covered in the region. The fast chargers are the ones that are hard to come by, and still will be with the installation of the ones on Wharf and Johnson. I'm not sure if the money dedicated to free youth transit will be recoupable from the Province when they roll out their program for free transit. I think the city is doing a decent job working to house people experience homelessness and would like to see more vocal advocacy for funds from higher levels of government to help end homeless in our city through targeted investments in infrastructure and services.

The Victoria Police Department should not have an increase in their budget in the 2021 Draft Financial Plan. Why will VicPD be receiving \$4,793,600 for their Community Services Division? This amount is astounding; it has barely been decreased since last years budget. Why are the police being given so much money to address the mental health crises and people who don't have homes within our city? We know that this shouldn't be the job of the police, it leads to an increase in the criminalization of those who are mentally ill, those who don't have homes, and BIPOC community members. This funding needs to be directed towards other services within the city such as building affordable (or why not free) housing for people in our community who need it the most. This aspect of the budget must be changed or else those who are the most vulnerable within our community will continue to suffer during these really hard times. It feels like a slap in the face that the budget has been INCREASED for VicPD and that the bare minimum of reforming VicPD (like cutting and redistributing their Community Services Division funding) hasn't been addressed.

Less money on bike lanes and buying expensive property downtown and more money spent on cheaper property for the homeless people out in outlying areas not downtown where property is expensive.

I would like to stress that after 2020, it is disappointing to see an over 700000 budget increase for the Victoria Police Department. After witnessing the VPD violently mishandle indigenous youth, including disrespecting indigenous protocol and pulling on a young indigenous woman's hair, and their unwelcomed presence policing the unhoused community I implore the COV to revisit that increase. With calls across the nation and within Victoria to work towards defunding the police, it is disappointing to see that the COV hasn't considered how the police reinforce systems of violence in our communities. I'd like to see the COV consider moving funds allocated towards the Victoria Police Department into other community based initiatives that engage in mutual aid and directly support vulnerable populations.

Please stick to municipal issues

Defund the Police. Take money AWAY from the VicPD and give it to social services that help folks with mental illness, addiction, trauma, homelessness, etc. Create an alternative to police for folks who need HELP and not guns

drawn in their faces. I do not agree with adding MORE money to VicPD's budget. DEFUND the POLICE.

My comments are obviously coloured by my hatred of bike lanes; specifically the negative effects they have had on driving, parking, access to business and simple safety. And, I am very disturbed by the overnight camping and the consequential costs we will be faced with to rehab against comprised overall maintenance, improvement and access because all the money will go there. I want to see more funds allocated to Police and Fire and Bylaw. Also I struggle with the too broad survey categories such as Housing. I would gladly pay higher taxes for senior's housing and housing for handicapped etc whereas the young who can get a job or some homeless people not so much. But I was not given the choice to voice my specific opinion.

I would like to see taxes LOWERED for businesses in downtown Victoria. Make the city so attractive to business owners that they won't be able to resist having businesses here, rather than in Langford or Sidney. We MUST keep our downtown core vibrant and prosperous, or the city will die. Affordable or free parking is also crucial for good commerce -- perhaps free parking on certain days or times. Also, the increase in crime has deterred business owners. If strict rules are instituted about closing our parks to 24/7 camping, the criminal element will be reduced. A cap on rents would also be beneficial for businesses, perhaps for a two-year period. The pandemic has taken a great toll on our city and our number one priority is to bring it back to its normal prosperous self. This is not the time for expenditures on issues that do not support Victoria's full economic recovery.

Reduce the police budget

I am very opposed to the proposed 1.5% increase in the police budget. If anything, this is the time to re-allocate any additional funding to community wellness initiatives like the proposed Alternative Response initiative.

This survey seems geared toward validating what you are already doing

Home taxes are increasing too rapidly. Please consider indexing to inflation only. Youth bus passes should be discounted, but free seems unnecessary.

It's hard to rank most of these concepts in this survey because it's not clear how they are defined. I value public safety but I don't think the police promote safety (they criminalize the poor and jeopardize BIPOC lives) so that's not something I would rank highly even though I value community-led safety initiatives.

I really appreciate the granting streams that the City has for residents and organizations e.g. Strategic Plan Grant and My Great Neighbourhood Grant, Community Garden grants or permits. I do wish though that there was slightly

less red tape and bureaucratic expectation involved with securing these funds - it's really difficult, and requires a great amount of commitment for a group of volunteers to do all that is necessary to get a community garden established on city park space (For example, I speak from experience in being involved for 4 years in trying to get a garden in the Oaklands neighbourhood). The Food Systems Coordinator position at the City in the Parks department has been helpful, but having more city led urban agriculture projects combined with less rules and needed information for projects would be fantastic. It would be fantastic if the My Great Neighbourhood Grant didn't require matching funds in Volunteer Labour, perhaps a smaller percentage could be possible. It seems a strain at times on dedicated well meaning community built projects. For the Strategic Plan Grant, the amounts given out to some organizations that serve the population in huge ways seem relatively insignificant (e.g. average in 2020 was just \$10 000). More substantial grant amounts would be incredible in advancing the good work that non-profits do for residents of the City of Victoria. Please keep prioritizing spending on addressing Climate Change resilience. The economic and social repercussions of climate change have the possibility of being way more dramatic than the even the pandemic has been. Maybe it will happen slower, but impacts will be massive over time if we don't have the leadership of our city and province. I appreciate your Zero Waste Victoria strategy that recently came out - please put some funds toward executing the goals in this strategy, this will support the climate resiliency of our communities. It would be fantastic if there was less bureaucratic tape here too - e.g. could it be less difficult for businesses to safely use re-useable containers? Perhaps it can even be a requirement or bylaw for some businesses to use less packaging, or reusable packaging? Please put some budgetary funding toward local, small scale composting options. Food and yard waste in landfill contributes significantly to GHG emissions. It is imperative that all residents in Victoria have the option of a curbside collection bin, a yard compost bin, or participate in a small scale neighbourhood composting program. Consider offering rebates to residents who buy compost bins at a local business/non-profit organization like the Compost Education Centre, located in Fernwood. Make it mandatory for all building and property owners to allow yard compost bins (many renters complain that their landlords won't let them have a bin!) and make it mandatory for multi-residential dwellers to have a food waste diversion option as well! There are many apartment buildings that still don't have green bins even though there is a Food Scrap Ban at the Hartland Landfill for years now! One last thing about compost bins and the suggestions I've made - there needs to be enforcement - people need it drawn to their attention that they MUST use their greenbin, MUST provide their tenants at an apartment building with a green waste bin and MUST allow their tenants to have a compost bin in their yard if they wish. Consider funding or creating small scale neighbourhood composting programs like New York City's BK Rot (<https://www.bkrot.org/>). This will further reduce the costs of shipping the City's food waste up island or to the mainland, and create more resiliency in

our community. Rather than creating new programs and educational opportunities for residents, please consider putting more funds towards organizations that are already doing that work. No need to re-invent the wheel. Perhaps there could be a new granting stream for such a model. For example, to achieve the goal of creating a more welcoming city, fund Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Center Society; another example, for supporting and prioritizing affordable housing, fund the coalition to end homelessness; for education programs related to climate change resiliency and composting food scraps, fund the Compost Education Centre. To achieve Equity and Inclusion, and to support efforts to help the most vulnerable in our community, there needs to be a serious investigation into how money is spent on policing in the region. Could some of those funds be re directed to community oriented services, so that, for example, police calls that don't actually require police intervention are instead addressed by skilled and trained mental health experts? This would mean that people who are already vulnerable aren't made even more vulnerable by the law, and by the inherent racism that exists in every police department all across North America. Also could some of the police funding be directed at a far more rigorous equity and inclusion training for Victoria Police Department? Again I'll say, I believe it is incredibly important to take a VERY serious look at how policing plays into the continued oppression of those folks most at risk. Thanks for prioritizing safe and diverse transportation options (e.g. bicycle lanes, safe pedestrian crossing, bus lanes). Please keep funding this into the future, it ties in well to the objectives of Climate Change leadership/resiliency. One last thing - I wish for everyone in this city to have a livable wage - and I can't help but feel like I am just making it in this city, working for a Non-Profit that I am very passionate about. I will never be able to own a home here; likely having to leave the region, (my home!), to own a house or even an apartment. I feel curious about how much City of Victoria employee wages are - they seem overly high in some cases shifting employees into the overly consumptive 1%. Could some of the wages of City Employees be redistributed to community minded livable wage programs, or to Non-Profits doing so many positive things in the City? Thanks for reading my comments to the end, and for allowing residents to contribute in this way.

Fund the police. Stop taking away parking downtown. Clean up Pandora Ave.

I generally support the vision outlined in the draft city budget. I would like to see more effort in addressing the housing issues in our city, including homelessness and more affordable rental units.

I do not feel unsafe in Victoria but I would like to see an effort to increase safety for everyone through continued efforts to alleviate extreme poverty.

"Invest \$510,000 in capital to create five new signed crosswalks, upgrade 10 existing crosswalks and add a second marked crosswalk at Douglas Street and Pembroke Avenue. An additional \$250,000 will be invested in traffic

calming measures such as speed humps, curb extensions or medians to enhance pedestrian crossings and safety." "Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space." **These initiatives are a waste of money. While I wholly support a complex transportation plan, removing roads is not a long term solution. Current urban planners do not seem qualified for long-term planning. Pedestrians are already extremely safe in Victoria. Spending further money on their safety is wasteful. The new nonsensical bike lanes do cause confusion for cars and pedestrians alike, but additional nonsensical crossings, limiting of car traffic, and speed humps are not the solution. "Since 1999, Council has increased the annual capital budget funding through property taxes from \$2.5 million to over \$11 million." Have local wages risen commensurate to this property tax increase? While property taxes may not be "directly related to the economy" they are directly related to how affordable it is to live in Victoria. "human-powered modes of transportation" is an illogical phrase Island life requires cars. Even for those who live downtown (such as myself) cars are required for outdoor island activities and for local travel, from Tofino to Mount Washington. Getting in and out of downtown with ease (both towards the North Island and towards Oak Bay/UVic) Victoria remains a long term priority for all Victoria residents, even those who walk/bike normally (such as myself). Victoria is already a welcoming and pedestrian friendly city with excellent bike routes. City dollars would be better spent elsewhere (insecure housing, creating sustainable rents for low-income people, and for small business, actually creating sustainable and meaningful recycling programs, building electric car infrastructures, implementing sustainable energy plans in public services, addressing the local opioid crisis, etc.) It seems like reprogramming who responds to overdose calls should be a city priority. From the graphs it appears that the fire department responds to such calls. If that is correct, then why does the fire department have 7% of the budget and the Vic PD 23%. Should that money be with the police or elsewhere? PS Hurray for sewage treatment!! Finally!! Thank you!!!

Just a comment about recycling and solid waste, that impacts GHG reduction. I live in an apartment surrounded by condos. And every building on this block uses different companies to deal with the solid waste. So this one block has multiple trucks picking up the garbage, organics, and recycled materials each day. That's a lot of trucks driving around unnecessarily producing GHG emissions. If it was all city run, we would just have the 3 trucks (one for each type of waste) coming through. Save a lot of GHG emissions. Secondly, it can be confusing with difference between what different companies pick up. I want to recycle materials but it is a real struggle when I cannot even recycle glass - no condo or apartment is accepting glass now, which is ridiculous. I feel we should be doing more to recycle and make it easy for people to recycle. So (1) Every apartment, condo and business should be on city waste collection with employees earning a union, living wage. (2) Consistent collection across city. (3) Make it easy to collect items the city cannot pick up with multiple little depots, rather

than having to take unusual items to London Drugs or travel outside Victoria to find places to recycle. - I appreciate the bike infrastructure, but note, I haven't seen an apartment or condo yet that has decent bike storage. Maybe the city could support information and ideas to apartments and condos about that they could do to support bike infrastructure by providing easy to access (with aging populations), secure storage. - Lastly, didn't see it as highlighted much here (sorry if I missed it), but also really support community centres and programs for teens - so that they don't become at risk populations. Thank you.

NO MORE FREE LUNCH FOR COUNCIL

While the mayor and council and all of the civil servants working for the City would probably say that they are very concerned about climate change and are taking measures to address it, really those initiatives are far too modest. Perhaps people think that "climate emergency" is just some sort of branding rather than a literal description of our situation. I would be happy to pay much higher taxes in order to get some real, concrete measures to get the City to carbon neutrality by 2030.

Don't spend money on matters outside of municipal jurisdiction.

Please do whatever you can to increase taxes on the wealthy in order to decrease economic inequality. As a high income household, this would absolutely involve raising my own personal taxes, which I would love, because then we could have things like affordable housing, real reconciliation, washrooms at every park, etc.

I wish that rents would be lowered. The rent is becoming very high and keeps going up every year. It is a major factor in homelessness. Thank you.

Question 8 "Priorities" Welcoming: Of course but for who? new residents? businesses? tourists? existing resident taxpayers? homeless? The answer strategy and tactic would be different for each category. Equitable and Inclusive: I assume this goes to hiring and funded programs. If so, hiring should be entirely on confirmed need and merit not on, frankly, discriminatory preferential hiring. Innovative: don't think you can make innovation a priority; it happens or it doesn't in a policy environment prepared to take informed risk. Innovation can't be programmed. Vulnerable Populations: support yes, but not at any cost. The present hands off approach to homeless and lawbreakers (e.g. blockades etc) is allowing the few to hold the majority hostage financially and in our use of the city in which we pay taxes. Fiscal Responsibility: not stated as a priority but the most significant one. I believe municipalities in BC have a core mandate around infrastructure and public safety that deserves more attention from an apparently overtaxed Council. Given pressures on policy makers time and financial resources maybe stick

to core areas. If time and money allows (without unaffordable to resident increases in property taxes) move on the next tier of 'nice to have' items.

Public safety and ability to use public spaces (streets, parking, parks) is a minimum. Sadly this has degraded significantly over the last year.

In these challenging times, the City of Victoria should focus solely on its core business, especially sewers, watermains and roads, and stay out of mandates that rightly belong to other jurisdictions (fed/prov). Too many glamour or showcase initiatives in this time of fiscal crisis.

REDIRECT POLICE FUNDING TOWARDS SOCIAL SERVICES NO MORE HURT

Please reconsider not increasing the property taxes more substantially - it is more equitable and just to use this method to redistribute wealth between the privileged homeowners in this city and those that rent or are homeless.

Please also reconsider the frankly disgusting disproportionate amount of money that is going towards policing (some 23% of the draft budget) versus that for affordable housing activities (~0.25%). Surely this must be a mistake!

The police budget is going to kill opportunity

Not at this time.

Less budgets police and more towards First Nations communities!

When will we get a new Crystal Pool and recreation centre???? Being the City's only recreation centre and with disparaging COVID-19 closures of gyms and programs, knowing that we have something positive on the horizon in the form of a new recreation centre was one of the only things I was looking forward to seeing in the draft financial plan. I was 100% on board with the idea of it going in the RAP parking lot to alleviate the notion of losing green space, but to see a "TBD" and \$0 over the next 5 years is ludicrous and inexcusable even with a global pandemic. The amount of money we have paid as taxpayers to design, engage, and inquire on options is past the tipping point; to remove that work and effort is a slap in the face. Please put something back in the budget to reassure us that this is moving forward. Once the pandemic is over, people will need recreation, programs, and a sense of community more than ever.

I would like to see a freeze on the police budget. The city is already spending too large an amount on policing. That money could go a long way elsewhere.

Allow more density in development

I strongly urge the city of Victoria to divest from, or at least not increase funding to, the police. This should be invested into programs and services that support at-risk populations.

I am not pleased with the amount of funds spent on policing or bylaw.

Defund the police, their budget is bloated and large portions of what you give them could go towards housing. They do NOT need an increase

2021 should focus on keeping all residents healthy, housed, and safe. Once the pandemic is over, we can shift focus to innovation and creating a welcoming environment for visitors. However, since the climate emergency has not lessened, attention to climate action should remain a priority.

Not having lights at Vic West Skatepark is a safety and mental health issue! We need lights!

Please add lights to Vic west skatepark

Please defund the police and fix my gutter that a city vehicle ripped off my house.

I am disappointed to see that this consultation asks for direct input about transportation and parks, but not policing, which is also part of this budget. I strongly oppose to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. The VicPD budget should be frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. A budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time.

Essential- services for vulnerable people and unhoused during COVID- it's totally unacceptable that shelters and services have been left to nothing due to the excuse of COVID.

I do not think we should be increasing our police budget at all. There is no justifiable reason that Victoria should require the most well-funded police force in the country on a per capita basis. The evidence shows again and again that policing poverty and drug use does not work, is not beneficial to the community, and is very expensive. Those tax dollars would be much better spent on harm reduction and making our city more affordable. It would also significantly improve the experience of BIPOC and Indigenous residents, and is a core part of decolonization and reconciliation.

DEFUND THE POLICE

Make decisions as if you were a member of a population that is made vulnerable

I think that there should be a 0% increase in the funding for the VicPd. I think that we need to allocate that money into different social services and programs. In light of the events of 2020, from indigenous youth getting arrested during a peaceful protest to the VicPds interference with BIPOC artists' murals, and to the increased policing of people without homes I think there needs to be a fundamental shift in our priorities. I live right next to a "tent city" and have never felt unsafe or had any problems with the people living there at all. I do not think that increased police budgets can make our city any "safer" than it is now.

Please add lights to Vic west skatepark

I believe a large part of the Victoria population would be strongly behind cutting the police budget, even just slightly, to help fund other community based projects.

I think that budgets you have increased, like policing, vs the ones that you've decreased, like affordable housing and reconciliation, clearly don't align with the City's Strategic Plan, what council members have voiced as important, or what a lot of the people of Victoria have advocated for.

I am aghast to notice an increase in the police budget. After this issue being brought to light this year, the increase should be a clear 0%. Studies show that reallocating these funds to social programs and communities at risk helps to lower crime, increase employment opportunities, decrease homelessness, decrease domestic violence, decrease police violence, etc. I expected more of the City. Please amend the budget and be part of the solution.

Defund the police

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time.

DEFUND THE POLICE. Increasing the police budget is a slap in the face to the marginalized communities and activists who have made a clear demand for defunding. Victoria is already massively overpoliced, with policing already over 20% of the city's budget. We do not need more police. We need the money we waste on them to go toward social services that actually improve the lives of people in this city.

to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

The Victoria West skatepark is becoming increasingly overpopulated and nearly impossible to use comfortably, particularly during late fall, winter, and early spring. The lack of daylight hours results in a bottleneck of hundreds of people showing up within a small window of time. I believe the community would greatly benefit from having lights installed for use between sunset and 10~12. I know there's a significant upfront costs as well as maintenance/power resources. I suggest that a system in which an individual can pay (such as a parking meter) and the lights will come on for a set amount of time, thus cutting down on wasted power and providing a monetary incentive for the city to install these lights. Thousands of people rely on Vic West skatepark as a place to socialize, exercise, and self-improve. This has become increasingly difficult and I personally know many people who have given up because they are unable to skate in the overpopulated park. Please, something needs to be done to maintain the community people have worked so hard to establish in this city.

Do not increase the police budget. The police budget should be decreased. Defund the police.

It's time to address all issues in the city through a lens that understands the urgency and severity of climate change

I would like to add that the improvement of/increased spending on social justice ensures increased security for all. Such an increase on police in your proposed draft seems counter productive. Perhaps some of that increase

could be put to better use on supporting housing, food security, and health of our most vulnerable. Thank you.

Lower the police budget and put their money towards social services.

for all of the money spent on bikelanes, there is a huge lack of secure bike lockup areas downtown. With the ongoing homelessness and mental health issues the city is facing, i do not feel safe biking downtown because i'm not sure my bike will be where i locked it. bike theft is a very big issue here.

Why is 23% going to the police, and only .03% to relationships with indigenous populations and reconciliation? It is telling that most of the cities money is going to the police, when we are in a housing crises (or should I say, strategically created housing deprivation). You put forward that Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations and Affordable Housing are, respectively, number 2 and 3 on your strategic priorities. Why is this not reflected in your budget at all!? When do the Songhees people get to have their land back? What are the cities plans to make that happen? Also I support action on climate change, but this needs to be equitable. It is unfair for you to focus energy on helping those who have more wealth get access to "green" alternatives. Consider giving people who make under 50,000 a year \$100 per year towards bike repairs. This is a a tangible way to both address economic inequality within Victoria AND promote green alternatives.

Vic PD should NOT receive any more money than they already do, and the money allocated to Vic PD should be REDUCED. I OPPOSE the increase to the Vic PD budget.

I do not agree whatsoever with the increase in budget directed towards Vic PD. As a social worker, I have seen the way increased police presence does more harm than good to the community around them, especially the most vulnerable communities. These communities need more support and preventative programs, not punishment and policing. By increasing funding to Vic PD, you take the funding away from such supportive programs. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to freeze the Vic PD budget, for the wellbeing and health of our community members. Please use your power for good - as the ones who do not have power are suffering as the city continues to raise the Vic PD budget.

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of

Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly

increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Yours sincerely, Hannah This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Please DO NOT increase funding for the police department!!

Focus on core municipal responsibilities, and eliminate (not just limit) tax increases. Residents and businesses alike have lost income due to COVID, and we cannot afford tax increases. If you cannot do it within the existing budget WITHOUT increasing taxes, delay your pet projects (e.g., further bike lane expansion) and disengage Council from areas that are actually provincial and federal responsibilities. If you want to send a letter to the federal or provincial government advocating a position, do that, but quit overstepping your municipal mandate.

No to the increase to the Victoria Police Budget.

The proposed 1.5% increase to the police budget is truly offensive. Resources are constrained as it is, and to propose giving the police more money when there are countless other ways that money could be spent more effectively (ie. climate action, sustainable transportation initiatives, transitional

housing, mental health services) and would ACTUALLY have a positive impact on the city's most vulnerable populations is utterly appalling. If Council is truly committed to condemning racism and addressing systemic injustices in Victoria, you will not increase the police budget for 2021.

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19,

municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Please recognize the importance of youth, and how many youth use the skateboard park. It has saved countless lives. If our tennis courts we're lined up down the road you'd build double. Well, our skateparks are essentially overflowing. We need more space!! Thank you

I don't believe that an increase in the police budget is needed, or is a responsible decision moving forwards. I also believe that an increase in police presence will not actually make our communities stronger, or safer. We don't have the same struggles that big cities in Canada sometimes face with regards to violence, although we do struggle with a high population of homeless people, often with mental illness. I'm not an expert here, but I do drive and ride my bike down Pandora Avenue, and it is heartbreaking. These people need help, and the city should step up here.

Please consider diverting funds from policing to housing, addiction, and mental health services. Per capita we have more police than many other Canadian cities, and these aforementioned pressing issues are in dire need of action and funding.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I urge that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. As a concerned Victoria citizen, I stood with the Indigenous land defenders at the beginning of 2020, and protested for Black and Indigenous lives and livelihoods throughout the summer. I was horrified to see the VicPD arrest — and detain for hours — 5 Indigenous youth following a peaceful sit-in at the legislature, and outraged to see the VicPD's recent interference with the

IBPOC artists' murals which called for peace and justice. This city can absolutely do better than this, and I want to add my voice to those calling for the freezing of the VicPD's budget, and those voices strongly opposing the budget increase. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and

meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Make an effort to cater to the interest of residents who don't have a political voice. Not just skateboarders but all young people. Victoria is a wonderful city but it has so much room for improvement. Bike infrastructure is lacking on major transportation routes, city plazas are becoming unused by citizens due to restrictive and selectively enforced rules (centennial square is a no skateboards or bikes zone but what else is it used for?)...

the housing crisis is a priority that greatly impacts the health of our community. we don't need more police funding. we need community support & affordable housing now.

I request that the city of Victoria freeze the VicPD budget. I am strongly against increasing their budget. overpolicing does not keep communities safe, and it places marginalized people at risk

Victoria west skatepark lights

I feel frustrated with the way the city mistreats our homeless population, and with the increased funding proposal to the police. These people are our most vulnerable and it's a disgrace how the city treats them.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. Freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department

and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

Concerns about 'free' offerings such as bus passes - this does not belong in a municipal service . Free parking downtown on Sundays is acceptable.

I think that the increase in police funding could be put to better use. For example, funding mental health initiatives and supports or providing more resources and supports to the homeless population. Vulnerable populations don't need more policing, they need more supports and options.

Do not increase the police budget. That is the absolute last thing we need. Let's care for our unhoused population - this problem is vastly cheaper to address than to allow to continue. See Malcolm Gladwell's piece on this ("Million Dollar Murray") to start.

Reduce the Victoria Police Department budget and instead increase funding for social programs.

I do not understand or support an INCREASE in police budgeting without concrete numbers to separate out mental health and other support services. Also more planning for the unhoused should become a priority. The fact that North Park had to step in to move and relocate the camp when that area floods every year should not have come as a surprise to anyone. Also remove those derogatory signs on RAP. Portraying the unhoused as angry and dangerous is unhelpful and perpetrating a stereotype.

I am strongly opposed to any increase in funding to the Victoria Police Department. I believe that the VicPD budget must be frozen in order to reallocate municipal resources to communities in need, which have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that our city's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than to any other municipal function.

Why in a city with a population that so clearly supports the Black Lives Matter movement and the defunding of police is the police budget increasing? Increasing other social services has been shown to have a much better impact on community safety.

Please defund the police- or at the minimum maintain the current budget.

Please reconsider increasing police budget; they do not need an increase especially considering the actual operating costs in 2020. Other departments such as business and community relations are taking a hit when they could use the increase to support local businesses in providing safe shopping practices to encourage business throughout the pandemic.

More equitable distribution of city spending towards meaningful housing, sustainability, and futureproofing a city, rather than moving money towards frivolous police services. Safety is maintained by creating a community that has better social services and support, and access to resources (housing, food, running water, etc.). I would like to see much better investment into livable infrastructure, carbon neutrality, and functional public transportation. During a time when shared spaces can be dangerous and bus usage is down, I think heavier investment is needed for bike lanes and bike infrastructure. Particularly in connecting central locations (Cook St, Yates St, Fernwood Rd, Shelbourne St, Richmond St, etc.) where bike lanes are either non-existent or incomplete.

We should not continue to increase Vic PD's budget by 1.5%. According to Stats Canada, Vic PD has the most police officers per 100,000 people than any other municipality in Canada. Policing already accounts for 23% of City's operational budget. In a time of Covid-19, where there are real fiscal challenges, and there are many areas of need, VIC PD's budget should have a 0% increase, as other municipalities such as Vancouver have decided to do. Instead of putting more money into VicPD which oppresses the most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), we could put that same money into other programs such as community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives will support our most targeted communities and centre experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require funding, partnering with and supporting community-based organizers, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I oppose the proposed increase to police funding.

More lighting at Vic West Skatepark.

I have concerns about the policing budget - at this time I am generally opposed to increasing policing budget, and am strongly opposed to the larger increase in Patrolling budget. Additionally, I would prefer to see a more nuanced view of the 5-year policing budget plan. For example, the Patrol budget beyond 2021 appears to project a flat 2.49% increase to all line items. Given a combination of historical data as well as input from Police leadership on future direction, could the prediction be more precise?

I truly believe the increased budget for police needs to be reconsidered. Victoria is already too heavily policed. The police budget needs to be drastically reduced, with the extra funds put towards safe, affordable housing, and hiring medical workers who can assist with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Please further green spaces, electric/clean energy incentives, affordable housing!!! And lastly, refund our other social services/community services and redistribute the portion of wealth going to Vic PD

Do not increase police budget!

Defund the Vic Pd. Use that extremely high budget to support indigenous peoples, the houseless and emergency shelters. Distribute that budget to mental health professionals, providing emergency services without the Vic Pd present. The amount of money going towards the police budget is appalling and only upholds the values of a white supremacist idealization of policing and therefore continues to contribute to systematic racism, patriarchy etc.. Divesting in this area could create more positions to support people in mental health emergencies. It also should be distributed to the Indigenous original caretakers, whose land we stole and continue to occupy.

less \$\$\$ to cops. more to helping people

Make dental care apart of health care and affordable education should be a top priority

The police do not need an increase in budget especially in the middle of a pandemic when we could be helping people and businesses with recovery from their losses.

I do NOT support an increase to the Vic PD budget. In light of the BLM protests and universal call for defunding police departments across North America I think it is extremely tone deaf and counter productive to increase the Victoria Police Department budget. 23% is far too high. I would like to see an immediate decrease in Police funding.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of

increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Reduce funding for police and reallocate funds to peer run programs, mental health task force, housing and trauma treatment

I feel very strongly that the Victoria Police Department should not get a budget increase in 2021. They continually ask for budget increases and continually fail to accomplish the same tasks. I'm specifically worried about their interactions with Victoria's homeless community and their consistent failure to deal with them in an effective manner. Periodically forcing tent city to relocate does not solve the issue and does not require more resources and Vic PD is deliberately using statistics to mislead the public to support increased funding. An increased police presence in an area will lead to more arrests and the bias of the area being dangerous when other less policed areas have just as much crime occurring. Furthermore I was deeply disturbed by the conduct of the Vic PD during the Wet'suwet'en protests by indigenous youth at the provincial parliament, censoring of the Black Lives Matter protest art in Bastion Square, and the forced violent removal of homeless in Beacon Hill Park. They are out of touch with Victoria's most vulnerable populations and an increased budget will not change that. Instead I strongly urge Victoria City Council to either freeze or decrease the Vic PD funding and instead consult the affected populations and experts in the UVic sociology department to work towards community based solutions that are not governed by fear.

increasing the Victoria police departments budget by 1.5% is ridiculous. What will more cops do when people don't have homes

More resources for low income housing and addiction support

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. This is inspired strongly by the vocal support I and many others have heard for defunding the VicPD and police departments across Canada I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: - COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. --As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police

budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. --According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. --The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. --The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. --In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. --Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. I was horrified when over 30 armed VicPD officers arrested 12 Indigenous youth at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources in January 2020, and when the VicPD arrested 5 Indigenous youth after a peaceful sit in, and detained them for hours. As well, the recent interference of the VicPD in IBPOC artists' mural was shameful and in poor taste at the very least. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Please don't increase the police budget. Put those millions of dollars to better use in social programs to help better the livelihoods of the homeless in our city, youth programs, and women's shelters.

An increase in the police budget is absolutely unacceptable. Increased policing does not provide value to most of the community of victoria, and in particular, it actively commits violence against houseless people and other marginalized groups. Vic PD has more police officers per 100,000 population than vancouver, regina, toronto, or ottawa. The Vic PD is overfunded, and a poor solution to "public safety". If we want people to stop committing crimes, we need to provide them with the resources they need so they are in a position where they don't have to, or don't feel the need to, commit crimes. We should provide houseless people low barrier of access housing first programs, with enough resources to get the food, healthcare, and professional mental support they need. Programs like that, directed and informed by people who work with houseless and marginalized people, is where the money that is being put towards the police budget should go. In fact, I think the police budget should be significantly decreased, and that the money from that decrease should also go into programs like the one described above. Police should not be performing the jobs of social workers. We need to fund informed services built around people who are trained and specifically want to work with houseless people that can provide them equitable and non-violence support.

Please do not increase the police budget for this year. The money can and should be spent elsewhere. Victoria is a relatively safe community and an increase in police is not critical at this point of time. Whether the money is spent supporting the community from the impacts to of COVID or helping with maintenance costs of infrastructure, it will be more well used than on the police program.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% or some amount of deficit is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget

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initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

I am in strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead the VicPD budget should be frozen so that the limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I would urge our local government to reconsider how much disproportionate spending is dedicated to policing. I would much prefer that our community provide resources, assistance, and empowerment to folks who need it, rather than over policing and harassment of people who are unhoused (and People of Colour, in general). I would like to see a redistribution of resources away from policing and towards community resource initiatives like housing, healthcare, childcare etc.

I signed up for this specifically to tell you that I am strongly against increasing the police budget. It does not make our communities safer and rather puts people in our community at risk of violence. If you are going to change the police budget, consider decreasing it.

Start spending money on basic services for tax payers like road maintenance and emergency services and stop spending money on things that are the responsibility of the provincial and federal government. Stop hiring city staff.

The CoV has been heading in the wrong direction for several years now in regards to its spending priorities. A 180 degree shift is essential if taxpayers and citizens are ever going to get good value for their money.

Our climate action goal NEEDS to be fast tracked to 2030 or 2040. We are running out of time and do not have the luxury to wait until 2050 to reduce our carbon footprint at this current rate. The community of Victoria wants to become more green, please help us in doing so! The Victoria Police Department's budget is outrageous. Over \$60M, with an increase of 1.5% is unacceptable. I want to strongly suggest reconsidering this and allocating funds to communities most in need and higher priority areas such as climate action, sustainability planning and the homeless community. I do not believe VicPD should have a budget increase this year. Vancouver Police has recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021, I think Victoria should follow along suite and allocate this money else where. Please divest in Victoria Police and reinvest in our community!

More skateparks, how is there no budget for skateparks, when Nanaimo has just gotten 3 brand new ones in 4 years??? Instead there is people who have been doing bottle drives for 3 years in order to fundraise for a park, which is a crock of shit because HOW many new sporting fields you going to create?? Now compare how often those sporting fields get used, now go look at the crowded skatepark. See where I'm coming from???

The amount of funding being allotted to the police dept. is ridiculous! Put this money towards affordable housing and mental health services if you want to see an improvement in the safety of our city. I am more scared of the police than I am of the "criminals" they are dealing with. Victoria has the highest per capita police budget which is ridiculous and causing so many issues within our city.

Too much tax going to police. Defund the police and invest in other public services.

Instead of investing in the police budget, it would be beneficial to prioritize and divest that money into community outreach programs and supports. Increased police presence continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. In the wake of covid19, racial injustice, and economic precarity, increasing funds for mental health support, harm reduction services, and affordable housing are paramount.

The police budget is outrageous and needs to go to address homelessness and mental health issues

The fact that a proposed 23% of the City's budget is allocated to The VicPD is deeply upsetting to me. I would feel great about where my tax dollars go if not for this enormous chunk going to an institution that directly harms people, the environment, equity and inclusion, Health, well-being and social issues, and belonging and engagement. I chose "public safety" as an area of least concern because I think what you mean by that is a police presence in our city. I want a safe community and I believe that contrary to their stated mission the police DO NOT keep us safe.

The Victoria Police department does NOT need a 1.5% budget increase.

The police do not need an increase in funding! They need a decrease. Services allocated to providing outreach for at risk individuals are needed more now than ever considering an ongoing pandemic, opioid crisis and housing shortage (through means of economic disparity, as well as low vacancy rate). The city would be a whole lot safer and in less need of police efforts if the vulnerable populations of Victoria were better looked after!

Defund the police and allocate funds to decrease homelessness and support minority communities; decriminalize drugs, affordable housing

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital

community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Personally myself, I am horrified of how the police treats people. The unnecessary brutality towards BIPOC is absolutely disgusting. Raising the budget is a terrible idea and it going towards areas that need it more than the police is 100% necessary. Please put this into consideration. Thank you

The police budget is much too high and an increase to it is not only useless to the common person but it is detrimental to certain communities and takes away from areas that desperately need improvement. Including but not limited to the opioid epidemic and the rampant homelessness. The police only make these issues worse and a large portion of their funding MUST BE reallocated to be able to make a meaningful change in Victoria. Make us an example for the rest of Canada to follow and show us who you really represent. The people, or your pockets.

There does not need to be an increase to the police budget! It's already the highest of all the provinces!

Don't increase the VICPD budget. Decrease it. Not what we need to be spending our tax money on.

Considering the increased need for support to other sectors, including local businesses and the arts, and the continued need for climate action and affordable housing, continuing to give the police department the largest amount of money seems wasteful; increased policing isn't going to solve problems like homelessness, but instead further threatens marginalized communities.

The use of the term "safe" is challenging in this survey. I find myself asking "safe for who" because currently our community is not safe for all members. "Safety" is often a term used to other/alienate different populations (unhoused, differently abled, BIPOC, low income, drug using, etc.). I would like to see the city better define this term for its future use in gathering public feedback.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget

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freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change

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Defund the police

defund VicPD

I do not agree with the proposed 1.5% increase to the police budget. Given the fiscal challenges related to Covid-19, this money would be much better spent on community resources - such as mental health outreach and support, affordable housing, and harm reduction services. The institution of policing does not keep us safe, it harms vulnerable populations in our community such as homeless folks, BIPOC, and people experiencing poverty. We need to partner with and fund community organizations who can help us build true

safety and inclusion for all, centering the voices of those most affected.

DO NOT INCREASE VIC PD BUDGET. It is a crime against humanity.

I strongly disagree with the proposed 1.5% budget increase for the Victoria Police Department. I believe this money can be reallocated to organizations that better support the most vulnerable members in our communities-- particularly mental health outreach.

Defund the police, use that money to end homelessness.

DO NOT increase police budget this year. Have you been deaf to the cries of BLM and other political movements this year? Police. Cause. Harm. They do not protect or provide safety-- they instigate and perpetuate violence. FUND community resources to PREVENT crime from happening in the first place! It's brainless!!!!

I do not want an increase in police funding, i would actually prefer a decrease and that the funds be reallocated to social services in the community around mental health and addictions

I think it is disrespectful to increase the police budget in light of the events of 2020. Seems like policing needs to be rethought, not increased.

Affordable Housing is so very very important

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time.

Defund the police! This is outrageous

Do not increase the already bloated police budget. Invest in social and community services that prioritize community building rather than punitive measures.

Poor survey; indeed an example of what is wrong with the City; does not get to the heart of financial expenditures and possible areas to eliminate. Want to comment on many items not identified. There is room to save a few million dollars or transfer \$ to police and infrastructure, but these opportunities aren't

covered at all. Survey doesn't even reflect some key commitments in Lisa's 2014 and 2018 commitments. The weakest Budget survey the City has ever had.

Not to sound rude, but please do not purchase anymore buildings to house the homeless as they destroy them and suffering businesses around them struggling to retain customers already with the lack of parking. The homeless need mental health and addictions centres with professionals to look after them built for them.

Decrease police spending

less money going to the Police and more money going to health (mental & physical) services.

Please consider freezing the budget for the Victoria police department. Victoria already has a well funded police department; and it could be argued that heavier policing does not lower crime rates.

Please do not increase the police budget. This takes money away from much more important services that can actually help people, such as decreasing homelessness and addiction. Police do not help to solve our problems.

Decrease the budget to police and security. Increase the budget for marginalized people such as the homeless. Increase funding for drug user rehabilitation and support. Increase accessible low income housing. Increase funds for safe needle injection sites.

An increase to the Victoria Police Service budget is counterproductive and does not support the city's strategies to help unhoused populations and engage with Indigenous people in (so-called) reconciliation. Police are not welcome on stolen land and cause trauma among unhoused folks. We need to be investing in affordable housing immediately. We have people sleeping out in the cold. The situation is unacceptable and increasing the police budget is simply a bandaid solution. I ask that you do not increase VicPD's budget and instead invest in housing for folks who have nowhere to go.

1. Add bike lane to shelbourne street 2. Add night lights at vicwest skatepark for nighttime usage 3. Build a undercover or indoor skatepark for public use

More bike lanes. Ex, shelbourne Richmond rd for school computers.

about \$60 million to the Police force is quite outlandish, I think that with Victoria being already such a safe city there are so many better ways to spend money that will indirectly bring safety to the community. -Addressing homelessness better -Mental Health services -Addiction and other services - Lighting and safer spaces

I want to see reduced or sustained budget for the Vic PD, not any increase.

I would recommend not increasing but rather de-funding the Police Budget.

We do not need an increase in the police budget. Putting money towards housing, equity, and support for vulnerable populations creates a safe community, not policing.

#9 Question above does not function. I chose #2 Fairly good and receive a rejection that I could only select 1 answer - which I did. Also #14- Age, same rejection, # 15, 18, 19 20 same rejection."that I could only select 1 answer" FIX GLITCH.

-A huge portion of community money is going towards the criminalization and harassment of this city's most vulnerable, most marginalized and most targeted members. The city should be committing to defunding the police and this type of criminalization and diverting those funds to affordable housing and community/peer-directed trauma-aware supports. I do not support the use of community funds for the criminalization of marginalized people and those exercising their rights to protest in the name of their human rights -It is appalling that funding for affordable housing is decreasing as Victoria becomes increasingly gentrified and people are becoming increasingly pressurized by low vacancy rates, skyrocketing rents and the shift of the market to airbnb and short term higher-priced rentals. Affordable housing is an essential part of public safety, health and wellbeing -People's unmet essential needs deserve to be prioritized over matters of convenience, recreation or development -Increasing services and supports that meet people's unmet needs is the most integral part of assuring public safety, public health, collective and individual well-being, equity and inclusion

The budget increases to policing and bylaw enforcement are not in line with Council's stated commitments regarding alternatives to policing in Victoria. It is essential that the City divests from policing and invests in communities, particularly those impacted by policing. The Bylaw budget should be frozen and staffing levels should be reverted to 2019/2020 levels - there should be no funds for enforcing bylaws against individuals sheltering outside, there should be no funds used to enforce criminalization and punishment of people who are homeless. The use of park spaces needs to be understood as they are - survival spaces for unhoused people. The emphasis and prioritization of parks as recreation spaces for housed individuals needs to stop, and prioritization of survival needs must occur. People should not be displaced from these public spaces, and they must be afforded access and facilities that are essential to survival, including but not limited to clean water, bathrooms, and showers. Funds should be allocated to affordable housing initiatives for this year, and the amount should increase annually rather than decrease as affordable housing of great importance to the majority of citizens

who are renters in this city. There should be funds allocated for adequate housing for indoor sheltering for houseless individuals - there is a demonstrated need for emergency housing. Council has discussed reconciliation and Indigenous relations, but there is no commitment financially to this. There should be budget line items to support co-governance or Indigenous leadership roles.

The council has not followed through on its stated commitments regarding alternatives to policing. The City has a responsibility to divest from policing and invest in communities. It's essential that alternatives to police be designed and run by communities. The VicPD budget should not increase any further, police spending far exceeds other municipal spending and needs to be reined in.

- Decrease the annual police budget. Our city is very safe for us white people and we know police threaten and harm BIPOC people and vulnerable people, without preventing most crimes violent and sexual crimes. - The City should be putting more into affordable housing each year, not less. - As a homeowner, I am comfortable with you increasing my property taxes to pay for needed services - not policing. Seniors can defer property taxes, so they are okay. - What is going on with recreation programs in 2020/21? If you need more funding to get that back up and running, then add more funding to this area. Even Ontario has re-opened pools and they have WAY worse COVID-19 than Victoria. Public recreation programs are essential to families with children, especially low income families. Please do what you need to do to get these programs back up and running. - Please fund more community-based programs to address vulnerable people than security-based programs such as bylaw officers and private security contracts. I live very close to Central Park and across the street from Royal Athletic Park and it's crazy how many security officers are watching all the homeless people. Why are they needed? Please invest more in the Coalition to End Homelessness, and peer-based, harm-reduction based supports for vulnerable people. They will be more cost effective and will do more good and less harm than security-based approaches.

Reduce the Victoria Police Department budget. It is massively overblown and shown ineffective

I strongly oppose the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

Increasing the police fund is not the answer for public safety.

More funding for police please.

I do not support an increase to the police budget and would like to see it frozen. Given the research and data showcasing allocation and comparing to other jurisdictions, I feel this funding would be better spent supporting social services. Research shows that type of support has better long term outcomes for health and safety of the community.

Defund the police.

-The police budget needs to be re-directed. It represents 23% of the city budget and police spend much of their time policing social concerns such as mental health and addictions that they are not qualified to address. This needs to change. I note that the capital budget for police furniture is 50K, compared to 37K for all community centre improvements. Priorities need to shift. -I am glad to see some money for public washrooms much needed for a long time. -during Covid City of Victoria has gone entirely online including all engagements. This disproportionately impacts marginalized people of many demographics. Our libraries and community centres have been largely shuttered or offer very limited services when we need them most. Everyone is NOT online. This is a huge equity issue that is largely being ignored and I do not see addressed in budget to increase access to services

Please understand that many businesses and consequently many of our citizens employed by these businesses are in severe financial difficulties. The first and foremost responsibility of Council is to do everything possible to assist in the Economic recovery of the city. Fiscal prudence is paramount! Taxpayers do not have unlimited funds and do not want their taxes spent by Council promoting their own political agenda of saving the world from itself. Stick to providing the basic core needs of the community. If there is anytime and money left over after that then consider items of a want nature. The City should be looking at the Commercial property tax base and providing relief to property owners and their tenants through the Provincial Governments Interim Business Property Tax Relief Exemption that recognizes that the Assessment Authority's practice of valuing properties on Highest and Best use is flawed when it comes to establishing fair and equitable taxes for existing properties.

More provision for funding of our POLICE force. Let us be able to enjoy the beautiful City of Victoria. Not live in fear of the criminal elements.

Safety is important to me, however NOT through increasing the police budget. Police budget should stay the same or be reduced and funds redirected to affordable housing and community-led initiatives (e.g. peer support)

More emphasis should be put on locals. Without tourists here we seem to be at a total loss. Business and restaurants are too expensive and geared to tourist dollars. Living here is getting to be way too expensive for middle class

locals. IT feels like the middle class is being pushed out and the focus is on the really rich(expensive new condos and apartments being built) and the really poor (ie. homeless shelters) The rest of us are being forgotten, in the city BUDGET.

Do not raise taxes. The Mayor and Council have wasted so much money on trying to solve problems that are NOT within the scope of the City's mandate (housing all homeless people) while ignoring issues that are within the City's mandate (public safety). You should be ashamed of have you have let the City deteriorate, not supported businesses, and jeopardized the public's safety.

Please prioritize robust funding for creation of alternative mobile crisis response teams that do not include police where there is not imminent risk of violence, with multiple paths to access a well coordinated dispatch service for these teams that includes peer counselors available to speak quickly with those in crisis. Ensure that truly inclusive stakeholder consultation is done to support creation of this program, and you will also find that its creation is widely needed and supported by Indigenous organizations, organizations run by People of Color, and low-income people, all of whom tend to have justifiable negative associations with police that work against crisis de-escalation. Also, work in every way possible to maximize taxation and fees on new development and on upzoning and use these funds to create a Vienna like system of non-market rate housing for people who need it. This city is rapidly becoming a place where working families, students, and anyone low or middle income who doesn't already own property must move to Westshore communities to make ends meet. This is not sustainable in any sense of the word, and existing affordable housing plans remain too small in both vision and actualization. Compact, climate friendly, truly affordable, transit accessible neighborhoods will simply not happen without bold leadership and looking beyond mere market-based solutions.

I am disappointed that when drafting it goals that the city did not first commit to providing the basic services that are essential to the community before embarking on higher level goals, many of which are beyond there basic mandate. It's one thing to plan for 30 years out but it is another thing to neglect its responsibly for our current challenges of today. I am also disappointed that the city did not mail evert resident an invitation to participate in this survey. I think Councillors should be required to live in or own property & pay taxes in the community they represent. Councillor who live in Esquimalt or Saanich should direct their experiences, talents & public service their own communities. They should not be telling me how my tax dollars will be spent. Whether I will or will not lose street parking for bike lanes. etc, etc

I find it insulting to our intelligence that a line item to curb travel and conferences is in the budge to save dollars.

Reduce the police budget. Invest in supportive housing and mental health

services instead.

PLEASE support rental housing. It is TOO expensive to live here. Middle class people are being forced out of the City. Myself and my boyfriend make an honest living and are finding it very difficult save money for a down payment with rent being so sky rocketed. We want out of rental housing for this reason!!

Stop spending money on your self serving projects and concentrate on the people who pay the taxes

This survey is not accessible, does not provide clear definitions of the concepts being discussed (what does safety mean? Policing does not increase safety for everyone), and does not provide sufficient opportunity for detailed comments from the public on the budget breakdown. The "property" tax increase is insufficient. Keeping this tax low benefits people who have wealth at the expense of people who do not own property, who are far more likely to be poor and marginalized. The budget for policing must be defunded, not increased! The city must reallocate the police budget to material reconciliation, affordable housing, safe and adequate indoor housing, emergency funds to support the most marginalized during this crisis, sustainable and affordable public transportation, and community services. It is unacceptable that the city has chosen to increase funding for the violence of policing while decreasing funding for affordable housing, ignoring the needs of the people in greatest need while upholding violence against them. Given the disproportionate rate of Indigenous people who are unhoused and who face violence at the hands of the police, this budget is racist and upholds colonization. The budget does not align with the stated goals of the strategic plan.

Please consider freezing or decreasing the VicPD budget. When everyone else in Victoria is struggling and every other municipal department is facing restraint I cannot fathom how you could support a single penny more spent on the already inflated VicPD budget. VicPD already takes by far the largest portion of the municipal budget - and VicPD already has more officers per capita than any other municipality in the entire country with more than 100,000 people. COVID-19 is requiring everyone to make financially responsible decisions. VicPD should not be an exception. If Chief Del Manak can't figure out how to manage a budget just like everyone else, he is failing at his job. There are plenty of courses at Camosun College on fiscal management - I would support a one time budget line to help pay for his tuition fees if that would help. Municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze or decrease the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

I don't currently live in Victoria city, but did when the current mayor and counsel were elected and I work in Victoria. I do harm reduction work in vulnerable populations and was extremely disappointed to see the proposed increase in police funding for 2021. The police spending is already ridiculously high. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other census metropolitan area in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. All this while we are in a global pandemic and city budget could and should be used so much better. Police harass, criminalize, and brutalize vulnerable populations. Spend the money to consult with communities targets by police violence to create safer alternatives to policing. We need to build equitable communities that are safe for out most vulnerable to get their needs met safely, with compassion and care, not violence, incarceration, and displacement.

I believe much more funding should be aliquoted to Objective #3 - Affordable Housing and less to the Victoria Police Department. There are many people in our city who are spending the winter outdoors in our parks, without proper sanitary facilities amidst two public health emergencies: Covid-19 and the opioid crisis. The proposed 1.5% police budget increase should instead be used to for housing, mental health and addiction initiatives and harm reduction initiatives. As well, affordable housing for renters is incredibly sparse and this issue demands immediate attention.

We require a well funded Alternative Crisis Response Teams: any person in a mental health or addiction crisis, or a loved one or witness to a person in crisis, should be able to pick up a phone and call for a humane, culturally appropriate crisis response team without fear that the person in crisis might be harmed by those responding. De-escalation and connecting those in need to help must be made a priority! This is not a job for the police, and nor should additional resources be directed to Vic PD to do this work.

Question 9; I selected my answer based on previous years not last year. The year 2020 was the year I decided that Victoria is no longer the place that meets my criteria for a good place to live. The two main factors being over development and all the negatives that brings with it and the enabling of all the harm the 'homeless' movement inflicted on neighbourhoods and people. On the latter issue it felt like there was contempt from city council for those who do their best to fulfill their part in the social contract. Concerning the homeless factor I would prefer to see my tax dollars support those with addictions, mental health afflictions, and temporary misfortunes in a way that is beneficial for their reintegration into a meaningful life. I would choose 'Fairly poor value for your tax dollars' for 2020 in that the amount of money that goes into enabling addicts, cleaning up destruction done by encampments , policing the populace in encampments; and the gang element and crime thriving with that populace, and many other elements that the broad category of homelessness requires expenditures for, is not the way I want to help those who have given up on themselves or have had insurmountable odds to

overcome.

Priority for new assessment revenue and CACs needs to be replenishment of reserve funds which have been raided in recent years to fund pet projects.

As stated in the budget, it appears the city plans on spending over 60 million dollars on policing. That's ridiculous, especially with the state of north America being what it is. There are worldwide protests trying to address over-policing, white supremacy in law, deep rooted discrimination, and police brutality. Our city is fairly small, yet we have such a huge number of police and security here already. Not to mention the sadly large homeless population we have here, dominated by indigenous people who's land we stole and live on. We don't need or want more police, if anything, we cant to cut funding down and rewire it into affordable housing and community care like homeless shelters and free transportation. Overrunning our town with police will only bring more hurt to people. As I see it, the more reasonable thing to do is to solve the problems that cause uprising crime, like homelessness and mental wellness. We need more resources for the less fortunate, not to punish them for the situation we put them in.

Defund the Police and transfer those \$ to social services/mental health supports/affordable housing

We do NOT need to increase the budget for the VicPD. This money should go to other wraparound services to support our vulnerable citizens.

The police budget should be reduced by 50%. 25% should be directed towards affordable/ transition housing initiatives, 25% directed towards Island health's Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES), Crisis Response Teams and Community Response Teams. Our homelessness problem is only going to get worse this year due to the psychological and economic ramifications of Covid 19. Drug and Alchohol dependency has increased dramatically, people are getting to the end of their CRB payments, and there are few jobs to go back to. We need to stop our neighbors from falling through the cracks and create housing accessible to those living under the poverty line. Using police to shoo panhandlers and street campers from one side of the city to the other doesn't solve anything.

WHY are we funnelling more money into policing and not social programming! DEFUND THE POLICE! I do not support the increase to the VICPD budget. Invest in community outreach programs (SO many options here) and housing initiatives. Community > Police

I would like to challenge the concept of "safety" which has been raised several times in this survey, and to me in this context, is a dog whistle for more resources to police (and bylaw). I am uncomfortable with answering that public safety is important to me because I am worried that it will be interpreted as support for increases to the VicPD and bylaw budgets. While I

believe that everyone deserves to live in a "safe" city, I cannot support the assumption that bigger VicPD and bylaws budgets will lead to an increase in safety. The term "safety" is a subjective one, but I truly do not believe we should be prioritizing the FEELING of safety of housed residents over the HUMAN RIGHTS of our neighbours who who unhoused and/or struggling. Public safety, to me, is accessible and affordable housing, harm reduction services, adequately funded mental health and addictions services, restorative justice programs and STRONG COMMUNITIES. Increased police presence does not keep our marginalized communities safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. This is why I strongly OPPOSE the proposed increases to the VicPD and Bylaw budgets. While they may appear to be minimal in nature, they send a message that the city prioritizes criminalizing marginalized communities over anything else. The fact that the VicPD budget is the biggest city expenditure and is more than double the second highest expenditure is quite alarming. I support, at the very least, a freeze to the police budget so that the city can work with the community (WITHOUT VicPD's involvement) to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. In fact, reducing the VicPD budget to put that money back into the community, or the housing reserve fund, or towards the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion would be preferable. This preference is also in the context of a lack of accountability and transparency and perceived fiscal mismanagement from VicPD. Personally, I feel the first (and easiest) thing to cut should be their communications department that spends far too much time posting harmful things on Twitter.

We need to change our policing system so that police alone are not the first responders for every emergency. We need teams of mental health and social workers to attend many crises.

Taxes need to drop. People have experienced financial hardship and assessments have done up. No need to increase taxes above and beyond inflation, rather to look for ways to reduce current taxation. so much money is planned to restore for example topaz park, that we should have found cheaper more permanent solution. so much money gets wasted, it is sickening.

It is disappointing. again. It seems like this budget doesn't address the needs of the most marginalized people in our community. it feels unacceptable to me that the wealthy elites are pampered and catered to by the city while people struggling due to lack of appropriate housing and health care are not adequately supported. this budget does not reflect action towards right relationship with the local indigenous nations, does not prioritize the health care and housing needs of the most vulnerable people in this community and instead it continues to fund the racist, colonial institution of policing at an incredibly high rate - taking up almost a quarter of the city's entire budget. i think the city should defund the police and invest in health care and housing

for all.

Police are 23%? That's so much money

Do not increase the budget for the Victoria Police Department. It is harmful to continue to invest in racist and violent community groups - and that is what police are. They are harmful to the general public and particularly harmful to vulnerable populations. Investing more money into VicPD would clearly demonstrate that the city values a discriminatory, racist and harmful group, OVER investing funds into mental health support.

do not up the Victoria police departments budget and invest in community safety OUTSIDE of policing.

More funds for public safety and supporting business in downtown Victoria. Downtown needs rejuvenation

Mind the wages, benefits and size of the City's employees in all faculties of its operations and do not withhold the funds necessary to operate a policing budget that can efficiently and expertly serve the needs of this city that is overwhelmed with the ability to set rules and enforce them. Now more than ever, we need a strong, communities focused, team of law enforcement whose very presence on our streets, around our parks and facilities, presents a calming assurance that we can enjoy our city and feel safe walking or riding around it.

Defund the police budget. They contribute absolutely nothing of value to this city. Increasing their budget will NOT make this city safer, it will do nothing. The money is better spent elsewhere. Vic PD give out speeding tickets, and enforce bylaws, they do nothing to make citizens feel calm and welcome.

Please stop running council as if it is resp for the world, and instead put first priority to your core responsibilities. The pet projects could instead be handled by other interest groups in the area.

As a young renter with a medium income in Victoria, I am being priced out of the City. There is a dire lack of affordable options for renters shown by the huge amount of unhoused people on our streets. We need to freeze new high-end developments and invest in affordable housing and protection for renters (e.g., eviction prevention) so that we don't lose the few housing options we have left. While people are living outside, we need to invest in public infrastructure so that people have basic needs met - running water, showers, toilets, outdoor cooking spaces, storage, etc. More and more people are finding themselves homeless and inattention to these issues will continue to cause conflict among residents of Victoria. It is unfathomable that the Victoria police are requesting a 1.5% increase in a year where police brutality/racism has been so highly profiled. The City of Victoria has the highest policing per capita than any other city in Canada and the trend

across North America is reducing police budgets, not giving more funds to an approach to problems that is costly and ineffective. The City of Victoria policing budget should be extensively cut. We need to reinvest policing funds into building strong communities, infrastructure, and affordable housing, rather than investing in the punishment of people who are being failed by the system. The proposed budget should reflect the values of the City and spending almost a quarter on punishment and surveillance is not in line with values of inclusivity, equity, and Indigenous reconciliation.

Less money for the police & more money for social programs

1. Defund the police. 2. Use extra money to support houseless people, people of colour, poor people, climate action, people with disabilities etc. In general, more social support, including mental health resources, less policing and punitive approaches to dealing with social issues. Victoria could be poised to be a leader in Canada in actual positive social change. We have a fairly progressive council, and lots of progressive support. Reallocation of funds does not have to be an impossibility, though I understand it is politically very challenging with all the special interest groups (i.e. Police unions). But you have support. We have the chance to be a leader in Canada.

Given the current climate (pandemic and increase in substance abuse), it is critical that a greater portion of our budget be spent on policing. Temporarily housing the vulnerable has created a ghetto in the Burnside/Gorge community that needs to be continually monitored and the lack of resources made effective policing impossible last year.

Please finish Ship Point Plan!

Please reduce the police budget (definitely do not increase it). It's current budget share of 25% is unacceptable and those same funds would save lives elsewhere. Please invest in Indigenous relationships and reconciliation and affordable housing.

Reduce funding for the police and spend that money on mental health services/housing the homeless

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the

VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Yours sincerely, Holly This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

I believe that the 1,5% increase in the Vic PD budget is unnecessary. Instead I am demanding for the Vic PD budget to be frozen(as it was done in Vancouver recently) so that the funds can go to preventing crime and violence in communities most in need and for those how benefit of less privilege and have been historically underfunded and ignored.

We absolutely cannot increase the police budget, we must consider decreasing. VicPD are too heavily armed and are provided with too aggressive vehicles. Stop the militarization of our police and invest in social services! We have more police per capital than other major cities and it is unnecessary.

Pls try and save us poor people? Or not. It's your conscience.

As a taxpayer, and as an engaged member of Greater Victoria Acting Together I would ask that there be financial and other resources committed to developing an alternate crisis response model comprised of 1-2 teams of professionals (social worker and paramedic and psychiatric nurse) to be established as a pilot project to address mental health and wellness check calls (without an initial police presence, unless it is determined that safety is an issue) and to engage relevant stakeholder groups in ongoing advisory/consultation to evaluate and recommend modifications to this pilot project in hopes it would broaden and develop into a region-wide service, as an adjunct to the existing ACT teams.

I would like our City of Victoria 2021 Budget to promote a safe; impeccably clean; efficient and well managed; tourism- promoting city - one that is inviting to both Businesses and Victoria residents alike. We need more money toward 'policing' to accomplish these endeavors. I find the survey to be misleading and ambiguous for several topics.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. I appreciate the work good people are doing in the VicPD service, but find it deeply concerning the proportion of financial resources going to the VicPD when those resources NEED to be diversified to solution-focused work addressing social inequality, such as community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. Such initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

Ensure that library funding is sufficient to help GVPL rebuild after having their services devastated by the pandemic.

I do not support the budget increase for the Victoria police department. Victoria's police department is significantly overfunded compared to other cities in Canada and already comprises a large portion of proposed expenditures for 2021. The proposed increase should instead go towards supporting social work and mental health initiatives in Victoria.

Hold the line on police budgets. Police always seem to be unable to solve problems with the resources provided. Many efficiencies exist in policing.

Let's make sustainable transportation a priority. It builds a healthier, safer, and more welcoming community. The pandemic has shown if you open streets to people they will be used. Building and maintaining car infrastructure is expensive, creates a unhealthy population, and high health care costs (both from injury due to collisions and health problems associated with not enough exercise).

Tax dollars are needed to improve and maintain services; I would be fine with a 2% increase as if the money is spent wisely, it should be worth it in the longrun.

I want to make sure our Police department is properly supported and funded. I am glad to see a slight increase in the police budget but I believe they could use even more. I was upset to hear last year when they had to pay the extra provincial employment taxes out of their policing budget, which effectively reduced their operating budget. I want to ensure they have enough funding to do their vital work. In the past there was a threat by some on council to defund our police. Please make sure the police are funded adequately!

Do not increase the police budget from 2020. Direct more funds to affordable housing instead.

It is essential to shrink the police budget. This money needs to be transferred to housing, social services, and resources to support health and wellbeing. The City of Victoria cannot say that inclusion, equity, health and wellness, and improving Indigenous relations are priorities while funding an institution known to be discriminatory, harmful, and racist. If the City truly wants to be a leader in these priorities, it needs to look to cities already defunding from policing and join in this important movement.

I choose to live in Victoria because of the high level of services I enjoy. My biggest complaint would be that city disposal services do not extend to very small townhouse complexes (6 units). I want to see a rapid expansion of the minimum cycling grid to all borders of Victoria and beyond. Please support development of downtown parking lots (e.g, 1100 block of Wharf) and derelict buildings (e.g., the Northern Junk buildings) into usable public spaces that are enjoyable for locals and that tourists can visit, too. Incentivise development of open-air, single-storey, surface parking lots into underground (where possible) lots, or with public amenities on top. Ferry terminal or moving the Victoria Art Gallery to somewhere along 1100 Wharf would be

perfect examples of promoting this kind of activity. Another idea is to acquire all of the car dealerships and convert those spaces to public amenities. The MINI dealership's location would serve perfectly as a transit hub for electric trolleys coming off of the E&N rail corridor with excellent access to Dockside Green and Downtown.

The city of Victoria should not be giving a penny more to the police department unless that money is going towards significant systemic change. The need for this was highlighted by their poor handling of any form of criticism, not limited to but including the bastion square mural fiasco and vicPDs continued overpolicing of minority groups, and their refusal to respond appropriately to requests from city council and constituents as exhibited by their continuation of the policy of random carding.

reduce police budget while investing more in support services for vulnerable populations

Good value for my tax dollars includes service, dignity, belonging for folks more excluded/marginalized than me. I do not want to see protection of middle class "safety" as our city's primary priority.

I strongly oppose the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. At the beginning of 2020, I witnessed VicPD use excess force in arresting twelve Indigenous youth attending a peaceful sit-in at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources. Subsequently, VicPD expended unnecessary resources to harass and later detain Indigenous youth on Legislative grounds. As a resident and business owner of Victoria, I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation

of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. In fact, as a person of colour, I can attest that it keeps me unsafe and continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

I do not agree with the increase of the police budget and the substantial allocation of city revenue towards the police. With the international movement that has highlighted serious issues with how policing is conducted, a budget increase is counter to the real concerns raised by indigenous and marginalized communities. If the strategic plan is serious about reconciliation, safety of neighbourhoods, good governance, and equity and inclusion, then the conversation about police funding must be on the table for public discussion and engagement.

DEFUND THE POLICE. FUND SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH.

The city should move money from police services to mental health and other emergency services. I think in general the Vic PD do a very good job in my part of the community, but I have very little interaction with them and vulnerable communities need services not criminalisation.

police should not need to increase their budget considering how much we are

policed.

I strongly oppose the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: - COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am asking for the VicPD budget to be frozen and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering

with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am requesting that we work together to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

More funds are needed for affordable housing.

Safety safety safety and economic recovery

THERE IS A HOUSING CRISIS

The allocation of funds in the Plan does not reflect the City's stated goals for the upcoming year, in particular with regards to Indigenous reconciliation and affordable housing. Unhoused people desperately need housing, not increased policing and surveillance. The fact that a supposedly progressive city is proposing increased police budgets while slashing opportunities for affordable housing is appalling from a practical and moral perspective, and says little for its engagement with Indigenous populations.

QUIT WITH THE WASTEFUL SPENDING ON BIKE LANES. AS THEY DO NOT HELP CITY TRAFFIC AT ALL. THIS CITY COUNCIL IS DESTROYING THIS CITY

I would recommend the city takes a new course on dealing with the downtown core before there is nothing that can be done and it becomes too unsafe.

I'd like to see a reduction in the police budget. Victoria has a disproportionate ratio of police to residents. I don't see investments in policing as making our community safer.

Please don't forget about the silent majority in this city who obey the laws, don't steal or vandalize and pay the property taxes to fund this city. It appears mayor and council has forgotten about this group - as evidenced by the landslide by-election win for Stephen Andrews. We are frustrated this city is basically handed over to criminals and drug addicts who, in a great number of cases are not even from here and who steal from and assault residents and businesses.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I don't believe that police and security guards help create a safer city. I'd like

to see more dollars go towards affordable housing, social recovery, addictions care, and more vibrant/inclusive/accessible public spaces.

I believe the draft financial plan allocates too much funding to policing and inadequate funding to other social services that would reduce the need for police.

I don't think an increase in police budget is a good idea. Truly innovative cities around North America have significantly cut police budgets and are using data driven decision making to support community safety in other ways. community safety through community development, design, prevention etc. There is so much more that is possible than enforcement. Police logic is closed minded with very little space for compassion. They are ruled by the criminal code which we as a city have no control over. Enforcement is able to help in certain circumstances, but when it is applied as the default strategy it escalates and sustains criminal behaviours. The research is out there. (I helped write a community safety strategy for a municipal government a couple years ago). Please don't commit us to using a hammer as the only tool in our shed.

When we say "our community is safe" or list "public safety" as a value, whose safety is being prioritized? Dollars towards VicPD actively contribute to putting those experiencing houselessness, those living with mental illness, those who use drugs, those with disabilities, those living in poverty, those involved in sex work, and Indigenous and BIPOC community members at a greater risk of harassment, violence, and criminalization. In the wake of the movement for Black Lives this past spring and summer, and the growing public understanding that police do not serve the inherent health and well-being of our communities, and are not suitable to be first-responders in times of crisis, why is the City proposing to increase the police budget by 1.5%? Municipalities across the country are facing substantial decreases in revenue due to COVID-19; some, like Vancouver, are voting to freeze their police budgets, in order to redirect funds towards community-oriented initiatives, or to take time to consider alternatives to policing. It is clear that there are many crucial discussions that need to be had about who (or what) the police protect, and whose safety they threaten. Now, in the middle of a global pandemic and ongoing overdose and housing crisis, is not the time to increase the funding of the VicPD. I implore the city to look for ways that we might ensure public safety that don't involve giving more power and resources to this already over-funded and outdated institution. There are an abundance of community-led organizations and projects that deserve our attention and our support, and which actively contribute to the well-being of the community at large; organizations that centre harm reduction, trauma-informed methodologies, conflict resolution, transformative justice, Indigenous ways of knowing, and cultural safety; that create a sense of well-being, belonging, and community through arts programming; and that address poverty through offering resources and supports needed to find stability. The VicPD offers none of these things, and the fact that it is awarded 23% of the City's total budget while community organizations operate on a fraction of the

cost shows a shameful lack of regard for the real well-being of this city's residents. Through organizations like the Living/Lived Experience of Homelessness Network (LLEOHN) I have seen how VicPD have used their authority to intimidate and harass unhoused communities in the long months of this pandemic. This past February I personally witnessed VicPD harass the many Indigenous youth engaged in peaceful ceremony and land defense on the steps of the Legislative Assembly, and those gathered to protect the youth (including a priest, who was shoved down the stairs by a VicPD officer). This summer, I witnessed young BIPOC artists faced with the defacing of their mural, and harassment from VicPD supporters for speaking the truth of their experience. These experiences do not exist isolated from each other; they are part of the larger system of violence that is inextricably bound up in policing as an institution, and which will always serve to protect the property and power of the elite while criminalizing those who stand in the way of their power. Increased police presence does not keep us safe; caring, supportive, and committed communities do. I am calling on the City to use your position to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget for 2021 and seeking meaningful engagement with those communities you claim to value.

Please increase policing and social service budgets, halt bike lane developments

Defund police!!! Redistribute to social services and to addressing access to affordable housing, prioritize indigenous and other BIPOC health and well being, prioritize housing for street involved people and people with disabilities

Trim down or eliminate non essential expenditures.

I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

My main concerns are for the wellbeing of residents: affordable housing, mental health, and inclusivity for minority and first nations residents.

Less wasting money and time.

Make sure the police have the resources they need, and support them in making Victoria a safer place to live. Listen to them, and learn from their experience, in formulating a plan for crime reduction. At the same time, stop creating and promoting an environment that attracts criminals, encourages street drug use, and that chases away businesses. Victoria's motto, when dealing with drug users, should be 'We make it as hard as possible for you to

be an active street addict, while making it as easy as possible for you to get help and treatment.' This needs to be your top priority. I have lived here for 46 years, and have never seen the city in such an abysmal condition as it is now. It is looking more like an unlivable slum every day, and it really hurts that my home city has fallen so far.

Council spends too much time on micro-management and e on dealing on issues that affect no more than 1500 people (homeless) leaving the vast majority of citizens feeling ignored or underserved!

Cities are not responsible for housing. Stop expanding city services and stick to your knitting. It's no good being innovative and inclusive when residents and businesses are being marginalized and stressed due to city actions.

Do not increase the budget for policing in Victoria. Victoria is one of the heaviest policed cities in North America. We don't need more police and militarization of the police. The grave conditions for a growing number of the people in the city is not going to be helped by more police and more arrests. Police lack the training to deal the rampant mental health and addiction crisis this city faces. Consider defunding the police and re-allocating funds to other professionals who are better trained in out reach, mental health, addiction treatment and rehabilitation who can work in tandem with police and actually help people to get help for their mental illness. This was done in Portugal with great success and many lives saved.

As a resident of Victoria, I disagree wholeheartedly with the proposed increase to the Victoria PD's budget for this year. As seen time and time again, police forces DO NOT "stop crime", but they sure do escalate situations that often end in civilians being harmed (injury, death, incarceration for being poor etc.) The criminalization of houseless folks and Black and Indigenous folks must stop. Please reconsider this budget increase and look into the many resources out there on how defunding the police creates safer communities. Community resources need to be funded, rather than pouring more funds into the bloated and racist carceral system.

It's imperative that you don't continue to increase the police budget. Housing people and funding for social services for mental health and addictions should take precedence over anything. Increasing an already inflated police budget is taking away from necessary essential services for the community members most in need.

Defund the police

Defund the homeless gang

No to the increase in police budgets

1) I think the City should avoid undertaking visible projects that might appear to some to be frivolous. For example, the summary budget highlights "Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space". This seems entirely unnecessary under the best of times, and particularly so in this time of covid and unprecedented homelessness and addiction and substance abuse challenges. 2) I think that far too much has been spent (and is planned to be spent) on the few protected bike lanes and far too little spent on improving people's perceptions and attitudes towards cyclists. As a frequent cyclist, I feel that there has been an increase in anger and antipathy of motorists directed towards cyclists which has translated into more aggressive driving near cyclists. This puts all cyclists not in a protected bike lane at greater risk for a collision. 3) I think the cafe/bar/restaurant tables out on the street (e.g. in Fernwood, like on the cover of the budget document) should be maintained after covid, and even expanded. They make a city more interesting and livable. Liquor licenses should be more lax to allow reasonable consumption in public areas. 4) Please re-consider the current road line painting practices. Many of the new intersections are a confusing array of lines and dashes that cause a lot of visual chaos and confusion, none more so than when there are dashed lines (for bike lane crossing) along with the solid lines (for pedestrian lane crossing), for example at the new Kings and Douglas. The dashed line is completely unnecessary.

Safety doesn't mean what some people think it does. The Vic PD do NOT keep us safe. Mental health support keeps us safe, community led projects keep us safe. Decrease the police budget.

We needed a new pool. The thing could have been torn down and a new one built in its place during the pandemic. But we are still dithering over it, yet more and more bike lanes and homeless housing keeps getting done. How about something for the other 80% of the population. Have you noticed bike lane usage drops off during the wet cold winter how do you think those cyclists are getting around ? Typically by car, yet council insists on plugging up the automobile traffic.

give back streets for cars

Would you please start considering the disabled who can't walk or bike downtown. My mother can no longer go downtown, as she can't park anywhere near a store. I should think families with strollers etc would also appreciate parking.

Stop increasing the police budget. This is a substance use health crisis not a safety crisis exacerbated by a temporary pandemic that has closed borders. Increases will be near impossible to reverse. More police do not make the city safer.

Absolutely ridiculous wasting taxpayer funds to close more roads and other

unnecessary pet projects in the middle of the biggest economic crisis in 100 years. You are spending as if taxpayers are flush with money to accommodate your virtue signaling. Right now the #1 & 2 priority is to focus on protecting the local economy and the future tax base. Without either you will have no money for your pet projects in the future. Dont be so arrogant as to assume that Citizens want you to close another road or build another tent city. Stop listening to your acolytes and listen to ALL the citizens

I'd like to see the police budget held, and not increased. They need to make do with what they're given. Ideally some of their existing funding could go towards crime PREVENTION such as social programs, education, and crisis teams.

Be a leader in the defund police priority being pursued throughout North America.

City needs to support business, maintain the roads and increase public safety. The rest is window dressing.

We need affordable housing for people who are on disability, in recovery and are low income!

There City should stick to issues not already the responsibility of the province or federal government.

Focus on urgent issues, defer "wish" list until city is in better shape

Policing of drug addicts and residential theft

It's absolutely necessary that the city of Victoria make all of their meetings accessible to the public. Lisa helps and her band of misfits do far too many decisions based on patting each other on the back and keeping their sounding board just between them. This is not just their city. I think it's absolutely ridiculous that we can pay a counsellor to go on vacation for a month, and then take a further two weeks off to quarantine, yet apparently there are no funds to broadcast meetings over the Internet. In previous years the city Council has found upwards of \$10,000 to have fancy lunches. No one is buying the fact that Setting up a YouTube channel is out of their reach. If the city of Victoria expanded their voting system to include neighbouring Saanich and Oakbay communities, there is absolutely no way that Lisa helps, or any of the current elected counsel officials would have been reelected, or elected again in the future. Keeping the voting system solely to the city of Victoria limits, is absolutely insane. Most of the condos downtown are owned by people who don't actually live there, it makes the sounding board even smaller. The decisions of very few are affecting many. The

downtown core survives on the money of the locals in the neighbouring communities, their voices should be heard too.

Investments NEED to be made for addictions services and programs specific for Indigenous people. Investing in addiction programs saves money in the long run due to less crime. Investing in more policing is PROVEN to be ineffective. More funding for collaboration with the nations to reclaim and restore sacred spaces on the land.

Focus on municipal items, not provincial and federal items. Affordable housing should not be forced onto developers by city council. Homelessness should not be resolved by Victoria, but rather CRD, BC and Canada: Council needs to draw lines in the sand. Focus needs to be on making the city inviting for home owners and business rather than increasing taxes and painting over abandoned buildings. Focus on growing the city through vibrant business and community rather than forcing crime and poverty into the downtown core. Spend the money, not on painting abandoned buildings, but on paying businesses and home=owners the insurance deductibles caused by crime. Yes poverty needs to be solved, but not off the backs of just Victoria residents. Draw firm lines in the concrete with other municipalities, the province and the country to equally distribute and fund poverty. Do not make Victoria a destination fr all of Canada's criminals running from warrants unless the province they are fleeing from send monthly funds to pay for their stay in BC/Victoria

I think that while every other area of the budget is staying the same or going down, the police budget should not be going up. We can find other ways to deliver public safety. For many people in our community, police do not represent safety and help. Discussions on alternatives to public safety should be led by those most impacted by police violence and oppression.

i have been absolutely HORRIFIED at how the city has responded to unhoused folks during this pandemic. so, i am disgusted to see yet another increase to victoria pd operating budget while affordable housing receives less than 0.25% of the budget. i call on the city of 'victoria' to reduce the police budget in order to allocate a greater amount to affordable housing. victoria has rapidly become one of the least affordable cities in the world, and increased police presence and harassment of unhoused folks does nothing to fix that. i do not support any increases to vicpd and would actually love to see victoria city council take bold moves to reduce this over inflated budget and re-prioritize spending.

We need to focus on rebuilding small business and getting jobs for people who have lost them during these hard times. Many people are still struggling with living month to month on top of having extremely unaffordable housing!

Start by adding to the police budget. Unfortunately, through the coercion of NGOs in the city of Victoria, there has been an influx of people from other provinces. (Many of) these people have mental illnesses, addictions, and/or are criminals with outstanding warrants. These people are un-housable,

unemployable and a burden on taxpayers. I gathered the statistics for my old neighbourhood (1090 Johnson) and was going to speak to mayor and council at the beginning of 2020, but then covid hit. The numbers that I gathered showed a steady increase in crime, but were still low because NOT ALL CRIMES WERE REPORTED. I worked in security for almost 3 years after a (massive) layoff from a consultancy, and what was going on from 2016 - 2019 at night, is tame compared to what is happening now 24/7. If the mayor and select councillors can't separate themselves from their 'Mother Teresa' mindsets, and start running the city like a business, then I weep for all of downtown. Looking after people with mental illnesses is something that should be done by a different level of government. This is falling to us on a municipal level through policing. This shouldn't be our fiscal responsibility. The unsafe conditions in downtown were created by the city, but are being mitigated by businesses and property owners by hiring private security. The city needs to be held accountable for this and needs to either hire additional police, or a higher level of security (direct hires) to keep their eyes and ears on what is happening downtown. I no longer shop downtown, walk downtown or live downtown. Additionally, the city is clearly reliant on visiting tourists who get to Victoria via fossil fuels. With the changes to work habits (remote) and the seeming reluctance to allow vehicle traffic into downtown, it's clear to me that the downtown core is not self-supported by anyone riding a bike. And finally, what is it with all of the building permits? You collectively have cried over a lack of housing, but you approved dozens of building permits to mitigate this, but there is a shortage of skilled workers, so the projects are all delayed, and therefore no occupancy permits. No occupancy permits = no taxes from those developments. I know of MANY projects that still can't be moved into because there was not enough people to complete the jobs.

No increase to VicPD budget for 2021. at a time when municipal budgets are being constrained due to COVID, and significant numbers of folks are still sheltering outside during a global pandemic, it is appalling that VICpd would ask for an increase in funding. freeze the budget at a 0% increase, or even better - reduce funding to vicpd and allocate additional funding for affordable housing.

Thinking of 2020, I can't actually tell you specifically something the city has done for me or the majority of its residents

Police have too much money compared to other social services.

Please address safety and the concentration of temporary housing in burnside gorge. Please write the principles of crime prevention into the land use policies. Please reallocate some police funds to fund mobile teams of experts in mental health and addictions.

Not at this time.

Rather than focusing on a few select groups of people - the unhoused and cyclists, consider those of us who pay taxes and live in neighbourhoods that get very little attention. My neighbourhood, for example, lobbies for years to get any services from the city, such as traffic calming or residential-only parking, so it's galling when we hear that more money is going to bike lanes and housing the homeless (especially projects that fail and bring increased crime into our neighbourhoods). Remember that multi-modal transportation includes more than just bike lanes — it also includes space for pedestrians, cars, wheelchairs and transit. Give the police more support staff for dealing with mental health issues. Rather than taking patrol officers off the street, hire people who specialize in helping those with mental illness and addiction. Our police are stretched too thin.

I am totally dismayed at the proposed 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget. VicPD is a bloated department which has zero justification for consistently taking the single biggest piece of Victoria's budget pie. Why on earth does VicPD own a militarized vehicle, essentially a tank, which cost \$320,000? On June 3, 2020, Mayor Helps proclaimed that “condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action.” Action would look like divesting millions from the VicPD and investing in affordable, public housing, for example. But instead, I am appalled that the city I have called home my entire life would prefer to invest more money in the police force which has: (1) Worsened conditions for those living unhoused in this unaffordable city: The confiscation of personal belongings on Pandora St earlier this year and the removal of crowdfunded showers from Beacon Hill in November were horrific and should have led to consequences for VicPD. (2) A track record of racialized harassment and violence: VicPD repeatedly brutalized indigenous youth in early 2020 while they peacefully protested the militarized invasion of Wet'suwet'en, first at a BC ministry building and later at the legislature. In 2017, Michael Regis of the Uvic School of Public Administration published a report titled Policing in Greater Victoria: A Study in Addressing the Gaps in Engaging Greater Victoria's Diverse Communities. It has been consistently ignored by the Police Board despite containing incredibly troubling evidence of blatant police misconduct and worse towards Victoria's minority communities. (3) Made our community less safe and more violent. According to the official provincial statistics available online, in 2019 alone VicPD: threatened to shoot 119 people; threatened 24 people with 'extended range impact weapons; shot 12 more people not included in the stats above (including a woman who was shot and killed on Christmas Day by three projectiles in the back of the head and neck); threatened to taze at least 41 people; tazed 14 more people; threatened to pepper spray 10 people; pepper sprayed 18 more people; threatened 52 people with police dogs and had the dogs bite at least 4 people. We desperately need to create a safer, more inclusive city for all by immediately freezing the VicPD budget and beginning to divest resources from police in favour of productive, nonviolent community services.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase

in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I don't understand the need for the police budgeting for a K9 unit. I don't think I've ever even seen a police dog in Victoria. Regardless, I don't support an increase to the Victoria Police annual budget at all.

Decrease the police budget. The increase is ridiculous. Look to other cities for ways to work with the unhoused population that do not involving increasing policing and police presence.

Before getting into the Dreamscape of the future we need to Remedy Our biggest issues right now

It's time for council to listen, not appear to listen to all voters and not just the section that voted them in.

No more buying hotels and making ghettos in neighbourhoods! Property assessment went up but property value dropped due to criminal element around the Travelodge.

Defund the police! \$880,320 is the proposed increase that the police department is receiving this year! Instead put that money into community support systems for unhoused people and make a difference! Listen to what people are saying! The police do not keep people save the community does and we need to invest in community not the police!

Disappointed to see no direct mention of policing services in this survey. While public safety may directly translate into availability of policing services for some people (particularly white people with economic and housing stability), this is not the case for many in our community, including Indigenous people, Black people, those living with mental health challenges, and those without adequate shelter. While I am inspired by Victoria's commitment to be a leader in addressing our climate emergency, I think as a community we must expand our lens to truly consider what constitutes a 'safe community' for all people. I think this starts with investments in community led initiatives for supporting people in homelessness and mental health emergencies, more funding and opportunities for peer support, and investments in community initiatives that benefit all citizens, not just those who are housed. Most importantly, this money should be redirected from policing services. If we have learned anything in the past year, let it be that police should not be the caretakers of our communities.

Support our police correctly...you expect them to clean up the mess of the city, but then want to pull their funding. Then get mental health workers from Viha working with them before you pull their funding.

Concentrate budget towards homelessness, mental health and addiction

services. Stop trying to allocate funds to these three things by throwing everyone in hotels and tents together. Different problems require individual solutions & funding. Mental health is a priority. Addiction services priority. Affordable living priority.

Don't feel as comfortable with our city and don't view council as focusing on the priorities of its commercial and private taxpayers.

The police budget for 2021 should be frozen. With decreased city revenue due to COVID-19, cities across the country are making the fiscally and socially responsible decision to freeze or decrease their police budgets. Rather than spend an alarming 23% of the city's operating expenditures on a service that criminalizes our most marginalized neighbours (BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+ folks, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc), we should be reevaluating the effectiveness of the police in fostering safety and wellness in our community. As a resident of the City of Victoria, I am calling for a reallocation of city funds from policing into programs and services that are proven to support the well-being of all community members such as community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following: COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and

facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Yours sincerely, Momo This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

I do not agree with the increase of budget to the Victoria Police Department and have sent a separate email outlining my feedback.

As a registered nurse, I find it inappropriate and frankly offensive that the City of Victoria would even consider increasing the police budget. With the majority of crimes in the Victoria area being needs based, allocating more funds to policing would only further punish those experiencing poverty and mental/physical health issues. Investing in grassroots community programs, healthcare, affordable and supportive housing is evidence based and would do more to improve the lives of all that live in the city of Victoria. I urge Council to follow the evidence and not increase the police budget.

More funds should be allocated away from Victoria Police force. The budget increase does not align with the city's words or a welcoming city mandate.

The Victoria police force must be defunded a minimum of 2% to increase funding for essential supports for vulnerable populations.

Funding for affordable housing has decreased in this budget. The Draft Financial Plan states a commitment to “allocate additional City revenue to affordable housing” (page 44) but the proposed budget does the opposite, decreasing the annual allocation for the housing reserve -- dropping from \$900,000 in 2020/21 to \$650,000 per year in 2021/22 and the four fiscal years after that. I also noted that in 2020/21, \$152,500 of the \$208,228 allocated to the Late Night Task Force (policing downtown) was reallocated to emergency housing but the plan for 2021-22 has this special policing force once again at full budget, now increased to \$231,650 per year. Council has not followed through on its stated commitments regarding alternatives to policing. After years of community campaigning to divest from policing and invest in communities, at the June 25, 2020 meeting Council directed staff to report back on how to develop a framework for an accessible, culturally safe, and appropriate alternative response model -- in time for consideration as part of Council's 2021 budget deliberations. Council also instructed staff to as part of this process hold a virtual community town hall and provide a range of opportunities for individuals and communities to engage, with “strong representation of those disproportionately harmed within the current system namely black, Indigenous, and POC communities, TNB2s people, persons with lived and living experience (PWLLE) of poverty, homelessness, mental health challenges, or substance use”. Neither the framework for the model nor the robust community engagement have happened in time for the public consultation process on the Draft Financial Plan. Instead, according to Mayor Lisa Helps' January 3, 2021 blog post, Island Health and the VicPD are working together to create a response team for mental health calls -- though this team is also not mentioned in the VicPD budget so it's unclear what is contemplated. The City's role going forward is not clear. As the primary funder of the VicPD, the City has a responsibility to divest from policing and invest in communities. As was conveyed to Council years ago, and has been repeated since, the right role of government in this is to resource communities most impacted by policing to determine what would be a more appropriate investment of public funds. It's essential that alternatives to police be designed and run by communities, not government; and that any alternative be non-coercive (unlike police-embedded Island Health teams). Replacing police-only response with police-embedded response is still supporting a policing response.

I am in strong opposition of increasing the operating budget for police and am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. In addition to freezing the budget of the money toilet that is the VicPD, which as you know absorbs 23 PERCENT of the city's overall operating budget, I am also calling on the re-allocation of the ~1.5 MILLION DOLLARS (2.9%) of the city's overall capital budget to be reduced to 0\$. Perhaps The VicPD can re-

allocate some of the 12 million dollars earmarked for fancy new cars over the next few years that they expect to receive from Victoria citizens to compensate. Where-as policing in Canada has always been an arm of the colonial state; Where-as the policing in Canada was literally introduced as a way to quell indigenous groups from asserting their legal, rightful sovereignty; Where-as Indigenous groups are disproportionately arrested and imprisoned to this day as a result of ongoing colonial oppression; And where-as reconciliation with Indigenous communities is stated as a priority for The City of Victoria; I demand that the operating for VicPD be frozen and capital budget of the VicPD be reduced to ZERO.

Reallocate the additional police budget expenditures towards other equitable and inclusive initiatives. The budget would be more impactful if it was spent elsewhere.

I would like to see a reduction in funding to the police budget and those funds be allocated to other services, addressing social issues.

(1) OVERALL COMMENTS. This whole process is skewed in a particular direction, towards maintaining the status quo of colonial relationships with land and each other. There's no consideration in the budget of where wealth comes from and how to shift out of a death-producing economy based on stolen lands and resources, exploited labour, and violence against the earth into something that is peaceful, sustainable, and fair. With no plan for economic and political transformation, the City can't meet communities' real needs. All that can be done is to remain in denial about the need for change and keep stalling on change. (2) BUDGET DOESN'T ALIGN WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS. In its current form the budget doesn't align with community needs or the City's stated priorities. The Draft Financial Plan identifies as priorities local area land use planning, supporting businesses, affordable housing, active transportation, climate change, and emergency preparedness; according to the Goal Statement on page 13, by 2022 "We will be known globally for our climate leadership practices, multi-modal transportation options, innovative approaches to affordable housing, and for meaningful reconciliation with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on whose homelands our city was built." But none of these aspirations are substantively resourced. Relationship with Indigenous nations and affordable housing are particularly deprioritized in the budget. (3) LAND IS NOT PROPERTY. By calling a tax on settlers' use of Lkwungen lands "property tax", the City is entrenching colonial ideas of land as property rather than this place being a living, organic place that is the home of many beings. As a starting point, a real land tax would acknowledge that the City is on Lkwungen Territory, and would actively work with Lkwungen communities on how to decolonize and begin to engage in respectful relationship. (4) BUDGET CONTINUES TO STEAL WEALTH FROM LOCAL INDIGENOUS NATIONS. The Draft Financial Plan doesn't consider Lkwungen ways of making decisions or ensuring that any benefits derived from settlers' use of Lkwungen resources (including lands, waters, knowledge, etc.) are returned to Lkwungen people.

Council talks about “Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations” but has no commitment to redistribute stolen land and wealth -- it doesn’t even fund Indigenous positions for its stated Indigenous relations activities. The Draft Financial Plan includes a commitment to “deeper and more engagement with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations”, “recognition of Indigenous sovereignty”, and “more Indigenous involvement and inclusion in all aspects of civic life”. But nowhere in the budget is there a line for the 2020 Strategic Plan commitments to establish an Indigenous Relations function and to pursue co-governance of MEEGAN and shoreline areas, the 2021 commitments of appointing Indigenous Elders in Residence and continuing co-governance explorations, or the 10 actions relating to Indigenous community relationships that are identified for 2022. The only two mentions of Indigenous relations in the actual budget are the Witness Reconciliation Program and an Indigenous artist-in-residence program (which is identified as 2019-21, so no City commitment to continue). While the required five-year financial plan for most departments involves a standard 2% inflation increase every year, the Witness Reconciliation Program -- the only funded initiative addressing the City’s relationship with local nations -- has decreased funding in 2022 (page 550). All of these are examples of the lip-service the City is paying to ‘reconciliation’, they are not end goals in and of themselves. True decolonization would involve much more than funding these activities, it would mean a complete rethinking of how non-Indigenous people relate to these territories and local nations, and a systematic plan to stop relating in violent ways and hoarding stolen land and wealth. (5) LIMITING LAND TAX TO THE EXTENT SET OUT HERE IS SOCIALLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND KEEPS WEALTH IN THE HANDS OF PRIVATE LAND OWNERS. By protecting settlers from a reasonable land tax increase, Council is making ‘victoria’ less affordable to the most economically precarious people. It’s contradictory to commit to ‘Make Victoria More Affordable’ while limiting the annual land tax increase to a maximum of the rate of inflation + 1%. Addressing affordability is great, but limiting property tax only benefits people wealthy enough to own land. This year’s property tax increase is 1.75% which according to the budget summary works out to an annual increase of “\$44 for an average household and \$124 for a typical business” -- minor amounts that will make little difference to people who are wealthy enough to own land, but that if increased could significantly improve real affordability measures like return of stolen lands, rent banks, community-controlled housing, urban agriculture, etc. (6) THIS BUDGET DECREASES THE COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING. While it’s great that Council is funding staff work on policies to try to stem the further loss of affordable units, there also needs to be a tangible plan around increasing affordable housing stock, far beyond Council’s current goal of 100 units per year (beyond the housing stock needs projected for population growth). The Draft Financial Plan states a commitment to “allocate additional City revenue to affordable housing” (page 44) but the proposed budget does the opposite, decreasing the annual allocation for the housing reserve -- not only dropping from \$1,000,000 in 2019/20 to \$900,000 in 2020/21, but going down even

further to \$650,000 per year in 2021/22 and the four fiscal years after that. Affordable housing has been the general public's #1 issue for several years according to the annual local Vital Signs survey, for good reason. According to 2016 Census data (which excludes people who are homeless), five years ago 9,065 households -- 21% of 'victoria' households -- were living in housing that is overcrowded, in significant disrepair, and/or unaffordable, with 4,050 households in 'victoria' identified as "in extreme core housing need" (living in housing that is overcrowded, in significant disrepair, and/or unaffordable, and with an income so low that more than 50% of income would need to be spent to get adequate housing). Affordability and vacancy rates are worse now so these numbers are likely higher than in 2016. (7) HOUSING NEEDS WILL NEVER BE MET THROUGH FOR-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT. The City needs to stop relying on private developers to build affordable housing, that's not realistic and keeps resulting in scarce land base being used primarily for luxury developments with a few below-market units sprinkled in. With thousands of people in desperate need of safe and affordable housing, we can't keep treating housing as a commodity rather than a basic human need. A serious plan needs to be created for massive and rapid investment in community-controlled, not-for-profit housing. This plan for new builds of affordable housing needs to be determined with local nations so it doesn't further entrench settler control of Lkwungen lands, and Indigenous housing needs are met first. (8) ADDRESS THE CURRENT EMERGENCY FOR PEOPLE SHELTERING OUTSIDE. According to the Draft Financial Plan, as of December 31, 2020 the Victoria Housing Reserve was expected to have an unallocated balance of \$2,582,942 sitting dormant instead of being used for emergency housing. In 2021/22 there is a proposed allocation of \$3,517,740 for transfer to a contingency reserve account for unspecified emergencies (pages 547-548) -- enough to provide 244 people living outside with \$1,200/month towards rent, for a full year. In the meantime Council continues to ignore its human rights obligations set out in the United Nations National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada, with a total of \$0 allocated in 2021/22 for basic infrastructure proximate to where people are sheltering. Of course some level of savings are prudent and necessary, but when new money is set aside for 'emergencies' while there is an active emergency for unhoused people, that implies "your well-being is not enough of an emergency...we're going to put money aside for a situation impacting wealthy people". It's particularly baffling that the City is keeping Housing Reserve money dormant instead of using it to build emergency interim tiny homes or other stop-gap measures. (9) DIVEST FROM POLICING, INVEST IN COMMUNITIES. As long as policing continues to take up such a giant proportion of resources, there will be a self-perpetuating cycle of more homelessness and social inequality, and more policing of marginalized people to appease the anxiety of people who have money and political power. We need to divest from extremely expensive responses that keep a small but highly marginalized population intensely trapped in daily surveillance and criminalization, and invest in programs that build community capacity to effectively meet people's needs, resolve conflicts, and otherwise

collectively address societal problems. Policing doesn't build social cohesion, meet people's survival needs, or address tensions relating to injustices and inequities. As evidenced by the past 30 years, social problems can't be solved through investing in "law and order" approaches and infrastructure. After years of increases to the VicPD operating budget, and a year where the City increased resources to Bylaw as well, it's time to stop any further increase and instead start a process of divestment from these activities to instead resource communities hurt by policing and Bylaw to decide on and implement community-controlled programs and infrastructure. Part of the shift is the need to have community decisions and control, but the City can start to reallocate budget categories appropriately, to give marginalized communities more tangible resources to work with. (10) INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES INCLUDES ALTERNATIVES TO VICPD. Investing in communities isn't only about alternative response teams, it's also about doing a better job in meeting people's needs so things don't get to crisis point. But crisis response is a piece of the puzzle. At the June 25, 2020 meeting Council directed staff to report back on how to develop a framework for an accessible, culturally safe, and appropriate alternative response model in time for consideration as part of Council's 2021 budget deliberations. Council also instructed staff to as part of this process hold a virtual community town hall and provide a range of opportunities for individuals and communities to engage, with "strong representation of those disproportionately harmed within the current system namely black, Indigenous, and POC communities, TNB2s people, persons with lived and living experience (PWLLE) of poverty, homelessness, mental health challenges, or substance use". But none of this happened. Instead, according to Mayor Lisa Helps' January 3, 2021 blog post, Island Health and the VicPD are apparently working together to create a response team for mental health calls (though this team doesn't seem to have any financial allocation in the proposed VicPD budget so it's unclear how far along this is). While alternatives to policing are much needed, it's essential that alternatives be designed and run by communities, not government; and that it be non-coercive (unlike police-embedded Island Health teams). The right role of government in this is to resource communities most impacted by policing to determine what would be a more appropriate investment of public funds, not to create a new response team that has the same problems of power-over and mandate of control and containment. (11) INVEST IN TRUE SAFETY. The survey questions were difficult to answer as the categories are ambiguous and interconnected -- there is no public safety if the environment is being trashed or people don't have a safe place to live. I think true public safety is very important, but don't want that misinterpreted as support for policing, Bylaw enforcement, security guards, or other City-funded measures that make the City profoundly unsafe for people who are visibly poor, Indigenous, Black, assumed to have mental illness, people who use drugs, and others who are racially and/or socially profiled. To me true public safety means safety for everyone, not only people with money or who conform to middle-class and white norms. To me true safety is about having a safe place to live, clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, access to nutritious food,

feeling supported and included in your community, being treated respectfully by the people around me and being free from oppression and violence, having confidence in collective capacity to address conflict in healthy ways. None of that can be achieved by policing or other approaches to "safety" that are about control and punishment.

Do not increase the VICPD budget.

My biggest issue with this draft financial plan is the proposed increase to policing. How can we justify an increase to our police department's budget given all we have seen in the past year? Our communities lack resources for well-being and need support in ways that policing cannot provide. We need to invest in alternative solutions. At the very least, the police budget should be frozen.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time. I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

I do not think we should increase the police budget, the police should be able to manage the funds that they currently have. This is not a time to increase police budgets. Other departments need to be creative with the funds they have, the police should do the same.

Community safety does not require increased policing. I strongly oppose the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Safe communities are housed, fed and able to access essential services without fear of criminalization, harassment or other harm. Instead, I believe

the VicPD budget should be frozen so that those municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people. Therefore, we do not need more police. Instead, we need sustainable solutions to homelessness, the housing crisis and food insecurity. Our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

Increase funds to police for mental health programs and training, for programs to address issues dealing with minority populations and people at risk.

I placed "support for vulnerable populations" as low because I truly believe the city has greatly overstepped its mandate on this issue and taken on too much - mostly the fault of idealistic members who ran on these concepts. This is a provincial issue and THEY must be the leaders here. I would like to see a return to the province leading and the city executing on issues of housing, affordability, health, and homelessness/mental health, which allows the city to focus on city mandates: infrastructure, budgets, public safety, city transportation, events and arts, & park spaces. I would also like to see the city lean on the province more for climate action initiatives - they should also be the ones leading in the area with the city supporting and executing locally. We cannot bear the weight of these massive issues - it is currently crushing us.

Disappointed by the large increase to police budget and lack thereof to creating affordable housing for all. Not sure why this isn't the biggest investment.

Regarding the Victoria PD budget: increasing the patrol budget while decreasing the community services budget is laughable. I live across from SOFMA, which was (and should be again, by the way, until a more permanent solution is ready) used through the summer to house people experiencing homelessness. I have witnessed first hand: whatever training officers currently receive to deal with mental health/substance abuse crises is utterly insufficient, and their funding should be diverted to actual professionals in these areas. If you won't do it out of actual care for our most vulnerable neighbours, then do it for the PR. I don't care, as long as you stop pouring money into a system of law enforcement that is not protecting and serving those who need it most.

I feel we need a rental cap and more affordable housing. We need less

money going to the unnecessarily burgeoning police budget and more to creating transitional housing for the homeless and affordable housing for low to middle income folks.

Personally, I was disgusted that the City of Victoria reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities around Topaz Park. That is money that could have been used to create shelter for homeless people during the pandemic. We have watched now for 10 months as the city has continually promised that support for the homeless is just around the corner and yet, 10 months in and little to no progress has been made. This year we have heard clear explanations around why it is important to defund police and reallocate that money to services that actually support marginalized communities that are experiencing poverty. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations (which there are many of), instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

The proposed budget for the Victoria Police Department is completely irresponsible, given their reputation of creating an unsafe, violent city for BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, and unhoused communities. The Victoria Police Department should be dissolved, and their budget reallocated to community-based responses and care for our citizens. An increase in their budget would be absolutely deplorable.

Please make it a priority to get the homeless out of our parks and make Victoria a safer place!

Provide a wider variety of support and services for unhoused folks and other vulnerable people. Pay for it by defunding the police.

Take money from the police budget and re-direct it to affordable housing, more walk-able streets, better cycling infrastructure, and toilets and showers in parks.

Less money to police. More money to the people and programs that are benefitting the many not the few.

No

Current priorities must be adjusted to deal with acute problems. e.g. Where to house the homeless is far more important than multi-million dollar bike

lanes or sports facilities that will stand empty until pandemic is ended.

We cannot afford to pay for more services for the homeless this is provincial or federal. It appears councilors are deep in conflict with funds coming from the city. An industry being sported by mayor and council, we might have expected this corruption 120 years ago. It's clear now and not acceptable. "Inclusive" has many self-fulfilling directions. I don't see any inclusive for one..rental advisory committee no rep for property owners. Two, the quiet hard working individuals that ask for nothing but a chance to count on their future in Victoria to plan with a good amount of confidence. City of Victoria disrupts this and forces people to speak up. This is not fair to some, many just work, build and ask for nothing. Low income or middle housing? problem? Perhaps offering rental housing property owners something for offering long term rentals.. after 5,10,15 years. Also a tenant screening process similar to airbnb or STR screening. Please consider offering rentals is very similar to loaning your car or bike or shoes to someone you barely know. We hope they look after it but not sure and now government comes in and makes very heavy rules. Do you want to lend the car out? Dents do you want to loan the bike out? No air in the tire. Do you want to loan your new shoes out..mud puddles!

directing funding towards community supports and resilience is essential. if no company will choose, independently, to build apartments over condos, the city itself must make that choice. if the essential workers who run Victoria can't afford to live in Victoria, then the city has failed to establish its own infrastructure. the amount of funding allotted to the Victoria police force is scheduled to be increased, to become over 20% of the total city budget. this is both unnecessary and wasteful. the problems that police are currently being deployed to solve are not problems that police have the ability or training to solve. police officers are not counsellors, medics, outreach workers, advocates. fund and encourage the services that will actually benefit this city and its residents.

VPD does not need more money, they should be defunded

The police are allocated far too much money. Any increase in funding to the police is a slap in the face to all of us taxpayers.

Please keep the Build Back Victoria program going. It's great as a resident to have all these beautiful patios. I hope this is here to stay.

Encourage, and enforce a distributed supported housing model. No more dumping all the homeless and needy in one area. That my model does not work and only leads to disparity and class division within our city

I disagree with the 1.5% increase to the police budget, and I believe it should be frozen this year instead. I would like to see greater oversight of the police budget, as I believe that there are many roles they are being funded for

which are outside of traditional policing functions. I will look be looking forward to seeing the report of the Province's review of the police act and any changes that might come from it. The safest cities are not the ones with the most police funding, they are the ones that are most affordable and have the smallest disparities between rich and poor. The greater percentage of the City budget that police services make up, the less we have for programs & services that actually address the root causes of crime, which is socioeconomic inequities. In addition, I believe the City should prioritize the development of more non-market housing and increasing the city-owned housing stock. Having more more buildings owned by the City would save costs in the long-run and make us more resilient when facing economic downturns & crises (e.g. this current pandemic) -- it provides opportunities to create childcare spaces, arts / culture / music venues, commercial spaces for non-profits & small businesses, and of course more affordable housing options. I would also like to see more support for our city councillors. I don't envy those in the job, as it's difficult work for not much pay -- on top of that, and despite making 1/3 of what an MP makes, councillors receive much more public criticism (at least on the local level). We need to make sure that our local elected officials have the supports they need to make well-informed decisions - this includes administrative support to help with emails, so that councillors can have more time focusing on reading & reviewing budgets, reports, and other documents required to make well-informed decisions. The fact that councillors only make approx. \$42K a year in one of the least affordable cities in Canada, and in a city where over 60% of people are renters, means that most people can simply not afford to run for public office, which makes it less likely that marginalized voices will be represented on council. I was upset to read this week that lunches for councillors will be cut. The total cost is a quite small overall - especially compared to the police budget (and I'm curious how many lunches are paid for out of their budget). When council days can run upwards of 12 hours, I believe that having a lunch provided so that councillors don't have to spend time finding their own not only shows appreciation for their work, but also supports better decision-making by ensuring councillors are well-fed. Having councillors eat together would also foster more collaborative work environments, and likely benefit the city overall. I am happy with many of the services, programs, and capital projects the City is funding, but with VicPD taking up nearly a quarter of the entire city budget (the highest percentage out of any police force in BC - and the highest I could find in Canada, having reviewed budgets of other major Canadian cities), and prioritization of market-based affordable housing options, I am very concerned about the long-term sustainability, health, and prosperity of Victoria. This also means doing what we can to encourage more diverse candidates to run for public office by making it more economically feasible for them to do so. This city has been my home for 9 years, and I hope to make it my home for many more -- as vaccines start to roll out, it's important to recognize that the actions we take now to rebuild and bounce back from the pandemic will determine the direction we take over the next several years, and the livability of Victoria for future generations.

DEFUND THE POLICE.

-Way too much money and energy is being spent on entrenching the "hard to house" population in the downtown core, and it is not solving any problems. Rather it is creating many problems for the larger community, and growing problems that already exist. This does not constitute good governance. Please focus on good governance moving forward above all else.

Once again, I can see that out of control policing costs are responsible for a large part of the tax increase. Why does the most policed city in Canada need more tax dollars for the police in these difficult times? Diverting police budget money to better first responders on social issues will save the city a lot of money and lead to better outcomes. Freeze police funding levels. One easy way to reduce police costs and increase safety is more automation on traffic enforcement

Freeze the VicPD budget increase. There are more areas that need financial support, such as helping support the homeless population, indigenous communities, and other minorities. The VicPD already takes up a very large amount of the city's budget, and I believe it doesn't need any increase whatsoever.

Stop spending money enabling addiction and mental health issues. Provincial Governments need to step up and take action. City of Victoria needs to enforce bylaws and make Victoria safe and crime free once again. #1 priority for 2021 as we try and get our economy back on track.

defund the police in order to properly invest in sustainable, SAFE communities that don't have to rely on cops for outdated, racist notions of "public safety"

this survey is patronizing.

I would like to see well funded Alternative Crisis Response Teams to ensure appropriate de-escalation and support for persons in mental health crisis, and reduce the need for police intervention.

I come from Oaklands community and there is one tenting community near us. I think having some innovative, well resourced with diverse members in decision making is very important. Also I think that there should be some good resourcing to alternatives to policing for incidents involving people with mental instabilities and mental illness, involving social workers, health professionals etc.

Don't raise the police budget. Put that money into mental health. Are you oblivious to everything?

Affordable housing and alternatives to police response to mental health

crises are essential I believe to be addressed immediately. Additionally, increased substance use harm reduction and trauma supports is absolutely essential. The CARES clinic is a step towards mental health and substance use support services that are easily accessible. Wait times are long however, trauma support is minimal (well researched as the root of substance addiction), and safe injection sites hard to access. Alternatives to policing mental illness and the police budget line MANAGE the ramifications of trauma; harm reduction, accessible supports, and having basic needs met such as housing MITIGATE the ramifications of trauma. Let's be innovative and strive to make our tax dollars work for everyone who calls this city home.

Let's get more temporary housing structures build - shipping containers, modular housing, huts, tiny homes - use empty parking lots, City of Victoria properties waiting to be developed. Also, is there any work being done to outlaw/reduce/restrict renovations?

I strongly oppose the 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget.

I do not support an increase in police funding

Decreasing the budget for the victoria police department is most essential and reallocating this funding to community-based initiatives instead.

More funds directed towards prevention for crime prevention, drug abuse and unhoused. Bylaws to protect public lands i.e. parks from being used as tent cities.

I'd like to specifically comment on the police budget. In the context of COVID-19 and the financial difficulties we'll be facing in 2021; in consideration of the excessive use of force we saw back in January 2020 when Indigenous youth were arrested at the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; given that people sheltering outside have been drawing attention to the over-policing of their communities for years; and for many other reasons that have been brought up year after year at budget time, I frankly find it obscene that an increase in the VicPD budget is even being tabled. Their budget needs to be reduced - not increased, not frozen, but reduced - and we should be re-investing that money into the many pressing social needs our communities are facing, from housing, to social services, to public transit. We have more police per capita than anywhere else in Canada, and there is at least a portion of their time that is spent policing poverty which is damaging and costly. We must reduce their budget.

The City of Victoria has the opportunity to be innovative in instituting a socially responsible budget, one that centers the dignity of the less fortunate while fostering community instead of individualism and division. I hope to see the city debate budgeting through a lens that centers the lived experience of those who are suffering the most, not just because of COVID-19 but also

because of the current economic system and housing market. When resources are directed towards those who are the least fortunate, this improves the city and life for everyone.

Protect merchants against shop lifting and other petty crime. Ditto for home owners. Fix the traffic lights so you can drive more than one block without hitting a red light. Now that you have killed Vancouver street as an artery for cars make it mandatory for cyclists to use it or Humboldt rather than clogging the remaining streets.

Decrease the policing budget.

Decrease police funding.

Rather than providing a budget increase for police services, our city should prioritize redistributing these funds to support community-based resource alternatives like mental health services, conflict resolution services, harm reduction, housing, education, etc.

I really don't understand the 1.5% increase to the police budget, as I feel we need answers to this. If the city is really committed to vulnerable populations they should then allocate funding to the appropriate places. I do believe there is a place for the police within the City however they can no longer be the only solution in every situation, as we have seen for centuries this is not working. We need to allocate funding towards first responding mental health supports, and culturally appropriate supports for people. I believe that increasing the police budget will only further perpetuate the great inequities we have, by making police respond to many situations they don't have the proper training to attend to, and by not giving funding to the people who have the correct training to respond in certain situations.

Please spend money on public safety and revitalizing downtown.

Taxpayers and businesses are fleeing Victoria for safer ground. You are forgetting who pays the bills here. Who employs people. Who makes Victoria a vibrant community. Keep your eyes on the ball and stop experimenting with social projects out of your depth or jurisdiction.

The youth bus pass program is great. Bus passes should be free for everyone. Younger people need access to affordable housing.

It's insane that this survey doesn't allow for discussion of police budgets. I would like to see an innovative approach to police budgeting and shifting of resources towards unarmed liaison and special officers to help with public health and homelessness. Not armed enforcement but community service.

I do not support the proposed operating budget allotment for the Victoria Police Department. I think more effort should go into "exploring opportunities to increase efficiency throughout the City's operations focusing on providing better service to the community and reducing expenditures" - specifically, I think the City should rethink how we keep the community safe. The VIC PD has not demonstrated that it efficiently and effectively reduces crime or leaves people feeling safe and cared for and therefore is underserving of an increase in funding.

we don't need the police to have more money, we need money invested in our communities, particularly those who are the most vulnerable. we need investments in health services, such as counseling, far more than we need increased "protection"

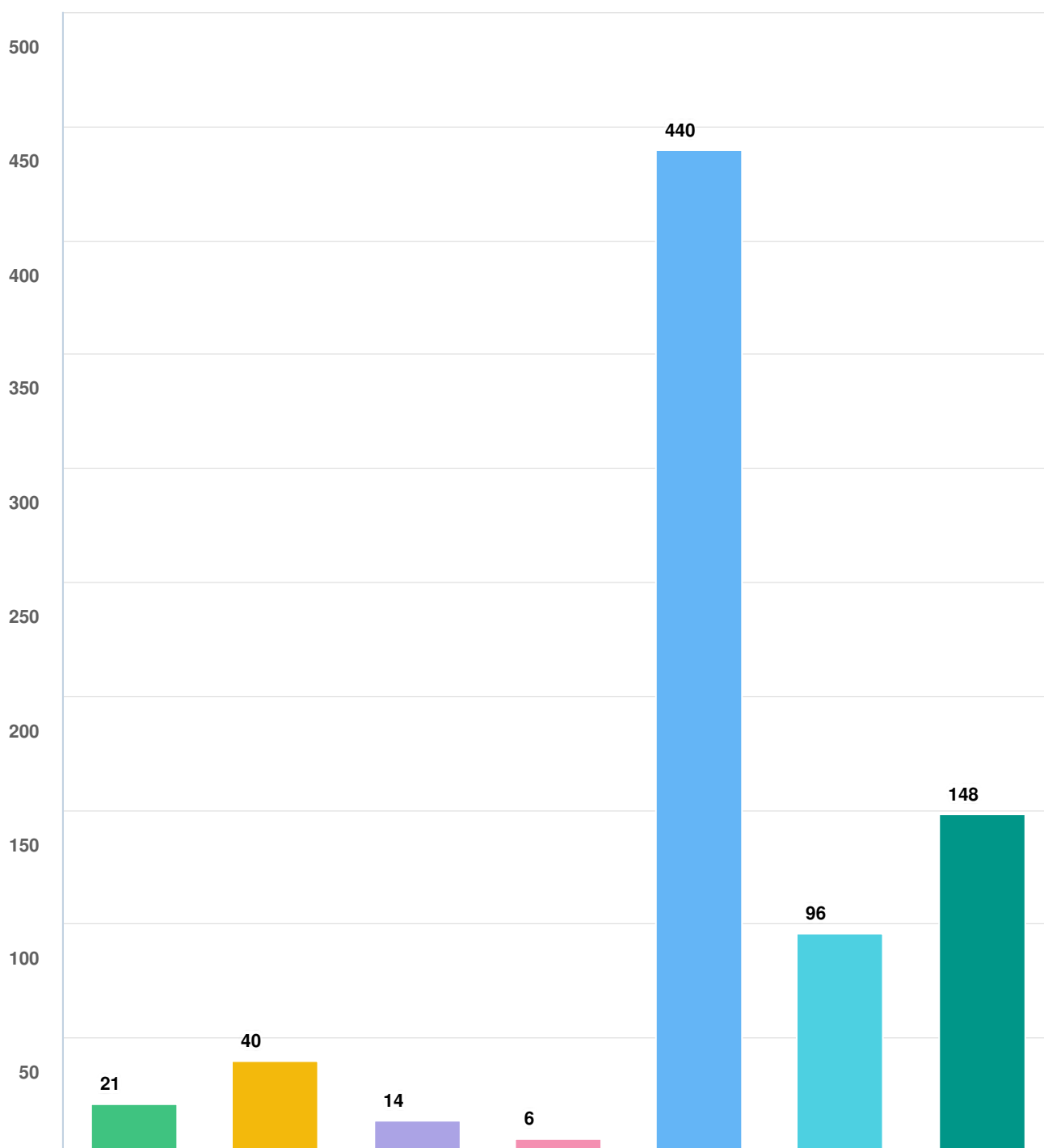
For the last three years I have been speaking to council about the extravagant and inflated police budget. We need to freeze the police budget this year and look to decreasing the police budget going forward. To expend 23% of the city's budget on policing is 'criminal'. No pun intended. We need to invest those scarce resources in addressing homelessness, addictions and the mental health and divert those resources to appropriate bodies that are best suited to dealing with both the unhoused and struggling members of our city. We cannot police homelessness nor poverty. Policing is used to further criminalize those members of our society that need social supports. Freeze the police budget - no increase in 2021. As they have done in Vancouver.

The amount of budget directed to policing vs the amount directed to housing is obscene. Sinking so much money into enforcement, often against the poorest members of our community, will never solve social problems. It will only perpetuate a cycle of dysfunction that serves mostly to fuel calls for more police. We have the most police per capita in English Canada, and one of the worst housing crises. We need structural fixes not the band-aid of armed enforcement. Additionally, as a visible minority in this city I do not feel made safer by police generally and am troubled by the conduct I see specifically from VicPD. When I worked downtown I witnessed excessive squad car deployment just to harass homeless, often Indigenous, people on the street corner. When I attended the legislature on a few occasions, I saw police manhandle demonstrators with impunity. I saw them expand and delay operations there, increasing cost, then turn and ask the City to pay more. I watched with concern as VicPD leveraged its clout, and its City-funded communications capacity, to incite public outrage against Indigenous and Black activists multiple times. Everyone and every sector has had to tighten belts in this time; the police must have their turn too. The City has a choice of whether to prioritize truly helping disadvantaged minorities or appeasing the comfortable majority. I ask that it make the moral choice.

Optional question (441 response(s), 268 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q11 How did you find out about this survey? (Check all that apply.)

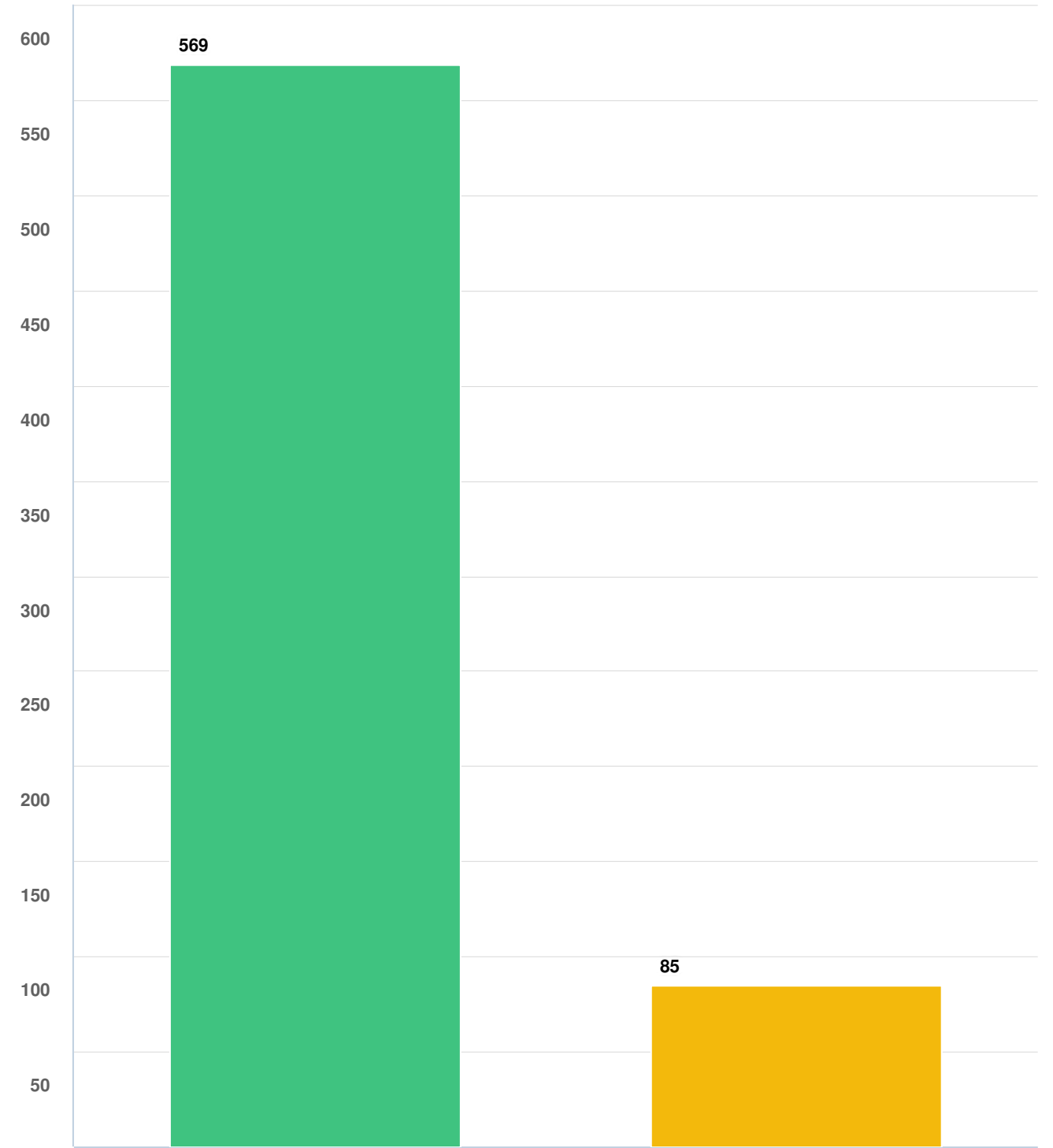


Question options

● Friends or family
 ● City of Victoria website
 ● Social media
 ● TV news story
 ● Radio
 ● Newspaper article
 ● Print ad

Optional question (679 response(s), 30 skipped)
 Question type: Checkbox Question

Q12 Did you find the budget information materials to be helpful?



Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (654 response(s), 55 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q13 | **If you answered "No", please let us know how we can improve our information materials.**

The summary was too brief and the survey does not address the level of detail in the large document. Page 4 of the summary should better define what is included in each Strategic Priority. And they should be broken down with questions about sub-areas. Survey better in previous years. Is the survey accessible such that someone with vision loss can register and complete it?

It was too generic, didn't actually say what the plans are (video)

The balance sheets are too general to understand what the money is actually being spent on. Can we see account listings? Trial balances?

Waste of time... All false promises anyways. Where is our new Crystal pool??

Cut to the chase without all the introductory blather.

I heard about the budget survey from the Mayor--wasn't an option on question 11.

Please provide definitions. For example, what does "Our community is healthy" in the survey mean?

I got a reminder from an email. This is not listed above.

(There was no place for comments for the survey, so I wanted to mention that I find the city recycling program lacking as plastic bags are not accepted and it is confusing to know where to recycle them. I think the city program should expand what it accepts or a lot of people will put things that could be recycled in the trash. Thank you.)

So-so. What citizen has the time to read the 800-page detailed budget? At the other end, the executive summary is high on generalities and low on measurable detail. It should include at least a graph showing increase/decrease of spending for a key few budget priorities, and the reasons why.

make a short version

The answer is yes and no, but I put no so I can extrapolate. Overall Victoria is a great place to live so nice job with the YoY with the budget. The budget summary is also easily digestible and I can easily understand the breakdown of where the operating and capital budgets. What it does not explain is the process for how the City takes the priorities of its citizens and translates them into dollar figures. I do not feel this survey allows me to have a tangible impact on this years budget. Prioritizing the city's goals doesn't translate into me knowing whether or not my beliefs and my input- things like spending less on manicured lawns and the police and more on social and cultural services- is actually implemented in 2021.

STOP LYING

Would like to see past two year's budgets to be able to compare changes.

No itemization of capital projects - is Crystal pool another Johnston Street bridge? No ability to weigh in on funding of strategic priority actions, levels of service, capital projects.

Better summary

I think you should invite local political science and social science scholars to critique your budgets and provide this information to the public. Most of us are not intimate with the intricacies of local government and finance and I think it is YOUR responsibility to help us understand why you have prioritized the spending in the ways you have.

This feels like fluff to maskarade as engagement

Not enough information about budget

I do NOT think the budget information was helpful, but you survey won't let me change that. You bury the information about where money is going within the document. And you call the budget "operating budget" suggesting that where the money goes is just part of "operations", but this is not the case. This is based on strategic choices on what you think should get funding, or deserves funding.

Let people vote on the sub-goals below the strategic objectives, instead of rolling up multiple sub-goals (some of which taxpayers may support, while they oppose others, making it difficult to have an overall opinion).

Police reform

I would have answered "sort of" if that was an option. It's too much broad information to try to cutesy up with images. Just stick to the facts, I'd rather my tax dollars went to fixing actual problems in the city than paying a graphic designer to make a budget proposal look good.

Some of the information is vague. There needs to be more transparency.

clear concise information summary

Very little information was given in the budget summary about the fact that the Vic PD budget was increasing, or why it is increasing. It feels like you wanted that information to be hidden, or at least, not have attention drawn to it. Any increases to policing should be clearly and prominently stated, along with the reasoning behind why.

Budget priorities are mostly wrong. Focus on getting back to basics and stop trying to save the world with the finances of a city of less than 100,000 residents.

Not enough direct input on Police budget. Defund the police and invest in other public services.

Shorter summary for those who do not want details, linked to more exhaustive details for those interested.

Please be transparent about what you mean when you say things like "Public safety". Are you talking about safety from things like police violence / harassments or do you mean increased police harassment for people IN PUBLIC.

Information somewhat useful but not detailed enough. However, that doesn't matter because survey so very weak.

Accessable and transparent

Vague

The ranking questions were designed in a biased manner: - I'm concerned that the city is interpreting the prioritization of 'public safety' as justification for continued overfunding of the police. Most people will rank 'public safety' in their top priorities, however the police are a source of harassment and criminalization and racial profiling for many people. I prioritize public safety, however take that to require defunding the police and creating more trauma-

aware, peer-directed, anti-oppressive and culturally honouring supports that meet our communities most vulnerable/targeted members' unmet essential needs. -tying 'health' together with 'a welcoming city', seems a problematic bias inclined towards piggybacking the tourist industry's interests to a seeming higher-ranking prioritization spot than most people would warrant it, if it were not tied to the obviously necessary priority of public health

Access to information materials are largely inaccessible, and there are barriers for people without access to technology, individuals who are not fluent in English, and those with disabilities.

More clear delineation of the police budget is needed for accountability

I feel like it's spin.

There are some major gaps in the information which I hope will be answered in the budget meeting upcoming but overall it is reasonably accessible.

indicate changes from last year for operating budget

An overwhelming amount of information. This is very intimidating and will exclude a lot of people from wanting to be engaged.

Provide greater detail and breakdown of the budget.

Accessibility. Text to voice, bigger text, etc.

The budget summary sheet is helpful, but there is so much education needed for the general public about what this all means, especially for folks who want to dig a little deeper into the full draft to find details about the areas they are specifically interested in. This is not an accessible process to most. The budget survey has definitely improved since last year, but I still find it odd you ask folks to rank the city's strategic objectives... I feel that they are all incredibly important and that it is inappropriate to pit objectives against each other... Indigenous reconciliation should be present in everything the city does, good governance is important all the time, and we need affordable housing just as much as we need to ensure a just and sustainable future.

to long yet to vague

Too much text, point form would be better

they were helpful but confusing and lengthy

Didn't read, no time. A high level summary essential

THERE IS A HOUSING CRISIS

The youtube video equated expenditures on police budget with safety which is misleading.

It's much too long and overly complex.

Budget document is too 'generic' and lacks measurable results to accompany expenditures to show value and support the business case. It is relatively easy to write a lot but hard to write a little to explain clearly how value is being received.

I answered yes, but I wanted to say that I found the two shortened versions to be very helpful

More direct questions rather than these very broad priority statements.

Helpful, but more outreach is needed so there are a variety of perspectives.

I didn't look at them much

stick to municipal responsibilities, stay in your lane

It's not that it wasn't useful, but it could be shared via email (I am sure you have many addresses from people contacting city hall), as opposed to relying on social media and people visiting your website.

I found the budget information useful, but the survey questions were too vague. "Public Safety" should be split up into the categories that are actually used in the budget such as Police, Fire, and By-law.

The strategic objective points are way too vague. For example, of course everyone wants to live in a safe city, but I do not believe that increasing the

police budget and presence is going to make the city safer. Another example, what do you consider "affordable housing?" Because if it's micro-lofts in the downtown core for \$1000+ per month that's a joke.

Didn't review them

In this survey, it would be helpful to have each section include a brief summary of what the 2021 budget is proposing, and what the priorities are for each section. I have the links to the budget summary, but this survey could be done in a way that makes it easier and more accessible to provide useful feedback.

I saw lots of information about police costs but no where in the survey to write my dismay at their portion of tax dollars spent.

The budget documents are far denser and less accessible than they should be relative to budget documents from other orders of government.

The Draft Financial Plan this year is an 841 page document that provides too much info about fine details and not enough information about big picture issues in the context of a larger plan. For example this year the VicPD 5-year financial plan could only be determined by taking the time to manually copy and paste items from each department into a spreadsheet and then sum up all the columns - this took me 2 hours to do and many people will not have the patience or time to do this legwork. Rationales for budget changes are not tied to evidence -- departments are just asked to produce estimates based on current conditions. This is most apparent in policing where there's no data on crime trends, calls for service, etc. yet there are massive increases in police overtime and also increases to specific units. For example the proposed budget includes a \$808,384 (4.13%) increase to the VicPD Patrol Division, including a projection of \$905,000 in overtime -- a \$103,000 (13%) increase from 2020/21; the budget of the Behavioral Assessment & Management Unit is proposed to increase by \$130,001 (22.3%) in 2021/22, with salary and benefit changes consistent with addition of an officer to the unit. I noted in the reviewing the budget that there are line items for police operations outside the VicPD operating budget, e.g., the Late Night program and special duty policing. The omission of these items from the high-level rollup for the VicPD skews percentage of policing operations. All items related to policing should be appropriately included in the determination of the percentage of policing operation dollars in the overall City budget, and the total dollar amount for policing. It's impossible to see trends over time without more data on past years' expenditures. A one-time increase to address a short-term issue is different than a steady increase over decades, as is the case with VicPD operations.

Again, many of the projects are outside the scope of what I believe is a city mandate. Affordable housing is great, but the province MUST lead that and

provide the funding. We must move away from the this critical overreach over the last 5 years - I don't know if it's the province refusing to address these issues or if it's the city playing wanting the glory, but we cannot afford the utopia we want alone.

I'm completing this survey to express discomfort about the increase in the Victoria Police budget and would have liked the opportunity to comment in the survey.

Transparency

materials are very superficial or require special knowledge. they do not seem designed to actually educate working class people.

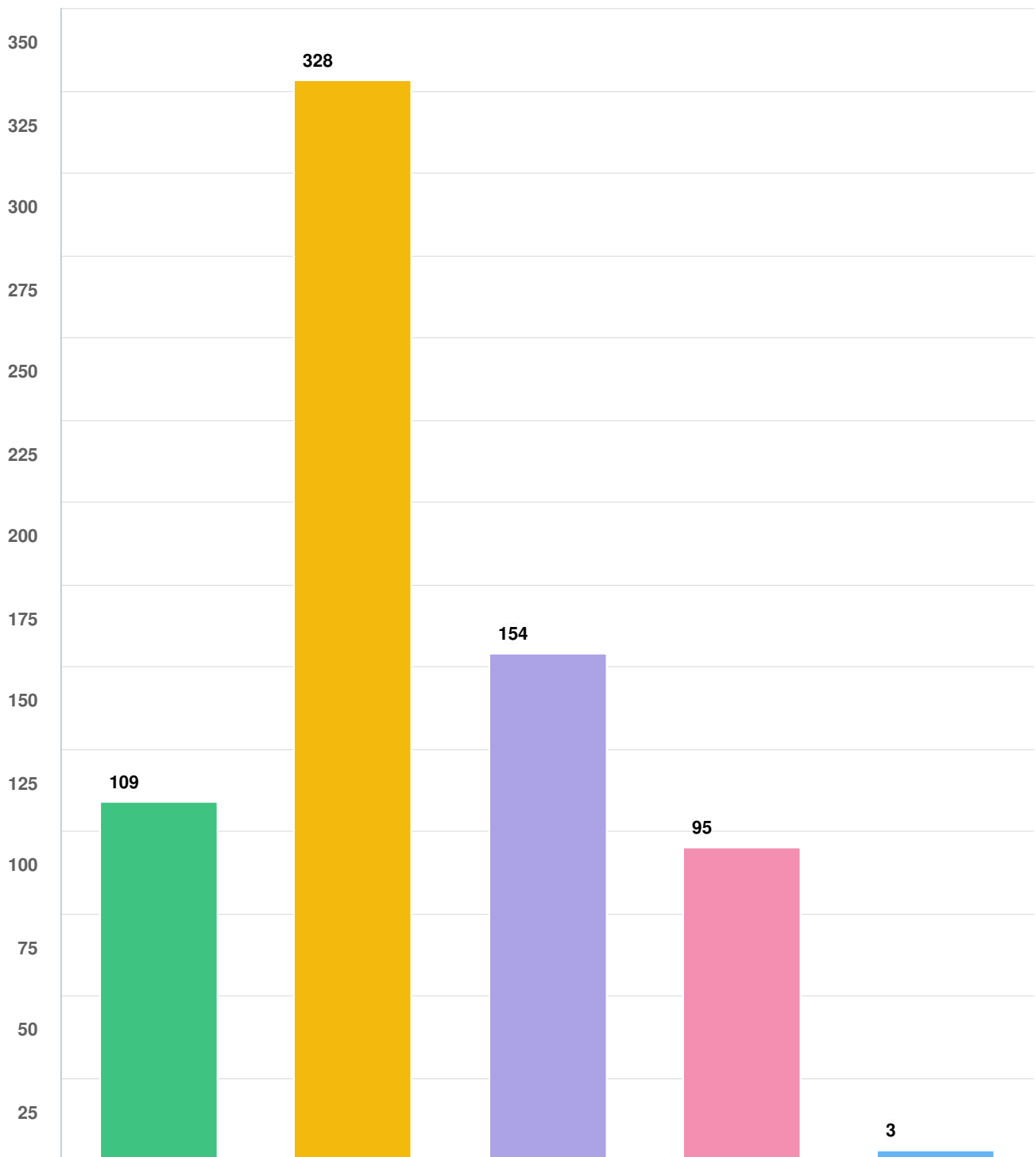
845 pages is way too much to digest for most people. Appreciated the summary,

It's hard to tell how things that I see in the city are funded like arts programs and affordable housing.

Optional question (70 response(s), 639 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q14 Please indicate your age group:



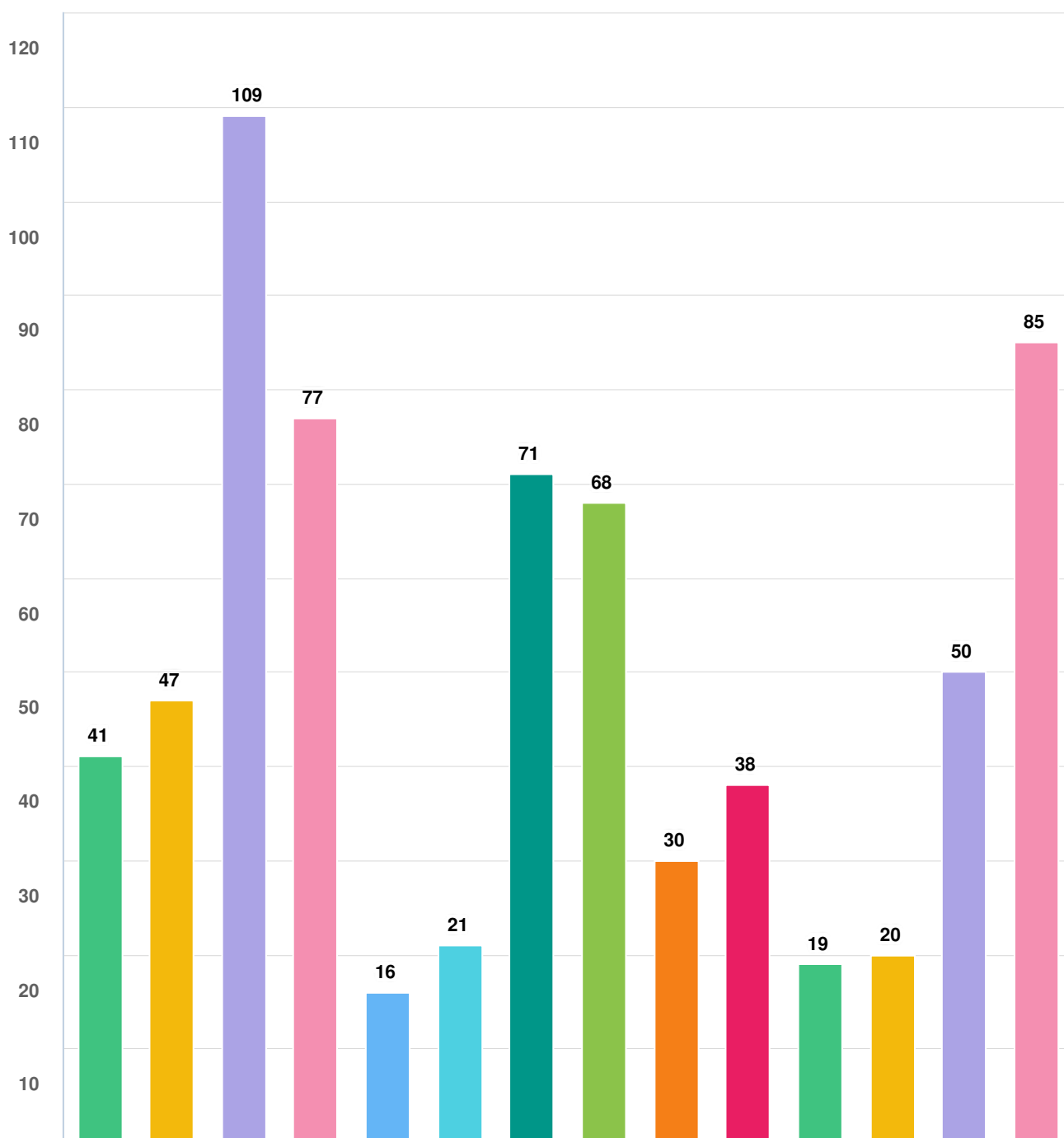
Question options

● 80 + ● 60 - 79 ● 40 - 59 ● 25 - 39 ● 12 - 24

Optional question (689 response(s), 20 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q15 Which neighbourhood do you live in? (Check this map if you aren't sure.)



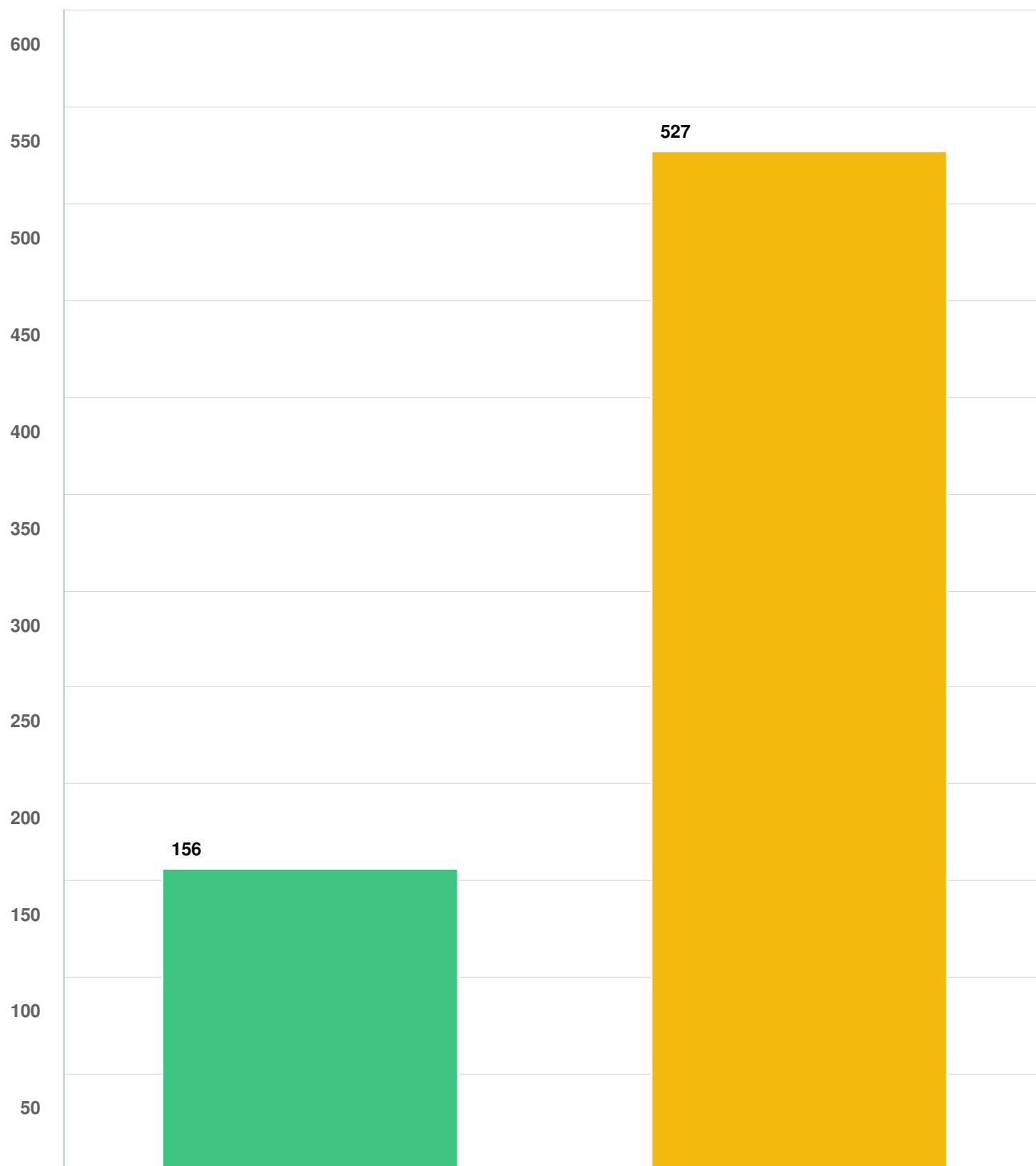
Question options

- ☐ I live in another municipality (please specify):
 ☐ Victoria West
 ☐ Rockland
 ☐ Oaklands
 ☐ North Park
 ☐ Jubilee
 ☐ James Bay
 ☐ Hillside-Quadra
 ☐ Harris Green
 ☐ Gonzales
 ☐ Fernwood
 ☐ Fairfield
 ☐ Downtown
 ☐ Burnside Gorge

Optional question (692 response(s), 17 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q16 Are you a newcomer to Victoria (i.e. lived here for five years or less)?



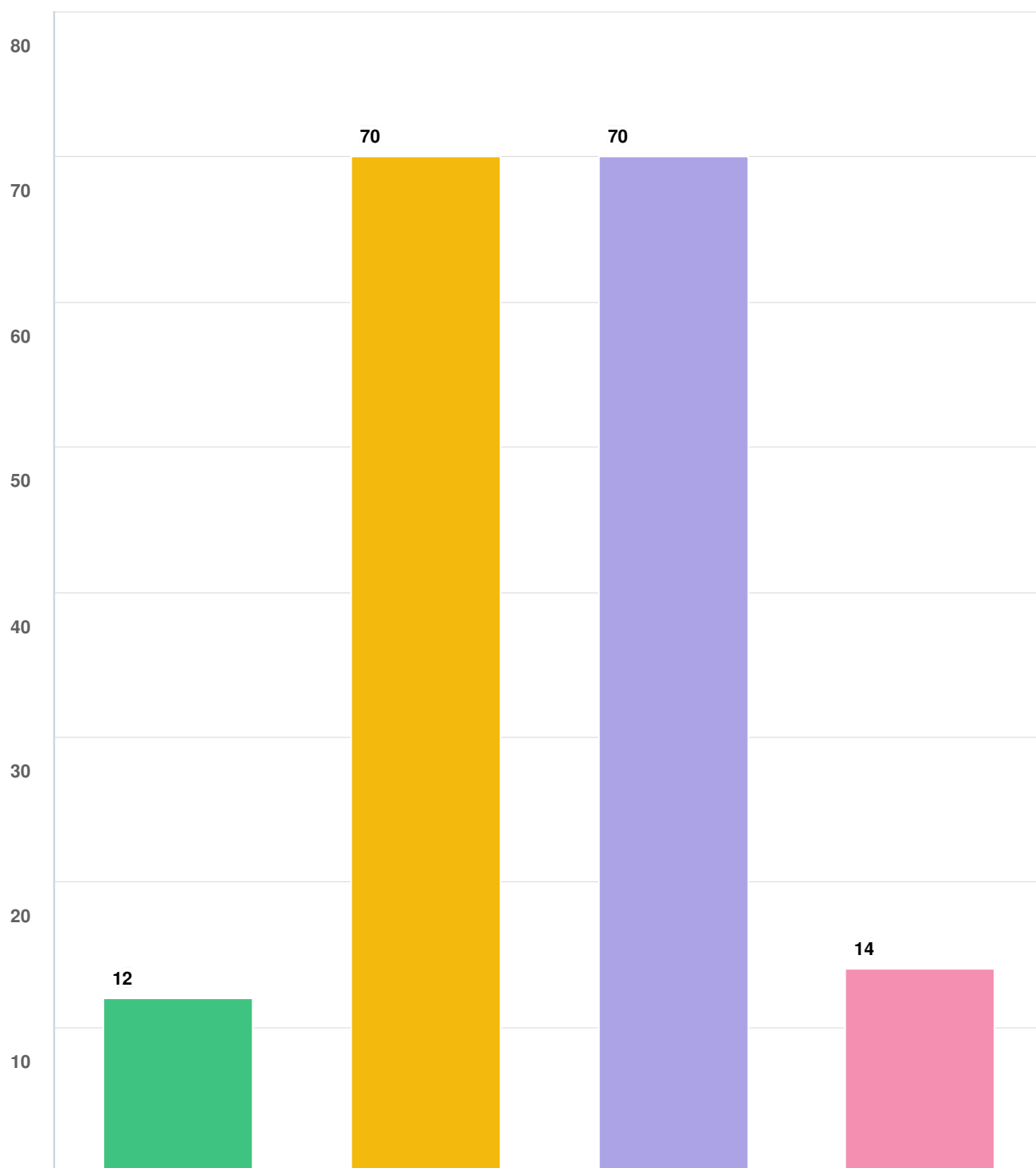
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (683 response(s), 26 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q17 If you are a newcomer to Victoria, where did you move from? (If you are not a newcomer, please skip this question.)

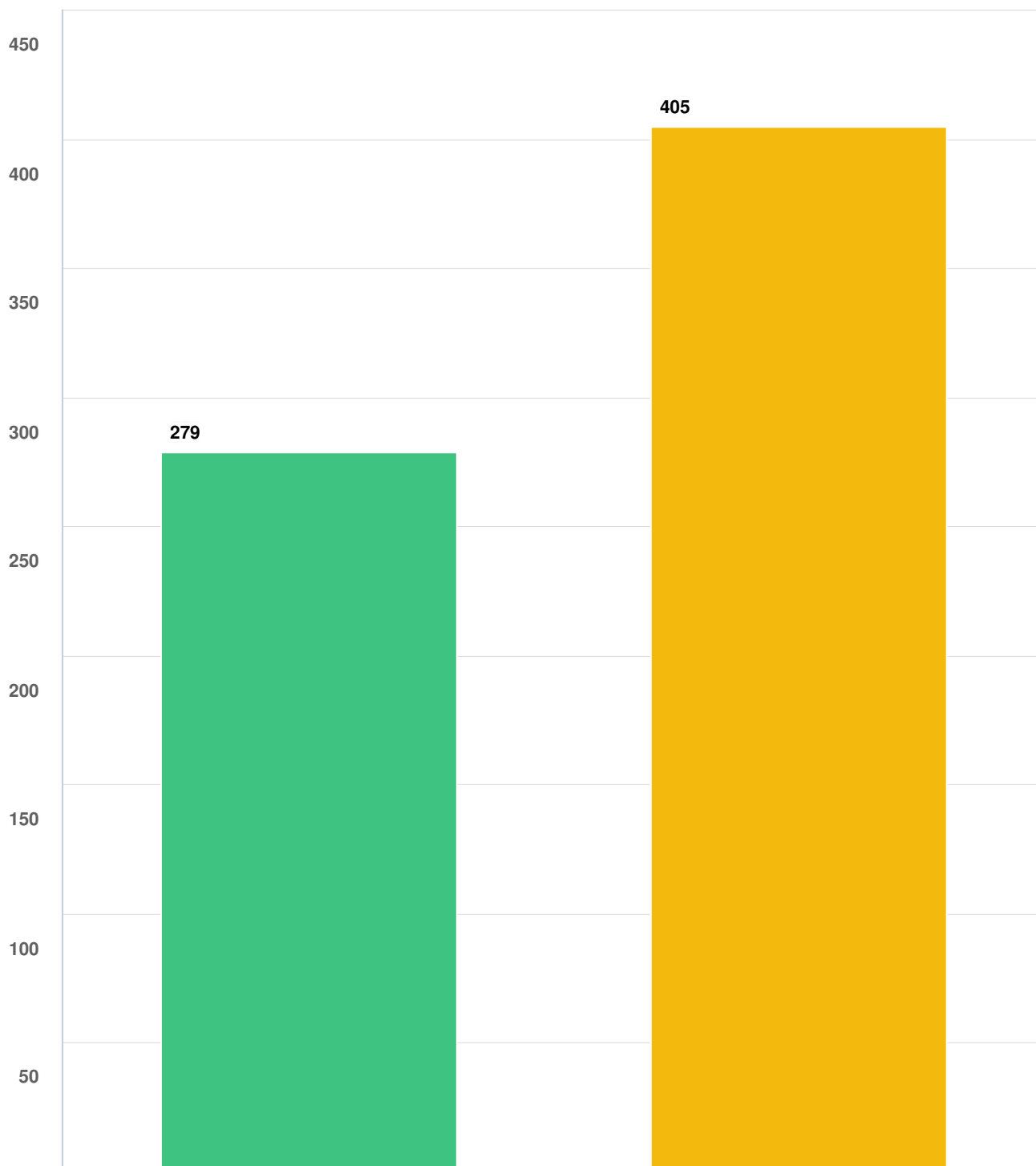


Question options

● Outside of Canada ● Within Canada ● Within British Columbia ● Within the Capital Region

Optional question (166 response(s), 543 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q18 Do you own property in Victoria?



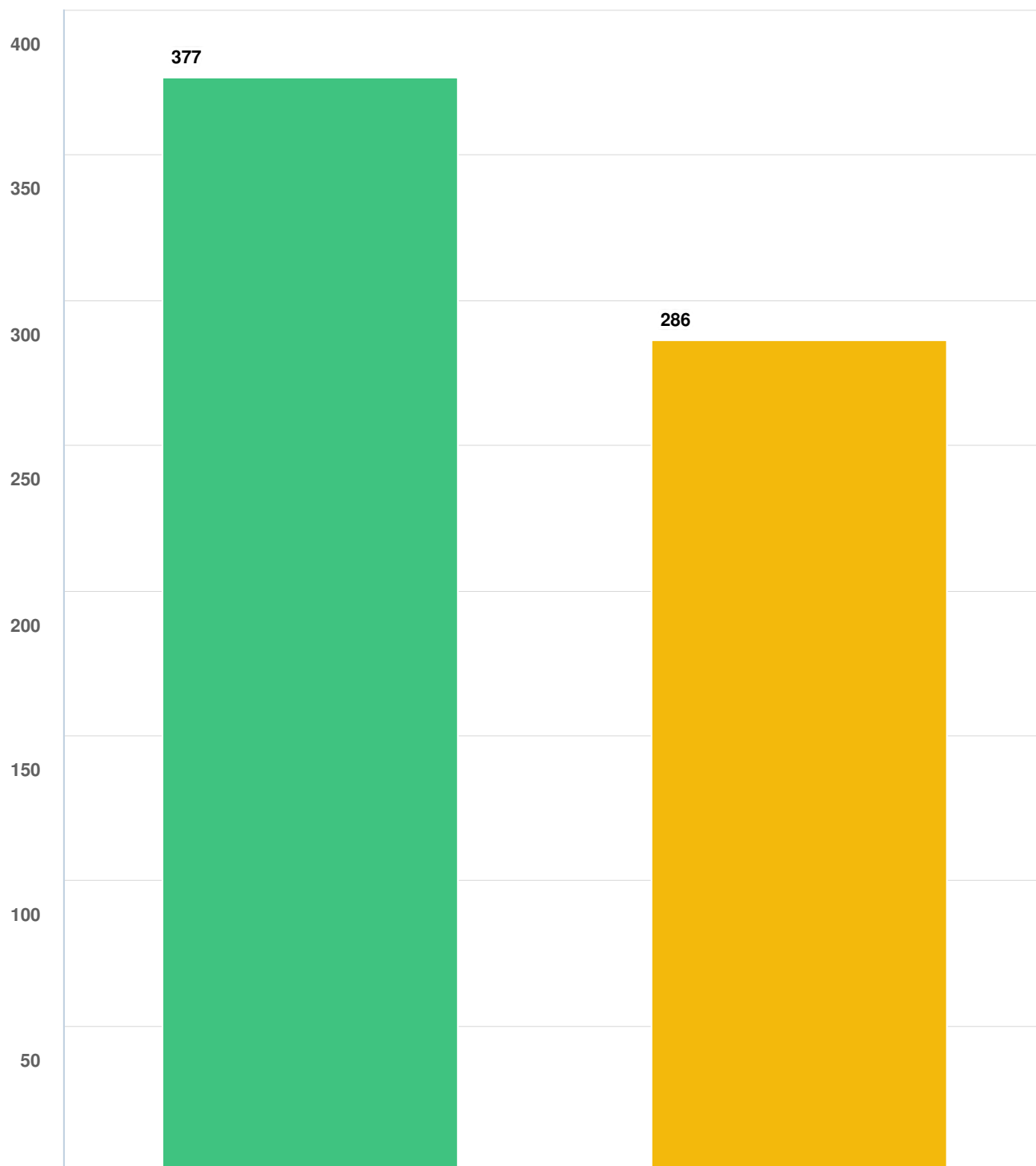
Question options

● No ● Yes

Optional question (684 response(s), 25 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q19 Do you rent in Victoria?



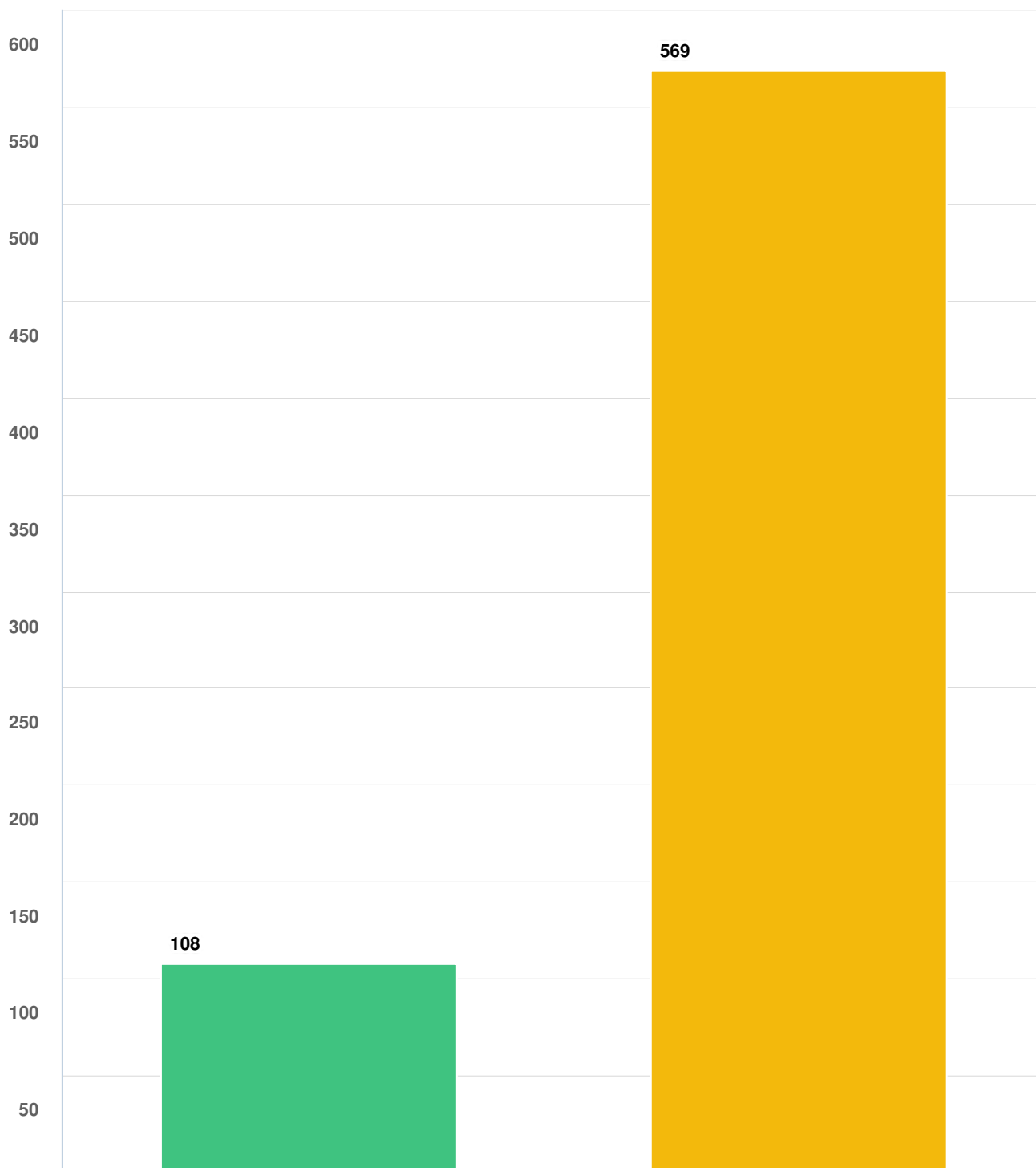
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (663 response(s), 46 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q20 Do you own or run a business in Victoria?



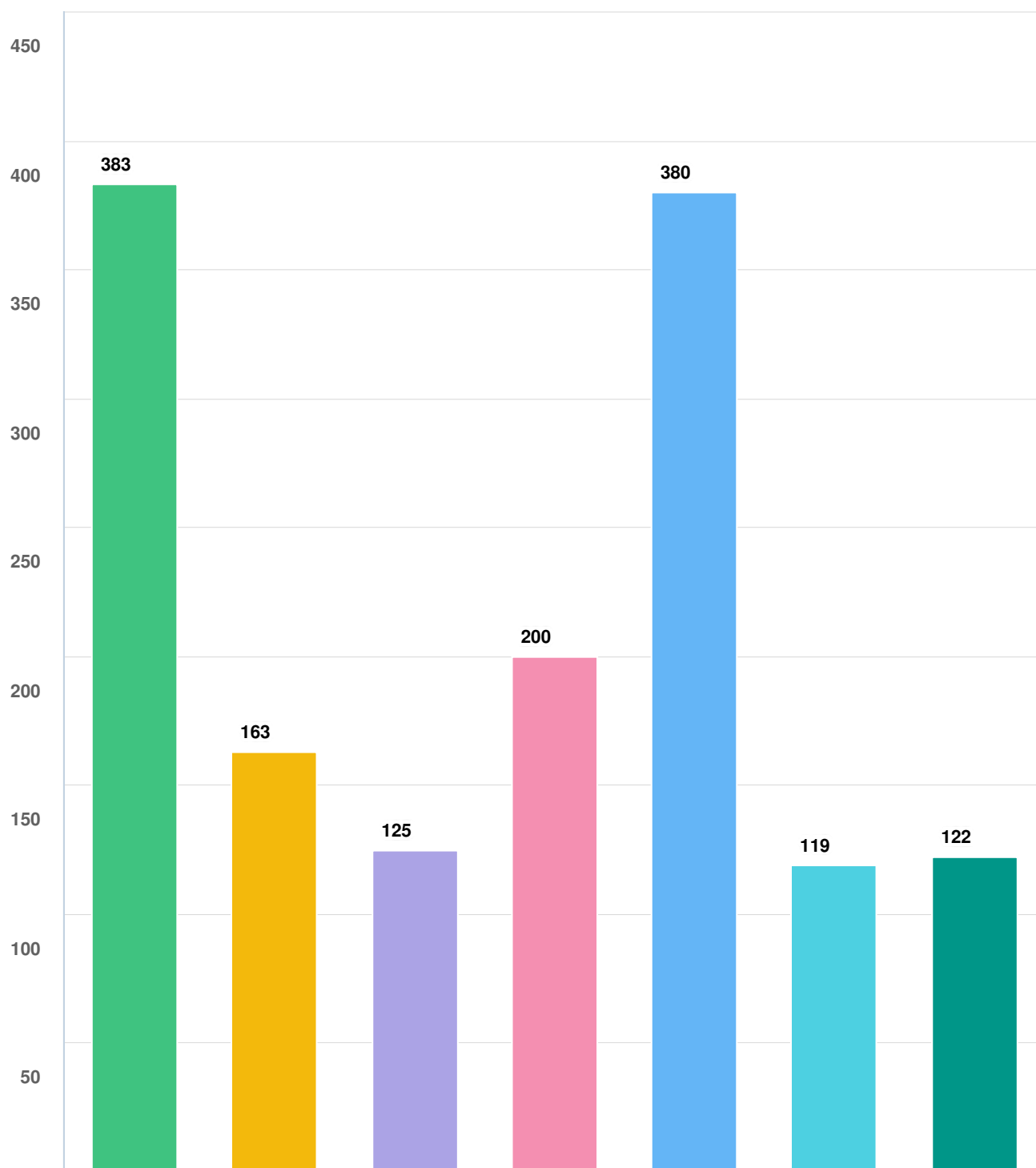
Question options

☐ No ☒ Yes

Optional question (677 response(s), 32 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q21 How would you prefer to interact with the City? From the list below, please tell us which channels you are most likely to participate in. (Please select all that apply.)

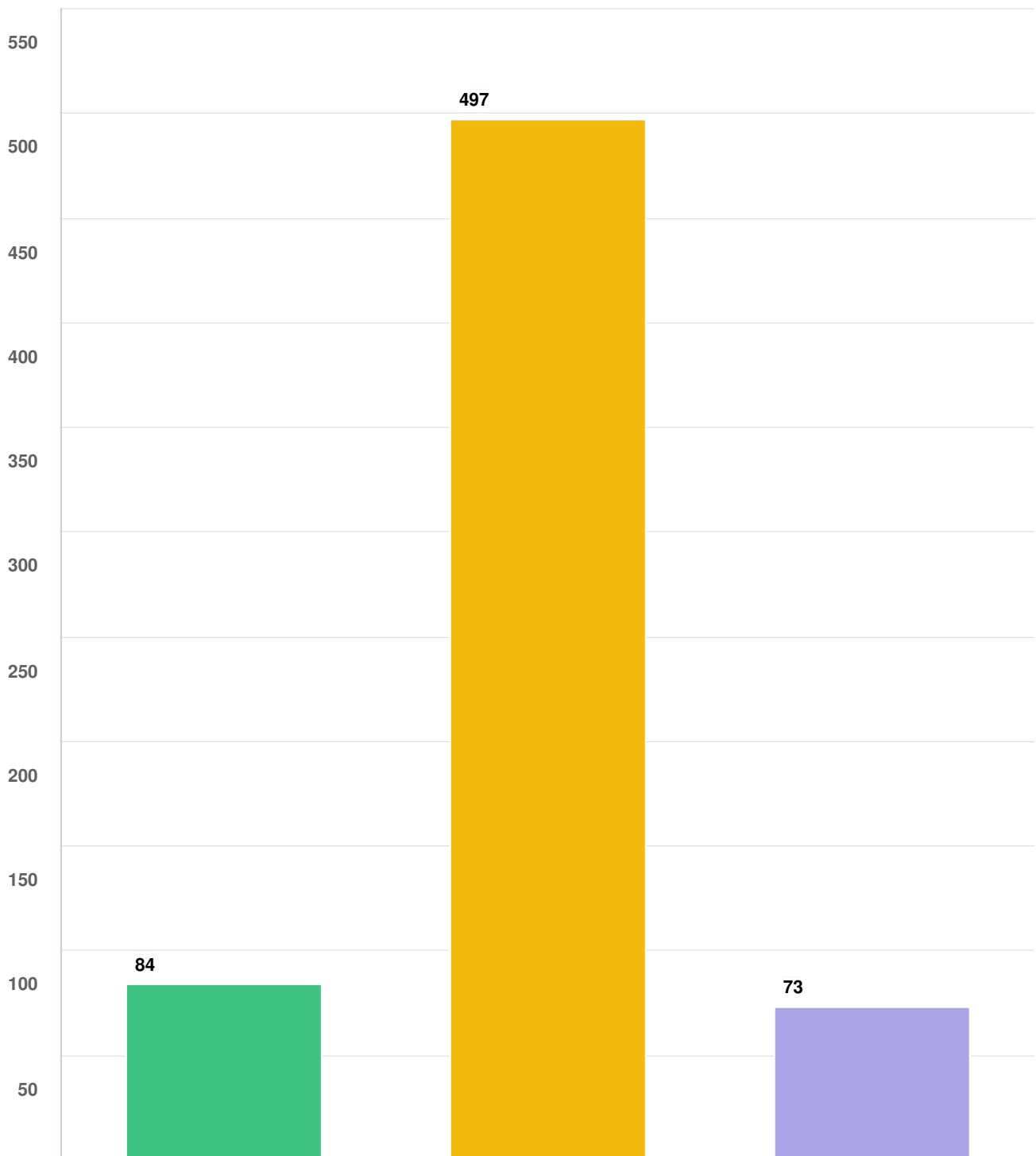


Question options

● Local radio
 ● Local newspaper
 ● Email
 ● Instagram
 ● Twitter
 ● Facebook
 ● City of Victoria website

Optional question (656 response(s), 53 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q22 Is there a community group or organization that you interact with that would benefit from receiving and sharing information about City programs, services and initiatives?



Question options

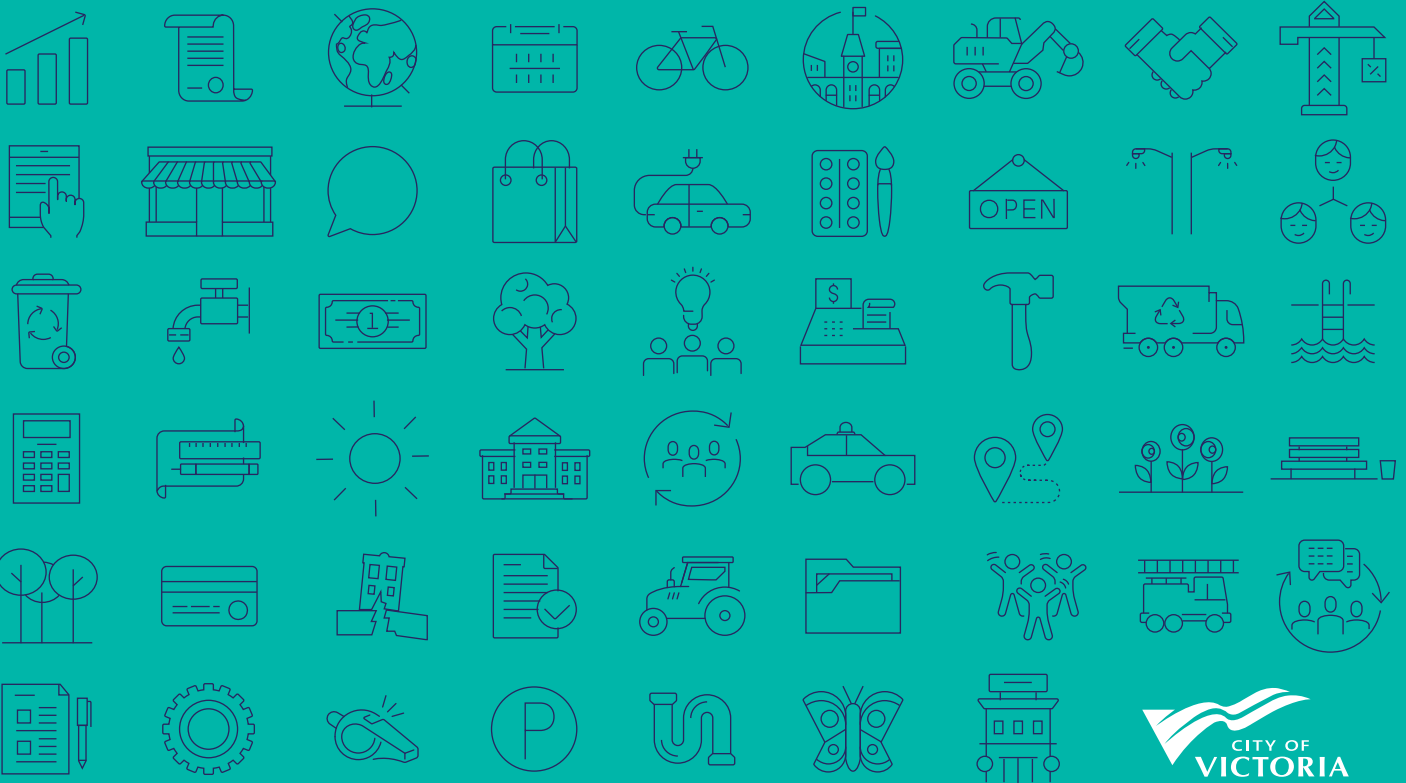
☐ If yes, please specify: ☐ No ☐ Yes

Optional question (596 response(s), 113 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

2021

ATTACHMENT C

Written Budget Feedback



Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:52 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. The VicPD budget must be frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am aghast that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per 100,000 than any other municipality in Canada.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:11 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Board@vicpd.ca; Geoff Young (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: 2021 Draft/Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:02 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 9:09 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Yours sincerely.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Good evening,

I write to you in response to the Draft 2021–2025 Financial Plan. Specifically, I wish to convey my opposition to a proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department budget. For the betterment of our city, please freeze the VicPD budget and allocate funding towards community-level supports instead.

We have to be even more strategic with the use of our resources during COVID-19. VicPD already accounts for nearly a quarter of the City's operating budget. What I see right now are people who need programs and services to improve well-being. Policing does not and cannot help; rather, as we have seen around the world (even in Canada), policing actually causes harm to targeted groups, including BIPOC folks and people experiencing poverty.

As a born-and-raised citizen of Victoria, I have seen my community grow and change for over 33 years. I am fortunate enough to own a home only blocks away from the house in Fairfield where I grew up. Major issues facing our most vulnerable remain the same: a lack of shelter, food, amenities, harm reduction, adequate living wages, and social programs. This is a time when we need to re-invent the way we support each other and find new ways to thrive. Continuing to allocate such a large percentage of our budget to law enforcement will not achieve progress.

I implore you to look to community-based initiatives for ways to enact positive, meaningful change.

Sincerely
Personal information

This communication (and any attachments) is directed in confidence to the addressee(s) listed above, and may not otherwise be distributed, copied or used. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me by reply e-mail or by telephone and delete this communication (and any attachments) without making a copy.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

To introduce myself a little bit, my name **Personal information** I have been living in Victoria since the summer of 2016. I studied at Camosun College, and I currently work for Island Health. I love to make art, read novels, have good conversations, and learn about local plants and animals. I spend a lot of time reflecting on the world around me, and my place in it. I consider myself an engaged citizen. I believe this beautiful city is capable of so much, and it saddens me to see it succumb to the weight of unimaginative problem-solving, hypocrisy, and perpetuating old and harmful patterns.

With that in mind, I am writing today with deep concern, and to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase to the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Rather, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that the city's limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled and disappointed that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function, especially given Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020. In that statement, Mayor Helps said, "For those of us with privilege, we need to step up as allies and condemn racism in all its forms." Continuing to inflate the VicPD's budget, against the will and advice of so many of your constituents whom you claim to represent, and to whom you claim to want to listen, is not stepping up as an ally. Failing to invest in the growth and development of community programs that address and combat housing issues, colonial violence, and the overdose crisis, is not stepping up as an ally. Condemning racism in a statement, and providing zero material follow-through, is not stepping up as an ally.

I believe a budget increase of 0% for VicPD is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' statement from June 3, 2020 also proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. And if creating a welcoming community is one of Victoria's priorities, I must point out that an increased police presence is not welcoming. The highest number of police officers per capita in the country is not welcoming.

A vibrant community with well-funded programs that are open to everyone and that improve the lives of community members, and bolsters those who have historically been ignored -- that is welcoming. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 7:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Board@vicpd.ca; Geoff Young (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Cheers,

Personal information

She/Her/Hers

I have the pleasure of living and working on the traditional and unceded territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ Nations.

Rob Gordon

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Sent: January 10, 2021 7:19 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 6:47 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.
- According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020. In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to

occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 6:37 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** resident of Victoria proper. I am a 25 year old student at the University of Victoria and have grown up in Victoria. In large part due to my white complexion and housed status, I have been privileged to avoid negative interactions and behaviour at the hands of the Victoria Police. I have, however, witnessed firsthand police brutality during the peaceful protests in early 2020 in support of the Wet'suwet'en, where 30 armed police officers forcefully arrested 12 Indigenous youth at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources. I also witnessed the forceful arrest of Indigenous youth during a peaceful sit-in at the BC legislature in support of Wet'suwet'en. On social media, across Canada and of course in the United States, there were multiple examples of police brutality against BIPOC communities and sparked weeks of unrest in the name of Black Lives Matter. It was made painfully clear that the police force was created to uphold white supremacy and colonization. It was NOT created for public safety for all. If 2020 taught us anything at all, it is that there needs to be alternatives to this unjust system that centres safety for all community members.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Personal information

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Rob Gordon

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Sent: January 10, 2021 6:27 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Personal information
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Greetings,

I'm writing to provide feedback on the 2021/22 Draft Financial Plan.

Premise of the budget: The City's entire financial plan is a colonial premise rooted in the assumption that settlers have jurisdiction over stolen Lkwungen lands and the authority to decide what to do with those lands and how to divvy up benefits accruing from use of those lands. My participation in the process is to express objection to the City's plans, not to affirm colonial presence or entitlement to make decisions about Lkwungen Territory.

Consultation process: While COVID has limited in-person options, the City's process this year is so narrow that it is completely inaccessible to many residents. Email, an online survey that requires registration, and a webcast town hall are all largely inaccessible to people with very low incomes (especially in these times when public computer access is severely restricted), people who are not fluent in English, people who are sheltering in parks without a reliable way to keep devices charged or safe, and people with cognitive or learning disabilities. These methods of getting input also aren't accessible to Victoria residents who are institutionalized and don't have access to technology in the time of the public input period. When consultation is done in this way, it is not a sincere creative effort to listen to communities and it facilitates privileging certain populations. My participation in the process is to express objection to the City's plans, not to affirm any legitimacy to this consultation process.

Defining parameters: [Movement Generation](#) explains that "eco" comes from the greek word "oikos", meaning 'home'; and that economy therefore most accurately means "home" + "management". In their words:

Economy means management of home. How we organize our relationships in a place, ideally, to take care of the place and each other. But "management of home" can be good or bad, depending on how you do it and to what ends. The purpose of our economy could be turning land, life and labor into property for a few, or returning land, life and labor into a balanced web of stable relationships. Economy does not mean money, or exchange or financial markets, or trading or Gross Domestic Product. These are simply elements or tools of specific economies. Economies ("how we manage our home") can be measured in many ways: How healthy are the soil, people, water, animals? How much wealth is generated? Who owns the wealth? What

even constitutes wealth? Is it money? Well-being? Happiness?

The City's budget is absent of any consideration of relationships and implications. For example there is no consideration in the Draft Financial Plan of how City revenue is obtained and whether that money comes from ethical sources. Relying on wealth derived from stolen land, exploited labour, or damage to the environment keeps us stuck in violent relationships with the earth and each other.

REVENUE

Land is not settler property: Most of the City's revenue comes from taxing settlers' use of Lkwungen land. By calling this "property tax", the City is entrenching colonial ideas of land as property -- and settler property at that -- rather than this place being a living, organic place that is the home of many beings. As a starting point, a real land tax would acknowledge that the City is on Lkwungen Territory, and would actively work with Lekwungen communities on how to decolonize and begin to engage in respectful relationship. The Draft Financial Plan doesn't consider Lkwungen ways of making decisions or ensuring that any benefits derived from settlers' use of Lkwungen resources (including lands, waters, knowledge, etc.) are returned to Lekwungen people.

Keeping wealth in settler land-holder hands: It's contradictory to commit to 'Make Victoria More Affordable' while limiting the annual land tax increase to a maximum of the rate of inflation + 1%. By protecting settler land-holders from a reasonable land tax increase, Council is making 'Victoria' less affordable to the most economically precarious people. Addressing affordability is great, but limiting property tax only benefits people wealthy enough to own land. This year's property tax increase is 1.75% which according to the budget summary works out to an annual increase of "\$44 for an average household and \$124 for a typical business" -- minor amounts that will make little difference to people who are wealthy enough to own land, but that if increased could significantly improve real affordability measures like return of stolen lands, rent banks, community-controlled housing, urban agriculture, etc.

EXPENDITURES

The budget doesn't align with community needs or the City's Strategic Plan.

- The Draft Financial Plan identifies the City's priorities as local area land use planning, supporting businesses, affordable housing, active transportation, climate change, and emergency preparedness. According to the Goal Statement on page 13, by 2022 "We will be known globally for our climate leadership practices, multi-modal transportation options, innovative approaches to affordable housing, and for meaningful reconciliation with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on whose homelands our city was built."

- However, none of these aspirations are substantively resourced. Instead, the City continues to prioritize surveillance, criminalization, and punishment, proposing more than 25% of the operating budget -- \$64.5 million -- be used for the VicPD, bylaw enforcement, and security guards.
- The decision to once again prioritize policing over people's needs has a double impact on marginalized people, who are targeted by policing through racial / social profiling, and also because of societal injustice face the most barriers in meeting basic survival needs.

Council talks about “Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations” but there’s no financial commitment to either one.

- The City's current Strategic Plan includes a commitment to “deeper and more engagement with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations”, “recognition of Indigenous sovereignty”, and “more Indigenous involvement and inclusion in all aspects of civic life”. But the Draft Financial Plan isn’t moving towards any of these aspirations.
- Recognition of Indigenous sovereignty means acknowledging that this is Lkwungen land and that authority to determine what happens to these territories rests with Lkwungen people, not any layer of colonial government. It is not recognizing Indigenous sovereignty to continue to control Indigenous territories and distribution of benefits from use of those territories.
- The Draft Financial Plan doesn't even resource Indigenous positions for the Indigenous relations activities set out in the Strategic Plan (repeated in the Draft Financial Plan). There aren't budget line items for the 2020 Strategic Plan commitments to establish an Indigenous Relations function and to pursue co-governance of MEEGAN and shoreline areas, the 2021 commitments of appointing Indigenous Elders in Residence and continuing co-governance explorations, or the 10 actions relating to Indigenous community relationships that are identified for 2022. The only two mentions of Indigenous relations in the actual budget are \$86,850 for the Witness Reconciliation Program, which drops to ~\$31,000 per year in 2022/23, and an Indigenous artist-in-residence program (which is identified as 2019-21, so no City commitment to continue).
- The current orientation of funds is insufficient to engage in the significant transformation needed to dismantle the colonial relationships and power structures that are the current foundation of the City of 'victoria'. There is huge momentum behind current settler abusive, violent relationships to Lekwungen people and their territories. It will take very significant investment to change that, to actually enact decolonization, reconciliation, and reparations for harms done.

The Draft Financial Plan decreases funding for affordable housing.

- The Draft Financial Plan states a commitment to “allocate additional City revenue to affordable housing” (page 44) **but the proposed budget does the opposite**, decreasing the annual allocation for the housing reserve -- dropping from \$900,000 in 2020/21 to \$650,000 per year in 2021/22 and the

four fiscal years after that. It's even more of a decrease in 2021/22 if you take into account the \$152,500 of the \$208,228 allocated to the Late Night Task Force (policing downtown) that in 2020/21 was reallocated to emergency housing -- the plan for 2021-22 has this special policing force once again at full budget, now increased to \$231,650 per year (page 136).

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- Affordable housing has been the general public's #1 issue for several years according to the annual local [Vital Signs survey](#), for good reason. According to 2016 Census data (which excludes people who are homeless), five years ago 9,065 households -- 21% of 'victoria' households -- were living in housing that is overcrowded, in significant disrepair, and/or unaffordable, with 4,050 households in 'victoria' identified as "in extreme core housing need" (living in housing that is overcrowded, in significant disrepair, and/or unaffordable, and with an income so low that more than 50% of income would need to be spent to get adequate housing). Affordability and vacancy rates are even worse now.
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- While it's great that the City is funding staff work on policies to try to stem the loss of affordable units, there also needs to be a tangible plan around increasing affordable housing stock, far beyond Council's current goal of 100 units per year towards the pre-existing backlog (with the additional new units only enough to keep up with projected population growth). This housing plan needs to be determined with local nations so it doesn't further entrench settler control of Lkwungen lands, and Indigenous housing needs are met first.
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- Housing strategies identified in the Draft Financial Plan assume housing and land will remain commodities (e.g., emphasizing private development by settler property owners and institutions) instead of exploring models to return stolen lands and enter into agreements with Lekwungen people about how to create and manage housing on their lands in ways that respect their authority over their territories and prioritize ensuring that Indigenous people on these territories have safe, culturally respectful, and affordable places to live. This colonial and capitalist approach to lands and housing are not the right direction for sustainable planning and community development. All community and local area planning processes -- including housing policy processes -- must start from a foundation of recognizing that settlers on stolen lands do not have entitlement to determine the future of these territories, and emphasize decolonization and other transformative measures.

Council continues to set aside money in financial reserves instead of acknowledging the current emergency for people sheltering outside, and using those funds to offer everyone safe and adequate indoor sheltering.

- According to the Draft Financial Plan, as of December 31, 2020 the Victoria Housing Reserve was expected to have an unallocated balance of \$2,582,942 sitting dormant instead of being used for emergency housing. In 2021/22 there is a proposed allocation of \$3,517,740 for transfer to a

contingency reserve account for unspecified emergencies (pages 547-548) -- ***enough to provide 244 people living outside with \$1,200/month towards rent, for a full year.***

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- In the meantime Council continues to ignore its human rights obligations set out in the United Nations [National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada](#), with a total of \$0 allocated in 2021/22 for basic infrastructure proximate to where people are sheltering.
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- Of course some level of savings are prudent and necessary, but when new money is set aside for 'emergencies' while there is an active emergency for unhoused people, that implies "your well-being is not enough of an emergency...we're going to put money aside for a situation impacting wealthy people". It's particularly baffling that the City is keeping Housing Reserve money dormant instead of using it to build emergency housing.

Parks need to be re-conceived not only as recreation spaces for housed people but also as survival spaces for unhoused people.

- Until there is safe, affordable, and adequate housing for everyone, resources need to be committed to working collaboratively with people who are sheltering outside to create infrastructure in locations where people are sheltering that meets survival needs, in compliance with the United Nations [National Protocol for Homeless Encampments in Canada](#).
- The City should include in the 2021/22 Draft Financial Plan funds to rapidly assess [Protocol](#) compliance issues and to address all areas where the City is out of compliance. ***This is an emergency in a dual public health crisis, and emergency reserves are appropriate to use for this purpose.***
- It is extremely important to have public spaces where people can gather, socialize, rest, enjoy nature, etc. And, for some people who do not have private spaces where these things can also happen, public spaces are, additionally, spaces of survival. When recreational wants of housed people conflict with unhoused people's survival needs, survival needs must take priority -- even in COVID times where housed people feel more reliant on outdoor public spaces for socializing and recreation. Consistent with the [Protocol](#), maintenance of parks and other public spaces should not be used as a rationale to police and displace people who are sheltering outside.
- The City currently has a hostile working relationship with people who shelter outside that is premised on the City using its power to surveill, harass, and displace people. This could shift to a respectful working relationship where the City works with people who are sheltering outside to find out what kind of spaces would improve safety, shelter, and access to necessities such as clean water, bathrooms, showers, and safe food storage/cooking facilities. City facilities could be readily adapted

for these purposes and by engaging in this in a respectful, collaborative manner the City could also be well positioned to work on broader community initiatives such as reduction of discrimination against people who are living in poverty.

Council has not followed through on its stated commitments regarding alternatives to policing.

- After years of community campaigning to divest from policing and invest in communities, at the June 25, 2020 meeting Council directed staff to report back on how to develop a framework for an accessible, culturally safe, and appropriate alternative response model -- in time for consideration as part of Council's 2021 budget deliberations. Council also instructed staff to as part of this process hold a virtual community town hall and provide a range of opportunities for individuals and communities to engage, with "strong representation of those disproportionately harmed within the current system namely black, Indigenous, and POC communities, TNB2s people, persons with lived and living experience (PWLLE) of poverty, homelessness, mental health challenges, or substance use".
- Neither the framework for the model nor the robust community engagement have happened in time for the public consultation process on the Draft Financial Plan. Instead, according to Mayor Lisa Helps' January 3, 2021 [blog post](#), Island Health and the VicPD are working together to create a response team for mental health calls -- though this team is also not mentioned in the VicPD budget so it's unclear what is contemplated. The City's role going forward is not clear.
- As the primary funder of the VicPD, the City has a responsibility to divest from policing and invest in communities. As was conveyed to Council years ago, and has been repeated since, the right role of government in this is to resource communities most impacted by policing to determine what would be a more appropriate investment of public funds. It's essential that [alternatives to police be designed and run by communities, not government](#); and that any alternative be non-coercive (unlike police-embedded Island Health teams). Replacing police-only response with police-embedded response is still supporting a policing response.
- The Community Wellness Peer-Informed Task Force (CWPITF) hasn't finished its work, but has no budget for 2021/22. The CWPITF, comprised of people who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness, mental health struggles, and struggles around substance use, was created to make recommendations to Council for a Community Wellness Strategy. The CWPITF is supposed to continue until Council has adopted a Community Wellness Strategy, but because of COVID that hasn't happened yet. While there are issues with how Council created this group (particularly the framing of people who are unhoused, using substances, and having mental health struggle as a problem population needing response), it is a way that people have been able to identify for Council the problems with a police-oriented response. Why is Council not resourcing the completion of the CWPITF's work?

Instead of divesting from policing and investing in communities, the City is increasing policing-based approaches by upping VicPD and Bylaw resources.

- In the 2019-20 fiscal year Bylaw had 10 FTEs, in 2020-21 this was increased to 17 FTEs (a 70% increase) and the plan for 2021-22 maintains this increase. The proposed VicPD operating budget increases by

over 1.47%, with a whopping \$61,193,160 to VicPD operations and a further \$1,546,000 proposed for VicPD capital costs. ***At a bare minimum, the VicPD budget should not further increase, Bylaw's staffing should revert to 2019/20 levels, and tangible plans should be set out for a process to divest from policing and invest in communities.***

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- From an ethical perspective, it is troubling that the City is prioritizing spending millions of dollars for rule compliance rather than investing in community well-being. Policing approaches do not make our communities safer, they make them less safe for people who are racially and socially profiled. Policing doesn't build social cohesion, meet people's survival needs, or address tensions relating to injustices and inequities. As evidenced by the past 30 years, social problems can't be solved through investing in "law and order" approaches and infrastructure.
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- Police spending far exceeds other municipal spending and needs to be reined in. According to Statistics Canada between 1985 and 2013 police expenditures in Canada almost doubled, even accounting for inflation. From 2009-2019 the VicPD received a cumulative total of \$12,840,711 in new funding, with the City's portion being a cumulative 31.59% increase (compared to a 12.1% inflation increase in the same period), and its budget expanded again in 2020/21. After so many years of expanding police funding it is not appropriate that the police budget continue to expand again this year. The five-year financial plan is even worse, with a 6% increase in the VicPD operating budget projected for 2022/23 and then increases above the rate of inflation in the following three years.
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- The Draft Financial Plan mentions that as part of the City's adopted Strategic Plan regarding "Good governance and civic engagement", there is a commitment to "exercise fiscal responsibility in policing expenditures" (p. 16). Continuing to increase the VicPD budget is not fiscally responsible, particularly in a year where many departments have had to freeze or decrease spending to reflect decreased City revenue due to COVID.
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- In particular the City should set out a tangible plan to divest from funding police as a response to health and social issues, which currently comprise a very significant portion of the police portfolio (in 2014 the VicPD Chief estimated 75-80% of calls related to homelessness, mental health, and/or substance use; an October 2017 memo from the VicPD to the Police Board identified that 19% of incidents responded to by VicPD have a mental health component). According to a recent [media analysis](#) of police data, the VicPD recommends more charges for drug possession than any other municipal force in southwestern 'bc'; in 2019 the VicPD recommended possession charges nearly four times more often than the 'vancouver' police department (despite covering an area 1/6 the size of that covered by the VanPD). The City should commit to decriminalizing all health and social issues and use

funds divested from policing these issues to invest in meeting real and urgent community health and social needs.

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- While Council can't control how the VicPD operationalizes its funding -- including how it manages its workforce -- Councillors can refuse to fund specific line items and can direct the Police Board to come back with a lower budget. Particular line items for consideration:
 - **COVID decreases:** In COVID times, there should be drastic reduction in lines for VicPD travel and conference attendance, the Late Night program, and policing of large events. At the current predicted rate of COVID vaccine rollout, there is no reason to think any of these lines will be needed in 2021/22.
 - **Stop increasing police PR:** The proposed VicPD budget for 2021/22 includes a \$192,055 (9.30%) increase to the VicPD Community Engagement Division. This comes primarily from the public relations unit, including a 50% salary increase, 26% benefits, and 26% increase to IT repairs and maintenance. It is not appropriate to increase funds for VicPD promoting itself.
 - **Police overtime is out of control and needs to be curtailed:** Overtime has more than doubled in just three years, with 36 units in the VicPD making a collective ask for \$2,962,090 overtime in 2021/22 (\$2,833,750 for officer overtime and \$128,340 in civilian overtime). According to a [2019 Victoria News story](#), the VicPD spent an average of \$1.2 million on overtime per year from 2014-2018. This abrupt increase is not projected by the VicPD to be a temporary blip -- their five-year projection assumes overtime will continue to increase above the rate of inflation. In March 2020 VicPD Chief Del Manak [blamed four years of rising mass protests](#) for increased overtime costs, but that's not supported by the VicPD budget; only three of the 36 units that have overtime budgeted for 2021/22 are identified as having a role at protests, and their combined overtime budgets are \$115,620 (4% of the total overtime). Whatever the causes, overtime can't be supported at this rate.
 - **More patrol means more risk for racially and socially profiled people:** The proposed budget includes a \$808,384 (4.13%) increase to the VicPD Patrol Division, including a projection of \$905,000 in overtime -- a \$103,000 (13%) increase from 2020/21. Increased police patrols have a particular impact on Indigenous and Black people who are unsheltered, who are both racially and socially profiled but don't have private space to escape "proactive patrols" (page 603) and other police surveillance and harassment.
 - **Increased policing of vulnerable people increases risks:** The Behavioral Assessment & Management Unit has the mandate to target those "deemed highest risk to offend and/or most vulnerable to be victimized" (page 701). Its budget is proposed to increase by \$130,001 (22.3%) in 2021/22, with salary and benefit changes consistent with

addition of an officer to the unit. This is particularly worrisome in its potential to increase police presence in the lives of low-income Indigenous women, sex workers, people who are sheltering outside, people with disabilities, 2spirit / trans / non-binary people, and others who live at the intersections of oppression. Forcing police presence on people at risk of victimization is re-traumatizing and has the potential to result in increased risk of arrest for people who are both vulnerable to victimization and also engaged in illegal survival economics, e.g., drug sales, theft, etc. Decisions about who is at highest risk to offend is also highly subjective and supports increased racial and social profiling.

- **Clarification needed on Financial Crimes Unit increase:** The FCU has significant proposed budget increases including a 51% increase in core salary (not overtime), 54% increase in benefits, and 400% increase in conferences/travel. It's not clear from the description on page 691 whether this unit only investigates major white-collar financial scams or also could jeopardize people with low incomes who may partially rely on check kiting or other similar kinds of low-level fraud for financial survival.
- **Police do not belong in schools:** The proposed budget includes \$384,730 in 2021/21 for police in schools, with a five-year plan to increase by 2.5% per year. Putting police back into schools after the hiatus from 2018-2020 [threatens the safety of youth who are racially and socially profiled, particularly Indigenous and Black youth](#). The use of police to deliver presentations on substance use also contributes to shame, stigma, and criminalization of people who use illicit drugs.
- Along similar lines, the City should revert to 2019/20 Bylaw staffing levels and freeze the Bylaw budget -- as the increase in 2020/21 was primarily to address increased Bylaw monitoring and enforcement regarding outdoor sheltering. Public funds should particularly not be allocated to support enforcement of bylaws against sheltering outside, or chattel bylaws that prevent homeless people from being able to safely leave their belongings in public spaces. This criminalizes and punishes people for being homeless.
 - **24/7 sheltering = 24/7 interference in people's lives:** The Parks Regulation Bylaw has for years been a source of profound misery for people sheltering outside. While the decision to temporarily allow 24/7 sheltering in COVID times has meant relief from the stresses of daily displacement, it has also come with 24/7 interference in people's lives.
 - **Like police, Bylaw are enforcement officers not outreach workers.** People living outside need supplies and supports. Bylaw officers can't take that role; their job is to watch people to see if they are breaking City rules, and if so enforce the rules through pressure and coercion (euphemistically called "education"). If the City wants to have outreach workers who can act as a liaison with the City, this needs to happen outside of the Bylaw division and have no enforcement role.
 - **Bylaw officers are harassing people living outside:** People living in parks and other green spaces have reported -- and bystanders have witnessed -- extensive harassment by Bylaw officers, including individuals being roused early in the morning for non-

consensual “welfare checks”, having to repeatedly move all of their belongings regardless of weather, having belongings seized or destroyed by Bylaw even after officers were told belongings had not been abandoned, having community-built infrastructure dismantled even while negotiations were underway with City representatives for permits, Bylaw officers standing near sheltering sites making offensive comments about people living in those sites, and Bylaw officers do repeated walk-throughs of sites where people are living.

- **Increased Bylaw presence also increases VicPD presence:** Supporting increased Bylaw enforcement also increases policing and criminalization, as Bylaw officers often request VicPD accompaniment.

SUMMARY

The Draft Financial Plan continues a toxic, colonial approach that continues to steal land and wealth from Lekwungen people, fails to meet the most serious survival needs, and spends an extraordinary amount of money on surveillance and punishment of a small but highly marginalized group of people -- those sheltering outside. I call on Council to radically reconfigure the budget to align with its own Strategic Priorities, and to begin to set out a process for transitioning from our current highly dysfunctional (and unsustainable) economy to relations with home and resources that are based on care, consent, and respect.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 5:53 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Victoria,

Hello, my name **Personal information** resident of Victoria, British Columbia. I am writing to you in regards to the proposed 2021 municipal budget.

I am deeply distressed by the proposal to increase the policing budget for the City of Victoria in 2021. Other cities across North America are looking to reduce their reliance on law enforcement and Victoria should follow that example and significantly defund the police department.

Policing is profoundly expensive and doesn't actually reduce crime or keep us safe. In many cases, policing actually makes racialized or other marginalized people less safe. The exorbitant amount that the city spends on policing should be diverted to programs that actually reduce crime.

Public safety is important to me, but safety is better served by community care and better funding for marginalized communities than by the police. Spending close to a quarter of the municipal budget on policing is a waste of taxpayer money with little to no tangible benefit.

I am asking you to significantly defund the Victoria Police Department and reinvest the money in programs that will actually reduce crime and keep Victorians safe.

Thank you for your time,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 5:46 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen until meaningful community engagement takes place to determine how funds should be redistributed in communities.

I was absolutely horrified last year when 30 armed police officers arrested 12 Indigenous youth, one by one, at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum after a peaceful sit in. Seeing VicPD close the curtains at the BC Legislature so they could arrest 5 peaceful Indigenous youth with no onlookers gave me nightmares, and filled me with a fear I cannot put into words. It was traumatic to watch VicPD drag my friends, these 5 Indigenous youth with good hearts and inherent rights, into police vans after hours of not knowing where they were or whether they were safe. I was disgusted that the city allocated an additional \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities around Topaz Park, and embarrassed that the city even considered that as an option. These disturbing events and the trauma they caused, along with the explosion of international support to defund the police and address systemic police violence against Black and Indigenous people gives me hope that the city of Victoria will stop pouring money into this inherently violent institution and start addressing the real and social determinants of crime, which begins with making sure people's basic needs are met - not increasing police budgets.

I am appalled that the city of Victoria continually allocates a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Personal information

University of Victoria

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

I acknowledge with respect the Communities and Nations in whose territories I work and live as an uninvited visitor: the Lekwungen (Chekonein, Chilcowitch, Swengwhung, Kosampsom, Whyomilth, Teechamitsa, Kakyakaan, Songhees, Esquimalt) and W̱SÁNEĆ (S̱TÁUTW/Tsawout, W̱JOLÉLP/Tsartlip, BOKEĆEN/Pauquachin, W̱SIKEM/Tseycum) Peoples.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback V. Important Sender
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I have lived in Victoria for the last ~10 years. I have worked in customer service, the tech sector, salons, and been a student. I've voted in every election, celebrated all over town, attended rallies to support our community and environment, and volunteered for Our Place and countless other fundraisers and initiatives in town. Victoria is my home, and I love it. Which is why I write to you today to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I've seen the VicPD haul teenage bodies from the parliament buildings for peaceful protests. I've cried tears of rage and horror, seeing the casual cruelties they've unleashed upon vulnerable people.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 3:09 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing with my feedback regarding the 2021 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria, with specific opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget.

With a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria due to COVID-19, the decision to increase the police budget by 1.5% such that it constitutes 23% of the City's total operational budget is fiscally irresponsible. The City's Draft Budget allocates \$60.7 million of the City's \$256 million budget to the VicPD. For comparison, only \$23.7 million has been allocated for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. In addition, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43% from 2019-2020 and the City's Consolidated Financial plan commits to more yearly increases for a total allocation of over \$250 million over the next four years. As a response to fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are freezing or even decreasing their police budgets. This includes our neighbours in the City of Vancouver - on the traditional territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh people - who recently voted to freeze 2021 police funding. I am calling on Victoria's elected officials to follow suit and commit to a 0% increase to the VicPD's 2021 budget.

In addition to the fiscal considerations of increasing the police budget, I also urge you to consider the social ramifications of increasing police funding. In response to protests in the US and worldwide following the killings of George Floyd and others by police, Mayor Helps' issued a [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) stating that "we need to step up as allies and condemn racism in all its forms" and that "[c]ondemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." As a city and as a community we need to support our most marginalized neighbours (BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+ folks, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc) and funding a force that continues to criminalize the most vulnerable and underserved will not create a community of well-being. In witnessing the VicPD's interference with the BIPOC artists' "More Justice More Peace" mural, it is clear to me that the VicPD are not engaged in recognizing the harm that law enforcement has caused and continues to cause to BIPOC. How can the VicPD keep our community safe when they refuse to engage genuinely and empathetically in "those hard conversations" around racism within the police force and to "truly listen when people share their experiences of racism in Victoria" (Helps, *Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism*)?

To be clear: increased police presence does not keep us safe. I am calling for a reallocation of city funds from policing into programs and services that are proven to support the well-being of all community members such as community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

With care,

they/them

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; lana.popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen (or decreased) so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% or a budget decrease is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze or decrease the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. All members of my family are members of those most targeted. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgspsb@gov.bc.ca; adrian.dix.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Policing budget over unaddressed community health issues
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- There is a high prevalence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) across BC that is unaddressed. My research demonstrates that HCV is a mitigating circumstance in the overdose epidemic.
- Hepatitis C is a significant factor in behavioural aspects that lead to reactive policing rather than proactive services which would be significant in reducing impulsive behaviour and the need for policing interventions which can be fatal.
- Local research suggests that people with late stage hepatitis B or C infections are not included in palliative care services and are, in effect, kicked to the curb due to lack of resources. (See *Death is a Social Justice Issue* or *Too Little Too Late*.)
- VicPD spends between \$1.35 to \$1.5 million on Administration of Justice charges with added costs incurred by the Crown Council. The federal government has advised against these types of warrants since 2015, Repeated FOI requests for data have been refused by VicPD suggesting a deliberate obfuscation of the practice going back to 2016. These charges have also been called out by members of police forces (SORCe.ca) as contributing nothing to the recidivism as they often are the consequences of poor organization skills, extreme poverty, mental illness and untreated health conditions such as the neurocognitive issues that result of a poorly demarcated health care system that is not meeting the WHO goals of HCV elimination by 2030. This type of service requires added knowledge translation and the reallocation of more resources for basic health care services.
- VicPD's ACT team is a closed shop. As a community member, and as a peer support volunteer and researcher for health services networks, I had tried to get on the ACT volunteer list as a student in practicum. Crisis intervention skills training is in constant demand for VicPD officers whereas other members of the community could contribute significantly to this capacity and capacity building. The effect on policing costs should be obvious, but the added cost reductions to health services should not be dismissed.
- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.

- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- - COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- - As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- - According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- - The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- - The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- - Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Recently, I was upset with the interference of the VicPD in the BIPOC artist mural calling for more justice and more peace. Silencing marginalized voices rather than listening to their valid concerns and making space for conversations about the police contribution to violence against Black and Brown bodies and lives directly upholds the systemic racism endemic in policing across the country. The mural did not incite any violence against the VicPD. “ACAB” is not directed at any one cop in particular, but at the system of policing that has taken away traditional governance of Indigenous peoples, forced Indigenous nations on to reserves and policed their behaviour, surveillance and incarceration of Black and Brown bodies at a rate that exceeds any other population in the country, among many other atrocities committed against Black and Brown bodies that threaten their safety.

I was disgusted that the City of Victoria reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities around Topaz Park. The lack of mental health, housing, and basic human needs provided to unhoused communities is appalling. There are many examples of cities across the country and in the US that have supported community models that are far more effective than policing in reducing deaths from the ongoing opioid crisis and decreasing what is defined as crime while creating a space of community care.

[There are many options](#) demonstrated in cities across Turtle Island to replace police in situations where they are not adequately trained and exacerbate crises.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Personal information

She / Her
Unceded Ləkʷəŋən & W̱SÁNEĆ Homelands
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Feedback for the 2021 Draft Budget
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am sending this email to specifically call for a freeze to the VicPD budget. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

My name Personal information been living in Victoria for the past 4 years. I was born and raised on Vancouver Island. I have worked in Victoria within the tourism, customer service, real estate and arts & culture sectors since 2007 and take pride in being a part of the community that is the Greater Victoria Region. I have attended Camosun College and access many services that this city offers including, but not limited to: the public library, transit, parks and recreational facilities and various health and community services.

I have been upset by the amount of increased police presence (and action) throughout the city during a global pandemic, as well as during a time when the general public are loudly voicing concerns toward indigenous and black communities and the need to value their lives. It was unnecessary that the VicPD needed to interfere in the IBPOC artists' mural calling for more justice and more peace, as this only reflected the lack of support the City wished to show for this cause. It was disturbing that the City of Victoria reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities. It saddens and frustrates me that the City of Victoria feels that during a global pandemic, as people are facing unemployment and serious health risks, it is necessary to put more money towards policing and not towards helping our communities.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021. According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, the VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello,

I am emailing to say that I am appalled at the proposition to increase funding for the Victoria police service by \$880,320. I think this money could make a huge difference if spent on community services for unhoused people and securing housing! People have been calling for defunding the police because we do not feel the police keep us safe! Community keeps people safe, we need to be investing in community services not state sanctioned violence! The fact that you are planning to raise property taxes on homes and business to increase police operations just does not make any sense! This year has been very difficult for most people financially and instead of supporting the community you are taking money away from the community to invest in a sector that is structurally racist and classist and does more to divide and harm the community then help.

I sincerely hope you reconsider,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I have lived, worked and attended school in Victoria for the past five years. My name **Personal information** the privilege of saying that I have felt safe in this city and on this land while I have lived here.

This past year, however, my views on the way the city is run has been changed dramatically. I no longer feel safe knowing that this city relies on colonial conceptions of safety; surveillance. I was a participant at the demonstrations run at the Legislative Buildings in solidarity with the Indigenous youth and Wet'suwet'en peoples. This also means that I was a witness to police violence inflicted upon the 5 Indigenous youth who were arrested after a peaceful sit in. I did not feel safe when friends of mine were volunteering at Meegan (Beacon Hill Park) were showing the rest of the world what solidarity and community care looks like with the community supplies tent, only to be criminalized for the compassion they were showing to the houseless people in our community. I won't feel safe knowing that our city is less concerned with the input of the largest portion of its population (renters, 60%) than satisfying the needs of property owners and those concerned with Victoria's image to wealthy tourists (and what can they even contribute in a post-COVID reality?).

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Engagement; Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

As you plan the upcoming budget, you can reduce the largest single item on the budget, not just to save money, but to improve quality of life in the city.

The police budget should not be increased, and in fact, it should be cut. The police budget is about 23% of the entire budget, which is massive because the second largest item is only 11%.

The police budget should be cut because it is not good value for money spent. Policing is a response to the symptoms of social issues, and money spent dealing with the causes of social issues would cost less and be more effective. Spending more money on policing is like hiring more firefighters because we can't afford smoke detectors.

The police budget should be cut, and some of the money saved should be spent on supportive social programs that deal with the root causes of issues that police have historically been tasked to deal with.

Thanks for your consideration

Personal information

Victoria, BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Victoria BC 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hi there!

Just shooting you a quick email to say that **I definitely do not support increasing the police budget** by 1.5%. To be frank, it's a joke that Victoria has more police per 100,000 citizens than larger cities such as Vancouver, Toronto, and Edmonton (to name just a few).

Not only do I believe that the budget for the police department should not be increased, I believe that the city should commit to defunding the police department. Having lived in Victoria nearly my entire life, I was disgusted to see the violence and mistreatment at the hands of the police towards indigenous youth who were defending the rights to their land in January 2020. I was also outraged to see the defacing of the #blacklivesmatter mural in bastion square. Lastly, the fact that the city reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities in Topaz Park rather than engaging in conversations with these communities to determine how this money could have been used to directly support their needs *again* is an outright joke. Perhaps in divesting from the police the city can invest in educating city counsellors on design justice. Maybe then everyone will be able to get a clue as to how to go about helping communities they are not a part of.

Thank you for your time in reading this email.

Sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca ; premier@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca ; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca ; Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca ; premier@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca ; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

1. COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
2. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
3. According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
4. The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
5. The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
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1. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I hope this e-mail finds everybody safe during these stressful times. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I ask that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically marginalized, underfunded and ignored. If you wish to enact meaningful change and look after the people, this is a much surer way to do so.

It is disturbing that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and as we have tragically seen, puts their lives at risk.

If there is a true desire to make spaces safer for marginalized communities, if you truly want to do more than give lip service, instead of investing more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello,

Thank you for all the work you have done in creating a budget plan. However I do want to register a suggestion. I am questioning the priority of the doing the changes in the roadway at Douglas and Dallas in the 2021 budget. I think there is a more urgent and crucial need to shore up the bank below Dallas Road near Government which is badly eroding. Perhaps the money could be spent there instead because those cliffs are very important to maintain.

Thank you

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget decision of 5% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time.

As someone who has worked closely with unhoused communities for the past 15 years I can assure you that investments in affordable housing and community supports do far more to create change for vulnerable communities than increased policing. Truly, as someone who has worked in these communities in professional roles, I have seen first-hand the violence and harm that is inflicted in poor, vulnerable and racialized communities at the hands of police, specifically the Victoria Police Department. Over the years, VicPD has worked hard to re-brand themselves as essential workers and tried to assert their need to provide services along the lines of outreach and community mental health support. This approach does not work, and in fact, only further entraps folks in cycles of criminalization and poverty through increased surveillance and contact with police. Further, Victoria PD in particular has engaged in incredibly harmful and stigmatizing propaganda that frames people living with mental illness as dangerous to our communities in an attempt to maintain their relevance and act as though they are the only solution to the difficulties that we are facing.

As someone who is low-income myself, I have witnessed housing in Victoria increasingly become less and less affordable each year. Many of us who are housed and employed are simply one paycheque or renovation away from becoming unhoused ourselves. This precarity is absolutely unsustainable and detrimental to the long-term health of our community and city. It has been tragic to watch the housing crisis in Victoria expand year after year, and at the same time to witness VicPD continually eat up a lion's share of the budget while the city wrings its hands about affordable housing. Now is the time to re-prioritize and to finally give our communities and most vulnerable citizens the care and support they so deserve.

At a time when calls to defund the police have never been louder, the City of Victoria has an incredible opportunity to be a voice and beacon of change. I call on the City of Victoria, the Ministers of Public Safety, the Police Boards and the Provincial Government to immediately freeze the Victoria Police Department budget and make immediate investments in community services and affordable housing.

Sincerely,
Personal information

Registered Social Worker
resident, city of 'victoria'
on the uncaded & illegally occupied territories of the Lkwungen people

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

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unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you for your time

Personal information

Pronouns: They/Theirs

I acknowledge that I am an uninvited settler on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Indigenous territories of the Lkwungen-speaking people, now known as the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ First Nations and acknowledge that it is through colonization that I live, work, learn, and create on these lands. I am working on understanding what my presence on these lands means and do the work I need to do in order to move towards decolonization and reconciliation

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--

Personal information

Stage Manager, Technician, Technical Designer

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I have lived in Greater Victoria since 2010 and downtown Victoria since 2013. I work in James Bay and spend most of my time--and income--in downtown and adjacent neighbourhoods. I use and am grateful for many of the great services and spaces the City of Victoria provides. As a pedestrian, I am especially grateful for recent traffic calming and active transportation measures in my neighbourhood, Harris Green.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding the VicPD budget be frozen so limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am distraught by how Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

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Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Personal information

Sent from my iPhone

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

2020 has been an eye opening year for all of us. I am a hairstylist here in Victoria BC for the last 6 years. I noticed that recently the vicpd had purchased a large tank-like vehicle and made me interested in the spending decisions. Also there is an increasing homelessness problem that doesn't seem to be getting much attention or funding for solutions.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Budget feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

I oppose the proposal to remove the paving between Mile 0 and the soccer field in Beacon Hill Park.

My reasons are due to both budgetary and heritage conservation considerations. The budgetary side is that benefit is not worth the cost.

But also, that stretch of road is a reminder of the racetrack that pre-dated the park itself and was one of the main reasons that Beacon Hill Park was created. I like seeing that little stretch of curved road. We should put up an interpretive sign for it, not eliminate it.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 10, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Yours sincerely,
NAME or ALIAS

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:58 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Good evening,

I'm writing to you from the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt people, as a resident of this city for the past twenty years.

I'd like to share my observations and thoughts with you regarding the proposed 2021 City of Victoria budget. The first pertains to the Police budget and its tone deafness to the current trends in social consciousness. All of the City of Victoria's strategic priorities are better served by funding programmes at the community level. None are well served by increasing police presence. In fact, many priorities are undermined by involving the police. If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it's that prevention is key. Increased police presence does not keep us safe.

The Strategic Plan Goals of the Vic PD department (City of Victoria Draft Financial Plan 2021, p. 581) list "FIGHT crime" before "PREVENT crime". It is a shame to see that the Patrol Division budget is nearly five times the budget of the Community Services Unit and nearly 10 times the budget of the Community Engagement Unit.

I'd also like to note that the overtime spending for the Patrol Unit was over \$1,000,000 in 2019. In 2020, the budget was \$800,000, though we don't have the total amount spent yet. The 2021 budget for overtime is up by 12.5%. I urge you to reflect on whether or not this overtime was absolutely necessary.

I attended the demonstration in support of the Wet'suwet'en and watched online as countless police attended a non-violent demonstration. I saw more police present at that event than I have seen at many a New Year's Eve event where thousands of drunk and rowdy people are in attendance. I would urge the Victoria Police to spend more money on cultural education led by Indigenous and BIPOC people and to reflect on whether they are responding proportionately to the actual level of threat.

I urge you to focus on **Prevention over Policing**.

The second pertains to budget items that do not appear to reflect reality, namely conference and travel costs. By my quick calculations, the 2021 budget includes nearly half a million dollars in conference and travel costs. This seems ridiculous in a time when non-essential travel has been limited by the Provincial Health Officer and when everyone is using web-based meeting software. Indeed, conference attendance has increased across the board because more people are able to attend due to the fact that they no longer need to spend money on travel.

I thought that perhaps the spending on conferences and travel had decreased in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions, but many departments showed an increase from 2019. It does seem that half a million dollars might be better spent on more urgent public needs.

To tie these two issues together, I observe that in the Police budget specifically the proposed Conference/Travel budget for the following groups has increased: Public Affairs (p.592) up by 25%; Community Programs (p.596) up by 20%; Finance, Purchasing and Supplies (p.609) up by 50%.

I do not believe the increase in these aspects of the budget are warranted. I urge you to reflect on these requests. Instead of increasing the police budget, consider funding community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural

programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:31 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- --COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- -As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- -According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- -The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- -The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- -Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information

Sent: January 9, 2021 8:57 PM

To: Engagement

Subject: 2021 BUDGET

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

0% INCREASE. Taxpayers are tired of increases.

You are elected or employed to run the City please adjust the budget. Can't get a NIL increase? Then a solution is to fire you.

SOLUTIONS? Well, perhaps reduce the Transfer to Reserves.

FOLLOW UP. I don't think you will accept my thoughts so I don't expect to hear from you.

GOOD LUCK.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 8:45 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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-
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-
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-
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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I was born and raised in this city, and for the majority of my life was blissfully unaware of the privilege I carry in being white, middle class, and cis-gender. Through the educative work of countless activists, I am now aware that many people in our community have reasons to feel unsafe in the increased presence of police officers' whose lingering purpose is still to uphold the colonial ideals founded in white supremacy. People are tired of performative allyship and empty statements. VicPD cannot have its budget increased if we still aim to move away from these oppressive practices. Consider the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback: Calling to freeze the Vic PD Budget
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin

meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 6:56 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** been a settler on WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen-speaking territories for approximately 3 years. During this time, I have witnessed many inexcusable actions by the Victoria Police Department. For example, the arresting and subsequent hours-long detention of 5 Indigenous youth after a peaceful sit in. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Rob Gordon

Personal information

From:

Sent:

To: Engagement

Subject: 2021 budget priorities

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

1) clean up grafitti

2) repave/fix potholes in streets

3) clean up Beacon Hill Park

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S9.

Rob Gordon

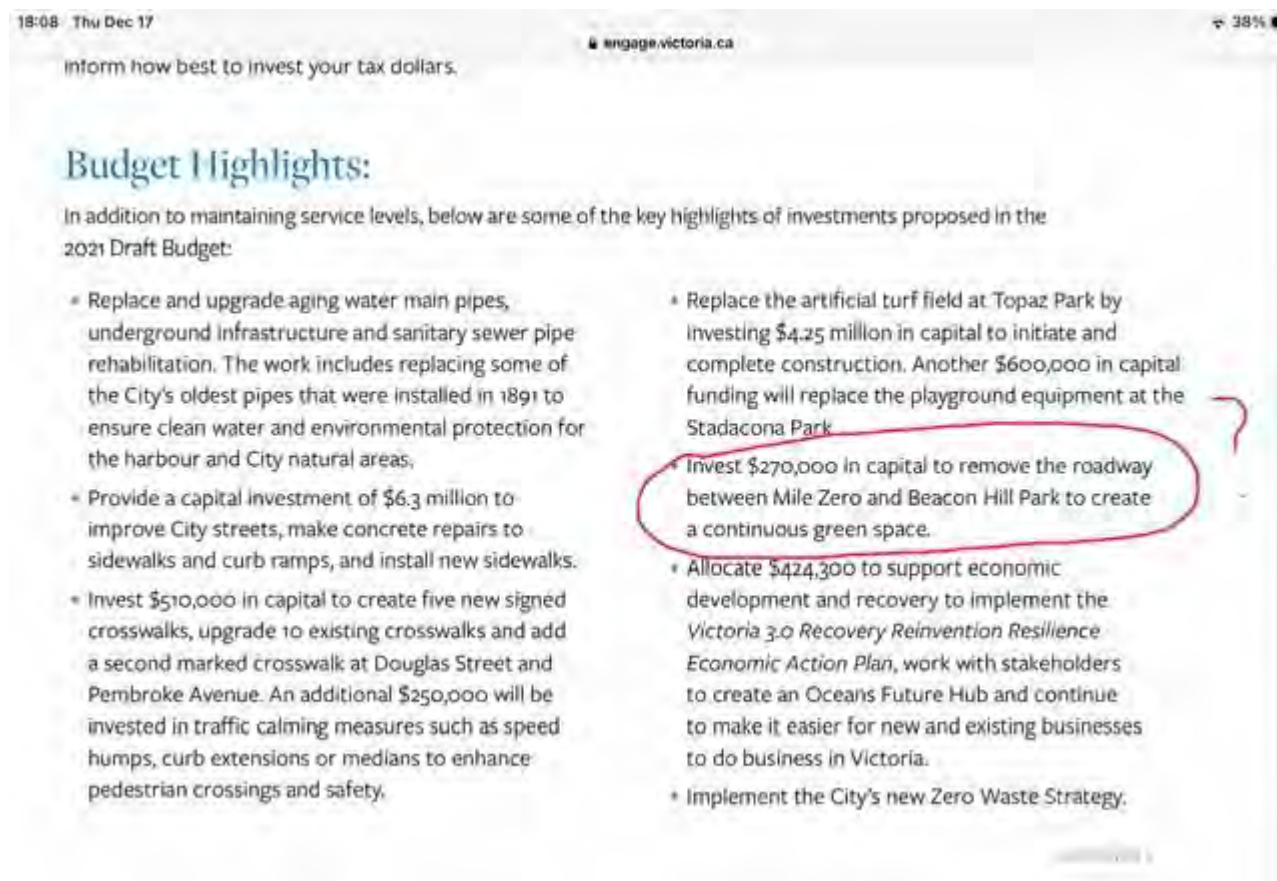
From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Re: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:12 **Personal information**

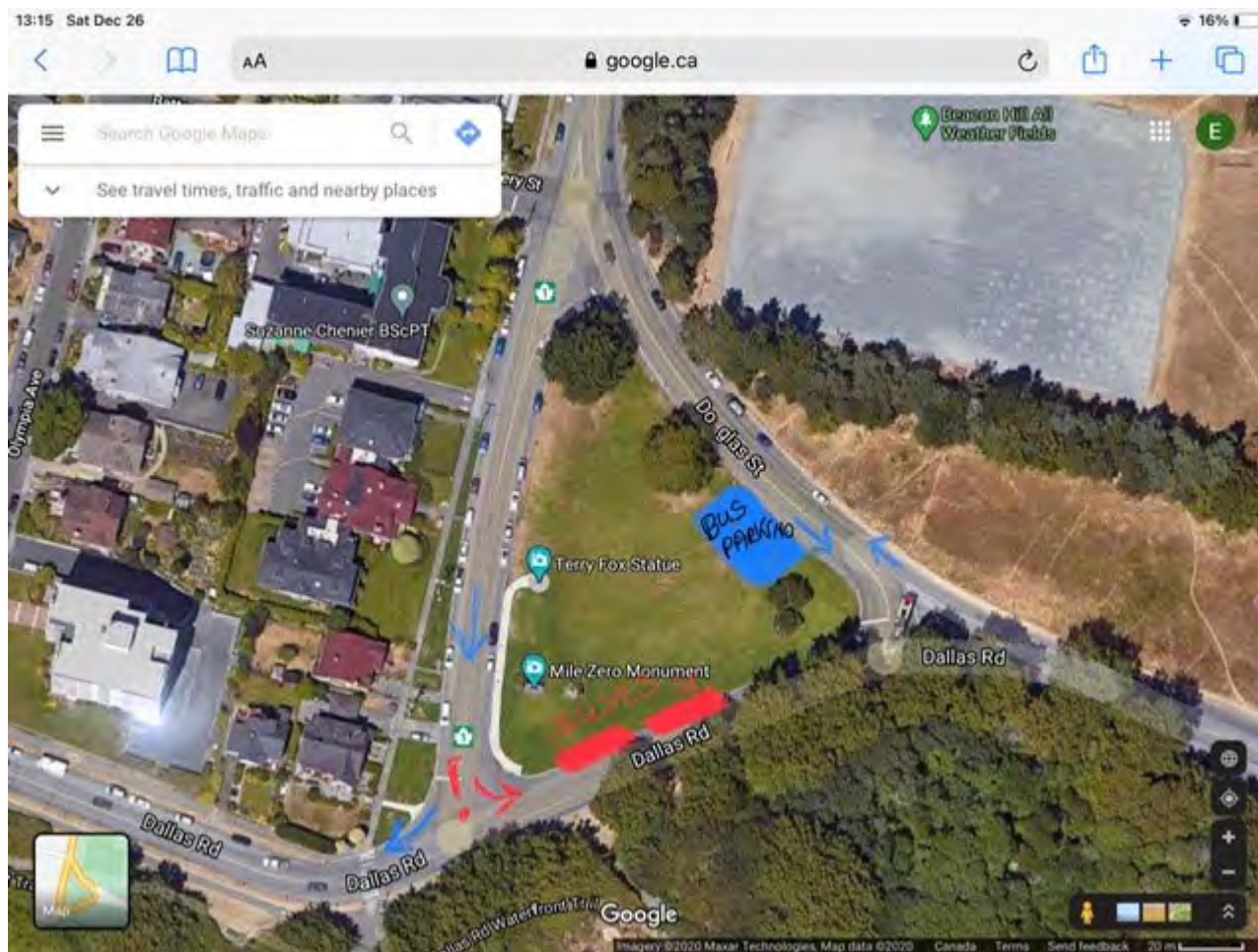
wrote:

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you to bring to your attention, a project that I read in the City's budget highlights. You can see it in the photo below circled in red. I will explain my concerns below the first photo.



As you can see in the second photo below, is a satellite map of the area in question. At the moment on both parts of Douglas there's two way traffic and it works pretty well except for the traffic going towards the ocean on Douglas - the side next to the buildings- needing to turn left which face very poor visibility.



Another problem is the tourist buses that used to park on Douglas before but which now park on Dallas, as noted on the map in red, which further reduce visibility.

If the city closes down the part of Douglas which is the curve around Beacon Hill Park, I have the following questions:

1. How would this in any way increase the green space in any significant and meaningful manner, when we already have a whole park and a lot of green areas along the ocean?
2. In what way would it be beneficial for traffic?
3. In what way would it be of any benefit to anyone to justify the expenditure?

In my humble opinion if this goes through it will:

1. Reduce good traffic flow existing today. Most cars and bicycles coming from the East on Dallas that want to go downtown turn on that curve! That is the most natural way for traffic to flow to downtown.
2. Increase traffic on the side of Douglas next to the buildings, all of which are multi residential serving about 85 residents. With less than 20 functional parking spaces in the back of one of those buildings, the need for street parking is imperative. How will a two way traffic with tourist buses to boot work there? That means that to help traffic flow the street parking along the green

will have to end. That means even less parking available!

3. It will increase traffic congestion, increase accident risk for those turning left on Dallas as the traffic on Dallas will increase since the Douglas curve will be blocked.

I propose instead that:

1. The Douglas road - curve along the park- remain open and functional as is.
2. That the part of Douglas - along the buildings - becomes one-way only, that is downwards to the ocean and with only right turn.
3. That a new parking area for the buses is created instead - marked in blue on the map - that will allow maximum two buses to park there for a maximum of 30'.
4. That no buses are allowed to park where they now do, in the area marked red on the map.

Thank you for your attention!

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

My input relates to the proposal of a 1.5% increase to the 2021 Victoria Police Budget; as a citizen of Victoria, BC, I ask that there be a decrease (or freeze) on the current police budget.

Thank you,

Personal information

James Bay, V8V 1E6

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 2:22 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear City of Victoria staff and Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide my feedback on the 2021 draft budget. I understand that budgeting for 2021 is a challenging task with the significant decrease in revenue experienced by the city as a result of COVID-19. These challenges will require that you make more fiscally responsible decisions, especially in working with a 0% tax increase.

With this said, I am concerned to see a proposed increase of 1.5% to the VicPD budget, when other areas of the city's budget are being cut (e.g., planning, engineering and public works etc.). I recognize that this is a small increase compared to previous years, but the continuous increases to the police budget every year are very alarming, given what we know about how police disproportionately target Victoria's most marginalized community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and put their lives at risk.

In the midst of a global movement to combat racism and police brutality and defund police forces across the country, **I do not support an increase to the VicPD budget and call you to take the [City of Vancouver's lead by freezing the 2021 budget](#)** at 2020 levels, while you continue to work with community on ways to direct funding to preventative, culturally-appropriate, compassionate and community-based alternatives for dealing with mental health, substance use and poverty. I also urge you to ensure that **any work done to develop alternatives to policing DO NOT include the VicPD**. I am aware they are becoming involved in the development of an alternative response model, and I want to warn you that any VicPD involvement in such an endeavor will alienate the community you need to make any alternative initiative successful and actually do what it is meant to do.

I recognize that, as a result of the pandemic, mental health, substance use and poverty have become more visible in our city and there are certain residents that feel that police presence is needed to improve public safety. First of all, this is not a good reason to increase the police budget when **we already have more police per capita than another other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people**. Secondly, responding to these challenges with an increased police presence is a reactive band-aid solution to broader systemic issues that require our immediate attention. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of Indigenous, Black and folks of colour in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for EVERYONE by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. I

am calling on you to do as much as you can do **to build more affordable housing, especially for those who are deemed "very low income", or at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.** I am calling on you to take meaningful steps towards supporting those in our community who need our compassion, more than ever.

Thank-you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Lekwungen Territory

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello

I sent a question this morning and have since learned that the full budget document (which is not accessible) does include the Accessibility Reserve. I find it rather ironic that the only accessible document does not include information that would be most relevant to persons with disabilities. If the summary is to only give some information, then I would request that the full document also be made available in an accessible format. Please withdraw my earlier question and include the following question instead.

I am a screen reader user who has a seeing disability. The accessible summary document does not include information regarding the Accessibility Reserve. I have been told that the full document does include this information and a sighted peer has informed me that only \$17,000 of the 1.5 million reserve is to be transferred out in 2021. Many accessibility concerns raised by the Accessibility Working Group in the past five and a half years were deferred to the Accessibility Framework. Given that the Accessibility Framework and Short Term Action Plan was adopted in November 2020, I am concerned that so little of the reserve funds are to be used in 2021. What accessibility improvements does the \$17,000 include? Have departments included accessibility improvements identified in the Action Plan in their operating budgets and therefore do not plan to use reserve funds? If so, please explain what these are as I cannot access the information.

Please acknowledge receipt of this message and that my questions will be asked.

Regards

Personal information

V8T 2J5

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a resident of Victoria, BC and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

For the last 5 years I was living out of province completing my degree in International Development, Gender Studies, and Indigenous Studies. As such, much of my academic study centered around critical analysis of various forms of systemic oppression, particularly racism, gender-based violence, and colonial violence. The Vic PD has upheld and reinforced these axes of oppression time and time again. Just in the last year, I was horrified when over 30 armed VicPD officers arrested 12 Indigenous youth at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources in January 2020; outraged when the VicPD arrested 5 Indigenous youth after a peaceful sit in, and detained them for hours. I was appalled by the recent interference of the VicPD in IBPOC artists' mural calling for more justice and more peace in our community. Any one of these instances of blatant racism, and abuses of force and power are unacceptable, and this pattern of behaviour is far from new or noteworthy.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This is my question for the Budget Town Hall on January 13

On October 1 2020, Council approved an Accessibility Framework, Short Term Action Plan and an Accessibility and Inclusion Policy.

The Policy states,

- Through the annual financial planning process, staff will identify resources required to advance accessibility actions, including potential trade-offs address priorities for Council consideration.**
- Capital planning will incorporate equity considerations as long-term investments to support accessibility and inclusion.**
- Annual service planning by all City departments will include the priorities and initiatives adopted in the Council approved Short Term Action Plan pending availability of financial resources.**

Yet, I am unable to find any of this in the draft Financial Plan. There are no budget requests for the items in the Accessibility Short Term Action Plan or description of capital projects to address longstanding physical barriers.

Question: How is Council to make decisions about priority and trade-offs, according to the Policy, when it is not being asked to make decisions on funding the work in the Accessibility Short Term Action Plan, in which every item is said to be subject to availability of resources?

I am also submitting what will fit in the form on the 2021 Budget engagement page. I could submit a 3 minute video or speak for 3 minutes, and yet the limit of 400 words for submitting a question is much more restricted. When I read my question, it takes 28 seconds. Why the disparity? It feels inequitable. The question will not make much sense to residents without the background I included above.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my total dismay at the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.** Most importantly, **we need to be equipping communities with the resources to provide for their own safety and wellbeing, not throwing money at a police department with a track record of unsolicited violence and harassment of racialized minorities, the unhoused, and those living with mental illnesses.**

In 2017, Michael Regis of the UVIC School of Public Administration published a report titled [**Policing in Greater Victoria: A Study in Addressing the Gaps in Engaging Greater Victoria's Diverse Communities.**](#) It has been consistently ignored by the Police Board despite containing incredibly troubling evidence of blatant police misconduct, and worse. Here are some excerpts:

- **Profiling and over-surveillance were consistent themes within the findings of Muslim, Aboriginal and African-Caribbean groups of this project.** They indicated that African-Caribbean residents feel that they are unjustly targeted, stopped, ticketed and maltreated by the GVP and are profiled at a greater rate than any other race.... Similarly, the findings indicated that **Aboriginal residents of Greater Victoria are regularly profiled by the GVP** because of their race and regardless of criminal history. This is highlighted within the literature which indicates that Aboriginal people are stopped by police, overcharged, detained, held without bail and sentenced to jail at a far greater rate than any other racial group in Canada. (p. 70)
- One participant mentioned that her son is **regularly targeted and stopped by the Greater Victoria Police even though he is not involved in crime.** Her son is scared to leave his home because he hates being pulled over so frequently. He is a construction worker and is regularly stopped as he is walking home from work, even though he has his construction tool belt and work clothes on. She stated that officers are rude to her son and **do not offer him a rational reason for being stopped.** In another experience, her son was stopped by officers after buying a drink at a corner store. An officer grabbed his drink without asking and smelled it to see if there was alcohol in it. (p. 33)
- A young adult participant shared an experience of going out for ice cream in Victoria with one of her friends late at night. She noted that neither she nor her friend looked rough or suspicious in their appearance. She stated that when walking down the street, the police drove by and looped back around, stopping in the middle of the road near where they were standing. One officer looked over at the participant and asked her for her name while ignoring her friend who is white. The participant disclosed her name and the officer looked at her and responded with a cocky "ok" while slowly driving away. The participant was dismayed that they did not ask her white friend for her name, or disclose why he stopped both of them. She felt that the experience ruined her night and is confused why the

*police of Greater Victoria always think she is up to something sinister. **The participant mentioned that she is consistently stopped by the GVP for no apparent reason other than being African-Caribbean.** (p. 38)*

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." **Action would look like divesting millions from the VicPD and investing in affordable, public housing, for example.** But instead, **I am appalled that the city I have called home my entire life would prefer to invest more money in the police force which has worsened conditions for those living unhoused in this unaffordable city.** The confiscation of personal belongings on Pandora St earlier this year and the removal of crowdfunded showers from Beacon Hill in November were horrific and should have led to consequences for VicPD. However, these events are sadly consistent with the way law enforcement rolls in this city and I am dismayed that municipal government continues to be complicit.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most marginalized community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

VicPD have proved themselves completely incapable of being attuned to inclusive community safety and wellbeing. **Why on earth does VicPD own a militarized vehicle, essentially a tank, which cost \$320,000?** According to the police [statistics made available by the provincial government](#), VicPD in 2019 alone:

- threatened to shoot 119 people;
- threatened 24 people with 'extended range impact weapons';
- shot 12 more people not included in the stats above (including a woman who was shot and killed on Christmas Day by three projectiles in the back of the head and neck);
- threatened to taze at least 41 people;
- tazed 14 more people;
- threatened to pepper spray 10 people;
- pepper sprayed 18 more people;
- threatened 52 people with police dogs and had the dogs bite at least 4 people.

At the very least the VicPD budget should be frozen so that precious municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to much more beneficial community services. **I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate the single biggest piece of the budget pie to the VicPD. From a purely financial perspective, this is preposterous** for numerous reasons, including the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure -- 23% of the City's total operational budget** is absurd
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget,**

allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

Please reflect on this and use your power to create a safer, more inclusive city for all by immediately freezing the VicPD budget and beginning to divest resources from police in favour of productive, nonviolent community services.

Sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Budget 2021
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Engage Victoria, Mayor and Council, Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board, Considering the knowledge that Victoria is on unceded territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt nations and that Victoria, British Columbia, and Canada as institutions are founded on colonial control and cultural genocide as determined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there are a few aspects of the 2021 draft budget for the City of Victoria that are highly concerning to me.

First, considering the above and the fact that Victoria has committed to work towards 'reconciliation' and relationships with local nations, I am concerned with the fact that the Draft Financial Plan neglects to substantially address Indigenous sovereignty or engagement with Indigenous nations. While COVID-19 undoubtedly had a drastic impact on the City's finances, the City has a clear responsibility to consider the redistribution of stolen land and wealth by including nation-to-nation engagement as an important part of the 2021 budget.

Additionally, I want to express my deep concern with the proposed 1.5% increase to the VicPD. By increasingly funding the police in each budget, the City is deprioritizing the health and safety of those most vulnerable. Increased funding of police systems and bylaw enforcement is a highly expensive and clearly ineffective way to address homelessness, poverty, substance use, and community mental health concerns. I am asking that there is a freeze to the 2021 VicPD police budget, and further funding allocated towards alternatives to police systems. A city budget, 23% of which goes to policing, is not an equitable budget that is focused on reconciliation and relationships with local nations, but rather one that prioritizes the politics and desires of those with land, money, and power. Please freeze the VicPD police budget.

Finally, I am highly concerned with the fact that the 2021 budget has a decreased budget for affordable housing. As an outreach worker in the field of harm reduction for the past 8 years, two of which have been in Victoria, I have seen first hand the desperate need for access to housing for seniors, Indigenous people, youth, and others who are experiencing homelessness. While housing is often passed off as provincial jurisdiction, the City has an innate responsibility to address this need immediately by allocating a significant portion of its budget to solving the problem, and doing so with guidance from local nations so as to not further colonial control of unceded territory.

By freezing or reducing the VicPD budget, funds could easily be allocated towards affordable housing and community-based support systems. I am asking that we reflect our values in the 2021 budget and instead of investing in further forms of colonial control and criminalization of vulnerable populations, that we freeze the VicPD budget and instead invest in community needs.

Thank you for your time

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Not responsive
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- -COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
-
- -As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
-
- -According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
-
- -The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
-
- -The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - -In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
-
- -Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: "2021 Draft Budget Feedback"

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello

Firstly I would like to thank the City for providing an accessible version of the budget summary. I was unable however to register to participate in the on line survey as this process was not accessible. I also tried to fill in the form to submit a question for the budget townhall next Wednesday and this was also not accessible so I am submitting my question in this email. Please confirm receipt and that my question will be asked.

Question:

In the budget summary there is a section outlining reserves. The Accessibility Reserve is not mentioned. I would like to know what has happened to this fund. It appears to be no longer in existence. If this is the case, does the City not anticipate any further accessibility spending or has it now been anticipated in annual departmental budgets? How has the \$1,000,000 plus that has been put into this reserve over the past five years been spent? I recall that there was a significant amount left reported during last year's budget process.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 9:57 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Victoria, BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 9, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Horgan.MLA, John; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; murray.rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Proposed Budget Feedback [NO POLICE INCREASE]
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, may not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear **Elected** Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen and the limited municipal resources be more appropriately allocated to groups that are restorative and uplifting rather than violent and punitive, especially for communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a VicPD budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- **As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.**
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget**

In addition, I believe that the City's Consolidated Financial Plan to increase the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years **should be cancelled**.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use the power entrusted in you by us, your constituents, to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 9:36 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: POLICE FUNDING

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Instead of increasing the VICPD fund, I believe we should be putting our money and time into helping the homeless population. Having mental health nurses at the frontline would be the most beneficial. A majority of people living on the streets are using because of undiagnosed mental health issues or growing up in a unstable household. Helping rather than hurting those who need it most!

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 8:30 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

As a resident in Victoria for the past 15 years, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget. The VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need. I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD. I am calling for appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to take action.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or [freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operating budget**.
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and culture, and **\$10.7 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing. **and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget of 1.5% over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to diversify the City's revenue**. Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racial violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city."

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted communities: Indigenous people, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transitional housing, and support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnership with the community and **increasing the VicPD budget**.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with the community.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information



ReplyForward

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 7:02 PM
To: Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I have lived in Victoria my whole life and have seen this city grow in numerous ways, giving me hope for the future, however after seeing that the municipal budget to the VicPD is increasing instead of decreasing or staying the same after everything that has happened this year, is more than a little heartbreaking and frankly appalling. As a Canadian and Victorian citizen and just a human being in general I believe that there are better and more productive ways of keeping our world and community safe and just. Giving more support to the police department is not one of those ways, especially in society's current state.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk. Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Some heartfelt feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board, elected officials, governing people:

Hello, and thanks in advance for your time. You might notice that this resembles lots of emails that come in, that is because I copied & pasted from an activist's instagram. I have made many edits where my personal opinions shine through and hope that you will read this thoroughly. It comes from a sincere place <3

After years of living here, and finally becoming involved with local politics in 2020, I don't like the things I see on instagram. The Vic PD account is scary. Activists are angry, tired & grumpy. It sucks and it's scary for everyone involved.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed increase in the VicPD budget. Freeze it. Lower it. These resources belong to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

Why?

-COVID19.

-Vancouver froze their budget. What are we doing out here? Why?

-We spend more on our hard working cops than anyone else in Canada, if I'm correctly informed. This to me is the main red flag, and what has prompted me to write my first ever politically charged email. The patterns I've identified in budget allocation looks symptomatic of something I've learned about in Let's Know Things, an amazing podcast which increases knowledge and spreads rationality. One episode speaks to how police unions can slowly, almost accidentally or seemingly as a matter of natural course - cost the people more and more as pressure slowly increases. I think a truly brave, knowledgeable, rational government would know what to do here. I have faith that we can agree that safety is the true goal, and that police have a smaller, not larger part than the more 'privileged' among us are willing to admit.

Freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

"Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city."

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, let's fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

Sincerely, lovingly,

Personal information

PS I don't know if it's common to hear back from these kinds of email threads, but I'm listening, and I want to know why we proposed this increase. Please reply to me :)

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Stephen Andrew; Geoff Young (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Engagement
Subject: Proposed - Mile O green space
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

January 8th, 2021

Dear Mayor Helps and respected councillors,

I would like to start by saying that I am a proud Victorian, born and raised. I live in James Bay near Dallas Rd. I consider myself extremely fortunate to live in an amazing city and a beautiful neighbourhood. I am writing to you all to bring up an issue that has me troubled. In your Budget Summary for 2021 I noticed bullet point number five;

"Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile O and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space."

I must say, the removal of that road would be ill advised. Here are my reasons:

1.) It is my understanding that the section of road you are proposing to remove is part of Circle Drive. If I am not mistaken that was once a race track in the 1800's. Would that not make it historically significant? Are you planning on re-naming that road as it would no longer be circular? In a city rich with history, with an affinity to try and protect and maintain that history, it seems odd you would disregard this portion of Victoria as not being important enough to protect.

2.) As a close resident of the area in question, I can say with all honesty that the road you're hoping to remove is by and large the more used road by motorists going north and south on Douglas St. Why is that? For starters, if you're driving south towards Dallas Rd it is much easier and safer to turn left as you have perfect sight lines in both directions. Motorists heading west on Dallas can easily follow the curve of the park and head up north on Douglas, instead of having to turn right at the Mile O sign and drive up the hill. Those who drive that area regularly know that to turn left onto Dallas from the other Douglas Rd is particularly difficult as it is a T intersection with no line of sight for vehicles travelling east on Dallas Rd. It is quite common to see motorists slam on their brakes who are turning left off Douglas because a vehicle comes whipping around that blind corner too fast.

3.) One issue that may have been overlooked is the tourist bus industry, who ferry sightseers to Mile O and the Terry Fox Monument regularly in the spring and summer months. Currently buses are able to park along Dallas Rd near Mile O facing west. Buses travelling south on Douglas to Dallas Rd can easily use the left jog of Douglas to safely turn right onto Dallas and park at their designated spot. Upon departure they may continue west along Dallas or they can turn right onto Douglas St and head back north from where they came. Effectively, they are using the roads exactly how it's designed, like a triangle. I ask you, if you remove a portion of that triangle, how do the buses reach their stop? It seems to me there are only two options. The first would be any bus travelling south on Douglas

would have to turn at the Watering Can and connect onto "Circle Drive", pass the petting zoo and the totem pole before exiting on Dallas Rd. Seems simple enough. My only argument is that increasing the volume of buses by hundreds through a park that is supposed to be geared towards pedestrians seems a bit counterproductive. More buses, more noise and more pollution through a park seems wrong. So, the other option I can think of is having the buses heading farther east to Cook St. There they can travel through Cook St Village, past a kid's playground and towards Dallas Rd to turn right. I'm pretty sure the residents of Cook St and Cook St Village would have something to say if hundreds more buses were driving south towards Dallas Rd for the same reasons going through the park is a bad idea. More noise, more pollution. So I ask again, what about the tour buses?

4.) Another issue that will arise if that road is removed is parking. There are currently up to 12 parking spots along that stretch of road along the park side. Some spots are used by visitors from time to time who are either visiting the park or someone in the neighbourhood. Some of those spots are used by care workers who work at nearby senior homes, Amica being the closest one. Even the odd camper can be seen parked there for a day or two. Regardless of who is using it, they are much needed spots. In an area that is already sparse of parking, taking away those would put added pressure on the surrounding residents. Those parking spots are very important to those who use them regularly.

5.) At the moment when travelling south on Douglas the road forks at Battery St. One veers left towards Dallas Rd while the other continues straight down towards Dallas Rd past the monuments. At that fork is a large painted median or "island". Delivery trucks who deliver goods and food to Amica, the assisted senior living complex on Douglas use that island to park and unload. They are off the road and do not block line of sight to any motorists traveling by. They park there because Amica does not have a commercial parking zone on Douglas, nor on Battery or Niagara St. Amica relies on that median for its deliveries. Removing the road and altering Douglas to be just one straight road would eliminate that median. So where do the delivery trucks park? Sounds like Amica's problem. A problem you will have created for them.

6.) This last point really hits home for me, as it directly affects me. There are currently over 100 people living on the first block of Douglas St in 4 different rental properties, myself being one of them. Right now we enjoy the relative peace and quiet from the traffic that goes by these properties. That is in large part due to the fact most traffic takes the other leg of Douglas. That other road, the road you're hoping to remove, truly gives us a reprieve. Taking that away will mean all the traffic will be coming and going out front of our buildings all the time. More noise, more pollution, more traffic. Half will be heading south towards a T intersection that is already very difficult to turn left at. But they won't have a choice. All the other traffic travelling north up Douglas off of Dallas will have to accelerate up the hill, because they won't have a choice. Meanwhile, us residents will have to endure that added traffic and noise because we won't have a choice. It seems a bit unfair.

Now, I am not naive. I am aware that proposed alterations at Mile O have been ongoing well before I was even born. I am aware that the James Bay Neighbourhood Association, led by Marg Gardner, have been working hard for years to make their own alterations come to fruition. All come from a place of good intentions. But in reality, that small stretch of road is truly essential. To remove it so as to create a continuous green space and connect Beacon Hill Park with the Mile O greens, in an area that is already rich in green space, seems a bit near sighted. I understand the need by many to have better accessibility into the park. I feel that with additional sidewalks/paths on Douglas and Dallas on the park side, along with a few more lighted crosswalks could solve a lot of problems and promote traffic calming. It would also be a lot more cost effective than what you are proposing.

I'll finish with this. In your budget summary you state that because of the pandemic funds are much tighter. On that basis alone it seems weird that it is even on the budget for this year? It seems like those funds could be used elsewhere on more pressing projects. Until our economy recovers it seems irresponsible to spend that kind of money at a time like this on a project that in my opinion would create more problems than solve. I am more than happy to speak to anyone within the Engineering and Public Works department, or a council person or even the mayor herself to offer up my 2 cents on what should be done in regards to this project and offer up other solutions on how to connect Beacon Hill Park and Mile O effectively.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I look forward to reply.

Sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 3:12 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca
Subject: Budget consultation - decrease VicPD's budget
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Victoria City Council and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

As you consider your options for the upcoming municipal budget, please consider freezing or decreasing the VicPD budget. When everyone else in Victoria is struggling and every other municipal department is facing restraint I cannot fathom how you could support a single penny more spent on the already inflated VicPD budget.

VicPD already takes by far the largest portion of the municipal budget - and VicPD already has more officers per capita than any other municipality in the entire country with more than 100,000 people.

COVID-19 is requiring everyone to make financially responsible decisions. VicPD should not be an exception. If Chief Del Manak can't figure out how to manage a budget just like everyone else, he is failing at his job. There are plenty of courses at Camosun College on fiscal management - I would support a one time budget line to help pay for his tuition fees if that would help.

Municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze or decrease the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Sincerely
Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Let's talk about housing!

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Mayor and Council:

Or rather - based on the paltry sums dedicated to affordable housing, or housing of any kind, that are contained in the draft budget I can only presume that you in fact DON'T want to talk about housing. This is despite the fact that how difficult it is to obtain and retain decent, affordable housing routinely comes in as a top concern in the Victoria Vital Signs report. In fact as you can see in the image below this indicator has been drifting lower each and every year (from page 7 of https://victoriafoundation.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Victoria-Vital-Signs-Main-Report_FINAL-Aug-24.pdf)

GRADING SUMMARY

- The 2020 overall Quality of Life grade is B.
- Although the five point scale was adjusted to include 13 grades, some increases and decreases may reflect this change in measurement.

Key Issue Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Arts and Culture	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
Belonging and Engagement	B-	B-	B	B-	B -	B -	B -
Economy	C+	C+	C+	C+	B-	B-	B-
Environmental Sustainability	B-	B	B	B-	B	B	B
Getting started in our community	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-	B-
Health and Wellness	B	B	B	B-	B-	B-	B-
Housing	C	C	C	C-	C-	C-	C-
Learning	B+	B	B	B	B	B	B
Safety	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Sports and Recreation	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
Standard of Living	B	C+	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+
Transportation	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+	C+	C+

I would like you to consider the following changes to the draft budget to make more funds available for affordable housing as well as for providing the basic levels of sanitation/hygiene and other services that should be freely on offer to those currently sheltering in our parks due to COVID-19 forcing them out of shelters:

- Do NOT re-allocate the Late Night Task Force money back to the VicPD allocation but rather keep it to address homeless supports (page 136)
- Increase property tax by 3.5% (rather than the 1.75% proposed) and put the additional \$2.5 million this will generate into getting people out of tents into something like tiny homes or Conestoga huts while they wait for more suitable housing to be constructed
- Do not move \$3,517,740 to a contingency reserve account for unspecified emergencies (pages 547-548) but rather use this money to work on providing affordable housing for people throughout Victoria immediately whether by using this money for rent supplements or using other approaches

I would urge you to be bold in these difficult times. What lessons can we learn from other jurisdictions and organizations? For example, Chef Jose Andres of World Central Kitchen (<https://wck.org/>) has brought chefs together across America to address COVID (and other disaster) related hunger. He has turned his restaurants into community kitchens. The Red Cedar initiative in Victoria is great but we need to expand on that and see how we can diversify it into other sectors.

I will close with a link to a video of Al, an unhoused person currently sheltering in Beacon Hill park, reciting a poem he wrote about the deplorable state of housing ... in 1998.

Personal information

Personal information

Victoria, BC V8S 4C1

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board Members,

As someone who has lived in Victoria for nearly my entire life, I feel strongly about doing my part to make this city the best it can be for all who live here. As such, I am writing to say that I vehemently oppose any increase in budget to the Victoria Police Department, as proposed in the 2021 Draft Budget.

A 1.5% increase may seem inconsequential, but this money is desperately needed elsewhere, and there is no reason that a department that already gets such a high portion of the total operational budget should be given even more resources. In fact, given the research showing that police in Canada disproportionately kill Black and Indigenous people, police departments should be given MUCH LESS funding (sources: <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform-custom/deadly-force>; updated with 2020 data: <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/fatalpoliceencounters/>). The numbers in these reports are not accidents or coincidental; they show racism at work. Mayor Helps said on June 3, 2020 that “Each of us must stand up and call out racism of any sort, anywhere, and anytime, each and every time we witness it. We must have those hard conversations. We must truly listen when people share their experiences of racism in Victoria.” If you had done the “listening” and “learning” that you said you would do, you would know that this action, of NOT increasing the police budget, is the absolute least that must be done.

These funds could instead be used (for example) to provide much needed support to the houseless people in Victoria who are so often vulnerable to the police themselves, who are, as well, facing winter weather AND the COVID-19 pandemic. As a society, we stigmatize poverty and use the police to do it. It does not have to be this way.

This money, and future funds designated for the police, could be used for profound change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Personal
information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Good morning....thank you for the opportunity to again weigh in on your proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. This will be year #3 whereby I have requested a thorough (core) review of city services to ensure (a) we are only delivering on what is needed (b) we are providing services in the most cost effective manner (c) all managers are aggressively looking at ways to ensure budget dollars are not wasted.

Some observations for your consideration which absolutely require a review to allow for my points above to be implemented...

- street sweeping achieves little as parked cars don't allow for curbs to be cleaned. Weeds grow/asphalt breaks/potholes materialize. But yet no one changes that model. Sweeping the centre of any road is wasteful but year after year you continue
- why does a corner near my home have four street signs?. One on each corner! Cannot one post accommodate two signs and that be sufficient. What cost for materials and installation could be saved?
- a recent lament to one of your supervisors (sic) over a 40 minute coffee break of his crew was met with a dismissive attitude.
- why does city crewed work take so long to complete? Witness a 5 month project on Higgins Street several months ago.....a project which would have taken weeks as per a private contractor's estimate. Similar lengthy timeframes on traffic light installs on Cook at Haultain and Cook and Princess. A 2 1/2 day project on my street last year with crews disappearing at 1:30 on a Friday with work still not done
- why do five men pick up my garbage when Saanich has one? I can roll my cans back into the yard but apparently staff have to roll it out....logic please?

So, my questions remain, given the above noted examples of questionable productivity and lack of judgement.....

- what are senior managers paid to do if not examine methods of cost savings
- why does a budget have to begin with any increase? I managed a small Crown Corp for 16 years and had one increase to my budget. Never would I have thought to ask for more each year. And I returned a surplus in all but one of those years. Guess what...we did without. We changed procedures / processes / worked harder.

With 55% of Victorians renting, I guess they don't get a tax bill. I get one every year and am tired of increases without a corresponding increase / improvement / excellence in delivery of services.

Have courage. ... eliminate items like poets and artists, contract out more and get value for dollar, examine everything you do and be serious in making Victoria a great place to live.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts. A reply specific to my comments would be welcomed. Don't reply if its a form letter. :).

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 10:21 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello Mayor, Council, engagement staff and others,

I'm writing to provide input on the city's current budget consultation. I've completed the online consultation, but was disappointed to see that direct consultation on the 1.5% increase to the policing budget was sidestepped by the engagement staff in the consultation process design.

I am therefore taking the time to write to you directly to express my opposition to this proposed increase to the policing budget and to ask you to instead direct that funding to community services that seek to solve the dire poverty, homelessness and suffering we see in our parks and streets, rather than policing it.

Previous years' increases to policing's already-ballooning budget have only resulted in demands for more budget increases, despite the fact that we already spend significantly more on policing than any other major Canadian city. Something is broken here.

Is it responsible to keep throwing more money at this issue, rather than to possibly consider that the policing model in Victoria as it stands is not working? I am not in any way anti-police, but I hope you would all agree that using police as a frontline response to deal with the desperately poor and those struggling with mental health issues is an inefficient use of the unique expertise and skills held by police officers.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback.

Yours in relentless hope for a better tomorrow,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a Victoria resident, I live in Fernwood and love our city.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am asking that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I do not support Victoria's governing bodies continually allocating a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change**

it's incredibly alarming to see the city of planning on increasing the budget of the Victoria police department yet again instead of using those funds that could benefit the citizens of the city who are struggling during these trying times. During 2020 I witnessed my neighbours house be raided by the VicPD during the afternoon

where some kind of smoke bomb/flash bang was used without any warning, causing a massive bang and completely terrifying my partner (a city of victoria employee) who was sleeping preparing for an evening shift as well as completely scaring our neighbours children was a moment where I truly questioned why do we spend so much money on policing in our cities? A total of 3 people were arrested and I think 5 police vehicles and around 10 officers were present most of whom were standing around talking and one being sent to go buy smokes. Also that large military style vehicle that the VicPD purchased (sent to a mental health call on hillside) has got to be one of the most confusion purchases made in the 27 years I have called Victoria my home, this is not a warzone, this is Victoria BC. Please let us focus our money towards helping those who really need it. Victoria restaurants are struggling and could do wonders with some assistance from the local government, but more importantly the relationship between housed and unhoused citizens is becoming very dark and with shelters closed and housing prices being out of control demonizing these folks without offering any resources to them is just adding insult to injury to these people who just need a helping hand instead of having their items throw away and their temporary homes being intimidated by police. Please let us move past the absurdly large 60 million of the budget for police? saying it out is just so hard. 60 MILLION? and only 23 million for parks? and ONLY 6 million for community development and sustainable planning? what would we be able to accomplish if we allocated 10 million for community development?

please consider a different approach.

best,

Victoria Citizen

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely, **Personal
information**

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Engagement

Please increase budget for downtown an embarrassing mess. More police plus more effort to remove street people who are drug dealers and so addicted they are shooting up in public in front of children ,tourists ,and city taxpayers. A secure treatment facility/ jail is our only hope. We closed Riverview in 1980's and never provided an implementable alternative. Signed Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 8:09 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 8, 2021 4:52 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Concerns
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city, which I witnessed at multiple events that I attended this year, including the disgusting treatment of Indigenous Youth at parliament, and the actions of the Vic PD in regards to the mural downtown. Please keep in mind that this unreasonably large budget for the police will quite literally kill people in Victoria.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:39 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Hello,

Below is my primary concern in regards to the 2021 Draft Budget.

As an Indigenous person I appreciate the City's priority in commitment to Indigenous relations and reconciliation however I find this focal point to be in harsh contrast with the increased police budget. I have countless first and second hand experience with police endangering indigenous peoples in my life time and I'm only 22. Police and RCMP do not symbolize safety for us, quite the opposite, both historically and in present day they symbolize violence. It is very concerning to me to see so much of the budget going towards police funding. If the city wants to actively work on healing its relationship with the indigenous population it will not be well achieved by increasing police presence. Victoria already has the highest presence of police officers per 100,000 people out of everywhere in Canada and I simply cannot fathom why there would need to be more. Maintaining a safe city is important but there are many ways to do this that do not involve increasing Police.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:52 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:05 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. For instance providing needed housing and services for the hundreds of people sleeping outside in tents in parks (and parking lots) across the city each night.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater and greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. A budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time.

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure.
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Since the start of the pandemic, Victoria recreation activities have ceased, with Crystal Pool remaining unopened. While the municipality of Oak Bay and other neighbouring municipalities have restarted their recreation programs, which are inaccessible to most low income families without the transportation means to drive long distances to access recreation. Recreation will do for more for community good than policing.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like mental health services, housing initiatives, harm reduction services, hygiene and sanitation services, recreation programs, arts and cultural programs and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:53 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:31 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials,

I have lived in Victoria for 23 years. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide input on the 2021 Draft Budget.

In particular, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence and treatment continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

For example, my partner (who is a person of colour) was injured in downtown Victoria a few years ago at about 3:50pm on a weekday. **Personal information**

The only plausible explanation for this unjust treatment by the officer is my partner's skin colour.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Thank you for your consideration. Please know I love our community and believe there is a need for policing, but there is a greater need for policing reform. The first meaningful step you can take is to listen to the calls from BIPOC and freeze the VicPD budget. Now is not the time for an increase to their budget.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:25 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 CITY BUDGET

Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

too many police not enough art (its sad)

- A lifelong victoria resident

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@victoria.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; pssg.minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

Further to this, mental health checks, save injection sites and other issues of the sort should be dealt with by trained professionals in the correct field rather than the VicPD which would allow for their expenditures to lessen.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Victoria, BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a Victoria resident and law student writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Over the past 3 years I have seen the VicPD criminalize racialized and Indigenous people, as our homeless population grows and becomes more displaced.

I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:50 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Engagement; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am asking that you please consider that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

The history of actions committed by the VicPD is evidence enough that there is corruption within it's system.

Increased policing in unhoused communities threatens people's lives.

It is upsetting to see that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following reasons:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to please **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

The people of Victoria are depending on you, please consider this.

Thank you

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria Police Board,

I am a longtime resident of Victoria (8 years). I love the city of Victoria and I believe that as a responsible citizen it is the duty of both citizens and lawmakers to work towards creating a better future together.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

I was appalled at the treatment of Indigenous youth at the legislature arrests this February. I am continually appalled by the forced relocation of houseless individuals, the destruction of their belongings and removal of community-led showering facilities intended to support their fundamental needs. The City of Victoria reallocated \$52,000 to the VicPD to increase policing of unhoused communities around Topaz Park, violating their human rights.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

This is the opportunity to repair these damages. I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Engagement
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

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--

Thank you,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; pssg.minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

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In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries. Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:40 PM
Subject: Opposition to Vic PD Budget Increase
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

(Victoria/Fernwood resident)

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback"
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear City of Victoria staff, Elected Officials, and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. I am requesting that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the bare minimum — **reduction being the ideal** — action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divert resources from the Victoria Police Department towards strengthening our community through non-coercive means and institutions.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely, **Personal information**

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

As a new resident of Victoria, a UVIC student, and an active member of my community, I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. In the light of this week's events at the US Capitol building, police spending is as under scrutiny as ever more.

I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback - Dana
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing you to voice my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change**

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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I have seen time after time, the city relocating and gating public spaces to hinder homeless people from taking shelter. Every time the police are called, they are absolutely impractical at solving anything. It's disgusting that the City of Victoria reallocated \$52000 to the VicPD to increase the policing of the homeless around Topaz Park. It's a fruitless tactic that doesn't help local communities nor the unhoused.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal
information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:31 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,
I've lived in Victoria since 2013, I've been educated here and now live in James Bay. I watched closely as the police forcefully moved people needing to emergency shelter due to covid from place to place to (in my opinion) appease land owners. The treatment I saw and heard from my friends volunteering to support those in need due to covid, absolutely disgusted me. Our community poured in donations of goods and sheltering materials which were thrown out by the police in order to force people to relocate. Police also antagonized some of our most vulnerable individuals that our province swore to protect during covid. I cannot support an increase in funding to the police budget in my municipality, or the continuation of this treatment of our homeless population. I want to see resources for supporting our communities increased. How can we rebuild relationships with each other if we prioritize suppression and policing over our parks, libraries, and community development?

In addition, at the Wetsewetun protests I watched police repeatedly try to escalate peaceful protests and arrest 5 youth advocating for their Indigenous rights in a peaceful sit in. They also reported to the media skewed representations of messages such as "land back" written in chalk paint (which washed off) which gave the impression the protestors were vandals. This portrayal of land rights defenders as violent was reported to people across the country, including my mother who became very worried about me due to these large media articles, despite the organization, and supportive community of the land defenders which the police did not portray.

It's been a year of reckoning about police, how can we ignore the marches and protests for Canadian lives that were lost involving the police? It would be irresponsible to increase the policing budget in light of the year we have had. I would even consider it disrespectful.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**

- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

As an indigenous youth in the city of Victoria I am personally and deeply affected by the atrocities of Victorias police department such as when over 30 armed VicPD officers arrested 12 Indigenous youth at the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources in January 2020, detaining 5 indigenous youth for over 5 hours without access to their phones or legal representation for attending a peaceful sit in. Not to mention the treatment of Victoria's unhoused population; \$52 000 being allocated to increase policing of unhoused communities does nothing more than perpetuate violence and discrimination. I have personally watched the people in this city grow exhausted and appalled by our local government prioritizing the policing of BIPOCs and unhoused peoples over supporting these marginalized communities.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor)
Subject: 2021 DRAFT BUDGET FEEDBACK
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Personal
information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. As a resident who has lived in Victoria for nearly a decade, I have come to believe wholeheartedly that Victoria has entirely too many officers for a city of our size. Why on earth do we need the largest police presence (214/10,000 residence) in a major Canadian city, eclipsing Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa and Halifax, among others? Our police force is tone deaf and often abuses their power, which does nothing to improve our city.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I have been thoroughly disgusted at how VicPD handles any conflict, from being offended at a mural and demanding an apology from the artists; claiming their entire police force was completely innocent of knowing that "the thin blue line" meant (they have hundreds of staff - does no one know how to google?! Shame on them); forcibly moving and removing our houseless population when citizens are trying to help the houseless so they may live with some dignity. I was appalled at how the police bullied the Indigeounous Youth who were exercising their right to peaceful protest in January 2020. This is not a police force who works to better their community, but rather to enforce white-male supremacy and it has no place in this city.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city **must** prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

Hello, my name is Personal information. I was born in Victoria and have lived in many municipalities here. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback
Categories: Tracked To Dynamics 365 (Undeliverable)

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- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely.

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:39 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

As a constituent of Victoria for the last decade, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
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 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

In my time living here, I have seen a drastic increase in folks who are unable to access the services that they actually require. I have watched friends be handcuffed and taken to the police station when in the middle of a mental health crisis. I have had friends lose their housing and be forced onto the streets. I have seen friends

struggle with addiction and be unable to access support services. Increased policing does not help these people.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.
Yours sincerely,

Personal information

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I'm a very concerned Victoria resident writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. This, quite frankly, is insane. **I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:**

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** I have been a citizen residing in Victoria for the last 5 years. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our

most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 police budget

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services,

transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Personal information
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.

As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently voted to freeze their police funding for 2021.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.

The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.

The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.

In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.

Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: No police budget increase

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a resident of Victoria. I have lived here off and on for 7 years. Over the last two years, I have become increasingly disappointed in the actions of the Victoria Police Department. It has become increasingly clear to me that the VicPD does not keep the people safe, especially those of us who are already marginalized.

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Sincerely

Personal information

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--

Personal information

*Unceded Coast Salish Territories

*She/her

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; Board@vicpd.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a young citizen who has grown up in Victoria and lived here my whole life. I am so proud to call this city my hometown but am sorely disappointed in the recent actions taken by the Vic PD. At the start of the pandemic, I worked to gather donations and resources for the unhoused folks in the downtown core only to see them confiscated and destroyed by the police in an attempt to “clear” the people out. I watched as they arrested Indigenous youth who were peacefully demonstrating against practices that destroy our future. I continuously watch them dismantle any community efforts to help the vulnerable and offer no respect to civilians they are here to “help”. I can assure you that increasing their funding will not be beneficial in any way to the wellbeing and safety of our community. I write this email on behalf of a multitude of people who agree with this statement. The current state of our city shows that having a higher police budget has no effect on the safety of our community, given we currently already have the highest per capita police budget in all of Canada. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 draft budget feedback

To whom it may concern,

I am a Victoria resident, and have been for all my life. I have watched our city change and grow in capacity. And I am deeply concerned by the proposed budget for 2021 - did we not learn anything from this past year??

We watched as worldwide, police reflected racist attitudes and were used as a way to enact colonial violence upon marginalized people. The Victoria police departments operated in ways this last year that were abhorrent to me, and the city's response to increased needs due to a global pandemic were to *increase* policing rather than address needs that have been harming our community for decades.

The Victoria police enacted violence upon peaceful protests, where Indigenous YOUTH were simply sitting peacefully so that their voices would be taken into consideration. The Victoria police took such offence to a painting that they forced an artist to change what was designed to ask for justice. For peace. Are the egos of our police really so fragile? That we must pander? The Victoria police have been targeting the homeless and addicted population for decades, exacerbating, rather than solving anything.

What is more: Our city has desperately needed addiction support and housing for the homeless for my entire life. Read that again. My ENTIRE life in this city has been marked by the profound need of people that our city has chosen to police rather than protect. If we have money in our budget to allocate, this is where it should go. Community SUPPORT rather than community policing.

If 2020 taught us anything it should be that the services that police are called upon to offer are more often than not, inappropriate to their job title. Instead of accepting that police are overtaxed, fund the services that will take pressure off of them.

I cannot support an increase to the police budget, and would encourage reallocation of funds to sectors in greater need.

Sincerely,
Personal information

born and raised Victoria resident, hoping for a better future for this city

Rob Gordon

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Fw: Call to Freeze VicPD Budget

From: **Personal information**

Sent: January 6, 2021 3:26 PM

Subject: Call to Freeze VicPD Budget

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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S. 22

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:42 AM
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Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 8:02 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Personal information

(she/her)

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** lived, studied, and worked in and around the city of Victoria for the past 5 years. I moved to Victoria from Vancouver and became fond of the sense of community I found in a smaller city. However, as of the recent municipal budget proposal, I feel afraid for the well-being of my community - in particular my BIPOC brothers and sisters in this city.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, the VicPD budget should be frozen so that the limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

In the midst of a global movement to combat racism and police brutality and divest police funding, I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies are looking to allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 7:48 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Victoria City Budget - Police Budget Increase

Hi,

I am writing to express that the proposed increase in the police budget is not acceptable. Police are not an effective way to increase the "safety" of a city, however, they are an effective way to commit violence against houseless and marginalized people. I understand that the goal of the police budget is to reduce crime and enforce laws, but this is not the way to do it.

To reduce crime in victoria, we need to provide the people who are committing crimes with adequate access to mental health services and the resources they need to survive, so they do not have any reason to commit crimes.

To reduce the number of houseless people living outside in victoria (and thereby reduce the number of emails city council receives complaining about houseless people),

- We need to fund services which are based around social workers and people who understand and take a non-violent empathy based approach to helping and supporting houseless people.
- We need to fund housing first approaches with low barriers of access to acquiring housing. The recipients need to have the resources to be supported in their mental and physical health, so they can start a journey towards being able to live a self supporting lifestyle indoors in the long term.

Where is the money allocated towards affordable housing, which is listed as a priority in the budget?

Where is the money for extending washroom hours in parks overnight for cleaning, so houseless people and overnight workers can have their basic needs met?

Why is the Victoria housing reserve budget being decreased, while money is being allocated to Vic PD and bylaw officers to increase surveillance and punishment of houseless and marginalized people?

There is an immediate need for the people sheltering outside to have access to housing. The Victoria Housing Reserve has a 2.5 mil balance sitting dormant. Why isn't this money being put to use to provide people living outside with immediate access to housing? I would classify humans, residents of victoria, having to live outside and not have access to their basic needs a housing emergency. In fact, I can't think of what else would be a bigger emergency.

There is no funding alternative to policing specified. Why hasn't city council looked into and gathered input from vulnerable populations and the organizations that work with them into what would benefit them the most? Why isn't the city supporting programs that have been developed out of the research gathered from that work?

Overall, I am very disappointed with the fact that the city is choosing to increase surveillance and enforcement instead of putting money towards helping citizens of victoria who have just as much a right to live here as we do.

Personal information

Resident of Victoria BC

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 4:37 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

To whom it may concern,

My name **Personal information** writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 3:54 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Personal information

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From: Personal information
Sent: January 7, 2021 1:50 AM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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I was a part of many of the Black Lives Matter rallies and protests in the city. After speaking to various communities within the black communities and many other marginalized communities, I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:40 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 10:05 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Yours sincerely.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Geoff Young (Councillor)
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a young voter who is writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:29 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Councillors
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback — Police budget request

Good evening,

I have attended Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board meetings for nearly three years. In that time I have witnessed a Police Board that is disinterested in criticism of the harms of policing, or in any self-reflection about its role in proposing increased police budgets which directly fund those harms.

It is unacceptable at this point to be unaware of this fact, but if it is a needed reminder, the Victoria Police Department [profiles and surveils](#) Indigenous, Black and Muslim people, and it targets, harasses and harms people who live in poverty and people who use drugs. [Recent research](#) published in the Vancouver Sun, for example, found that VicPD recommends more charges for possession than other police force in southwestern B.C. — far, far more.

In 2019, VicPD [used weapons to threaten at least 248 people](#), including a minimum of 37 people they believed to be in mental health distress. That includes officers threatening to shoot 119 people, including at least 26 people VicPD believed to be in mental health distress. Also in 2019, VicPD used weapons on at least 48 people, including a minimum of 24 people (50%) they believed to be in mental health distress. And on Christmas Day, 2019, VicPD and the emergency response team shot and killed a woman by shooting her three times in the back of her head and neck with ARWEN rounds.

I write to request that City Council at a minimum freeze the Victoria Police Department's 2021 budget to 2020 levels, and preferably cut it far below that level to begin divesting from policing. If you support a planned quarter billion dollars in spending over the next four years on the Victoria Police Department, it means directly supporting continued violence and harm to the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:17 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 9:04 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 8:29 PM
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Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:43 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Geoff Young (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Ben Isitt (Councillor); board@vicpd.ca; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; pssg.minister@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: Vic Budget

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; grace.lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am writing to strongly urge that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

As a concerned Victoria citizen, I stood with the Indigenous land defenders at the beginning of 2020, and protested for Black and Indigenous lives and livelihoods throughout the summer. I was horrified to see the VicPD arrest — and detain for hours — 5 Indigenous youth following a peaceful sit-in at the legislature, and outraged to see the VicPD's recent interference with the IBPOC artists' murals which called for peace and justice. This city can absolutely do better than this, and I want to add my voice to those calling for the freezing of the VicPD's budget, and those voices strongly opposing the budget increase.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: S. 22
Sent: January 6, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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I have lived in Victoria my entire life, I work as a teacher for the Victoria School District, and I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions
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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Feedback on the 2021 draft budget

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Personal information

they/them

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am emailing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget in 2021. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that resources can be allocated to communities most in need and communities who are underfunded and ignored.

As a social worker working in Victoria, I have seen how harmful the increased police presence can be on our most vulnerable populations, when what these populations really need is compassion and support – and funding to be allocated towards supportive and preventative programs, rather than punishment. I have seen firsthand how beneficial these supportive programs are for our most vulnerable community members. If funding is allocated to Vic PD, it takes away from these supportive programs, and therefore decreases the quality of life of these community members.

As a social worker, I also take place in community activism and advocacy, and was appalled to witness the police brutality that took place at the legislative building last winter when Indigenous youth were defending their treaty rights and protecting their land. I have felt most unsafe in my 4 years in this city in the presence of its police officers, and fear for the safety and wellbeing of the communities I work alongside to consider increased police presence in the city. I have firsthand witnessed how police presence targets our most vulnerable community members – and how supportive programs protect them.

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Sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Also, if I can speak personally for a moment, I would like to say that I have lived in Victoria all of my life. I have worked full-time downtown in Victoria for 5 years now, and it is devastating to see what happens when community outreach and social/mental health services are underfunded and neglected. I see the symptoms the City of Victoria's neglect every day and I, along with so many other employees of business downtown that I have spoken to, now have had to diffuse unsafe situations with the vulnerable, addicted, and mentally ill population because they are not receiving the treatment and services and housing needed due to gross underfunding.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,
H.

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Board@vicpd.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Ben Isitt (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); premier@gov.bc.ca; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; Sarah Potts (Councillor); Stephen Andrew
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored. I have been horrified consistently at Vic PD's actions and the city's complicity in them, and they do not need nor deserve any extra money from the citizens they terrorise and make unsafe. I ask that you consider who the police protects and who it does not, who do you consider a citizen of 'Victoria' and who do you not?

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget feedback

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As a young person who has personally dedicated much of my time to volunteering within this city and for this community, including being part of both the City of Victoria Personal information and the VicPD's Chief Personal information I am extremely disappointed with this decision to increase the VicPD budget given the recent controversy surrounding the "More Justice More Peace" mural. Previously, I was proud to have been involved with the city and police department as I saw it as an opportunity for me as a female POC to create community change, however, I now realize that this city is not as committed to youth empowerment as I had once thought. The approval of this budget directly conflicts with youth-led and driven community initiatives that the city has committed itself to.

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 3:27 PM
Subject: Call to Freeze VicPD Budget

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

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Yours sincerely,

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Engagement
Subject: 2021 Budget Proposal #5 "Mile O"

Dear councilor:

Here we go again!

It was brought to my attention that in the budget summary for 2021 that point number 5 states;

- Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space.

Every few years someone on council, or in the Planning Dept, gets a brilliant idea to do something that will inevitably make life difficult for the 100 permanent residents living in the first block of Douglas St. Once again it's the old idea that "Beacon Hill Park is just not big enough", or some such nonsense, "so let's remove the road section between Dallas and Douglas next to the Mile O greens"; a section of road that is of historical significance, by the way, since it makes up part of Circle Drive which goes around and through the Park and which was famously used as "the horse racing track of the colony" back in the 1800's. I have two old maps, one from 1878 and the other from 1889 which show it very clearly.

Removing that short portion of road will accomplish nothing of any practical value, but it will cause considerable harm to the quality of life of the 100 or so people living in the first block of Douglas, between Dallas and Battery St. Over the years we have had to fight City Hall on more than a few occasions because of this same silly idea and a few others, dealing with our block. For example, some years ago a group of us went to City Hall to meet with Mayor Alan Lowe to ask him to have the cruise tour buses avoid turning left onto Douglas and instead proceed to the next intersection and turn left there, onto the very road that you are thinking of eliminating. One reason we asked for this was because there is a slight uphill grade in the first block of Douglas and the buses (hundreds of them) would accelerate all the way up, spewing their smelly, greasy smoke and making a hell of a racket all the way. It nearly drove us all crazy! Not only that, but if we left our windows open, as people do in the summer, it covered our curtains with soot! Thankfully, Alan Lowe agreed with us and spoke to the tour bus companies about staying off that section of Douglas St and so life went back to being pleasant again. Not only for us and our tenants but for the many, many tourists milling around the Mile O monument and crossing

Dallas Rd to get a closer look at the ocean. Needless to say, we were very grateful to City Hall, even though it was not their problem.

My family of 5^{Personal information}

for 75 years now and we've seen everything you can possibly imagine happen there. We know that spot better than anyone alive, and I tell you that this latest idea is totally unnecessary and a complete waste of money which the city cannot afford. Not to mention the fact that it will deeply affect, negatively, the enjoyment of those 100 people who spend their lives there, day in and day out! We're not tourists just out for a short walk, we live there and go about our daily lives right there, day after day. This matters to us in a big way!

One final point: as very longtime observers (and in our minds "caretakers") of that small bit of Victoria, we do not see people moving from Mile O into the Park going north. Nor vice versa: coming from the Park going south down to the monument. If anything, they move from the monument and across Dallas to look at the ocean. Or across Douglas to take pictures of our buildings, which they seem to find fascinating and beautiful. I happen to agree with them. Mile O has been our pride and joy for 75 years and we have always felt responsible for its care and maintenance. It is why we have always done our absolute best to keep our buildings and grounds as presentable as possible, because they are part of "the Mile O experience" for the tourists.

Please forget this idea of removing that "historical portion of road" in order to join the Mile O greens to the rest of the Park. It's not worth it! And we're getting very tired of fighting against it. Shifting 100 per cent of the traffic onto our block would be a dangerous mistake and detrimental to all of us who live there and love it the way it is.

Personal information

January 6, 2021

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 DRAFT BUDGET FEEDBACK

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca Thornton-Joe
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a graduate student at UVic, a policy analyst, and the Personal information . I have taken part in various protests and demonstrations over my 3 years of living as an uninvited visitor in Lekwungen Territory, many of which have been concerning the lives of folks who experience disproportional harm at the hands of the police and other carceral systems of the state. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

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I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
 - In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates **\$23.7 million** for parks, recreation, and facilities, **\$6.0 million** for sustainable planning and community development, and **\$5.6 million** for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. **Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.**

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 6, 2021 1:46 AM
Subject: My comments on the Victoria Police Budget

This message, in full or in part, and including the contact information of the sender, must not be sent or forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender.

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am a law student at the University of Victoria. I am South Asian and consider myself a racialized person. I live in Saanich but have lived in Victoria since September 2019. It is deeply upsetting that we continue to increase the funding of the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) when there are much better uses of taxpayer's money, particularly addressing the homelessness crisis, opioid epidemic, and lack of support for people afflicted by mental illness.

I have personally been the subject of racist profiling by police officers, at least two times, **Personal information**. Both times deeply troubled me and have undermined my faith in the "justice" system. While this has not happened to me during my time on Vancouver Island, that does not mean it does not happen over here. I have been fortunate enough to learn more about the rights that I have as a Canadian citizen, and the situations in which I must comply with requests from police officers.

Like many others, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the VicPD budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
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- The VicPD budget is the City's **highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.**

- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan **allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD**, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

I am happy to discuss further via email.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 9:10 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Importance: High

I strongly object to this: • Invest \$270,000 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space.

It's the first I've heard of it, and like the closing of other roads in the park, is **not** in the best interest of residents who use the park. Please explain the rationale of this plan.

Bus Passes: With regard to the plan to continue purchasing bus passes for youth, please purchase **only** those that are applied for. I recall that they weren't all used in 2020.

Seniors: It is high time that seniors were provided with free bus passes. Most are on limited income. This would support the plan to **go green**, in that it would prevent many vehicle trips. Seniors can't all use bikes.

Strategic Plan for Victoria:

Stop turning this city into a version of Vancouver with all the high rises and ugly poorly conceived residential structures that are being built. There are many other places in the CRD that can handle the increased density. It doesn't all need to happen within the municipality of Victoria.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 7:59 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget increase of 0% is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

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- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets, including the City of Vancouver that recently [voted to freeze](#) their police funding for 2021.
- According to [Statistics Canada](#), in 2019, VicPD had more officers per capita than any other municipality in Canada with more than 100,000 people.
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I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.**

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Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people

who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of IBPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely

Personal information

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Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget. I believe that the budget increase will allow the VicPD to continue to effectively and empathetically serve the community including members of the community who are marginalized.

As someone who has had to access their services and saw the understaffing and difficulties faced by law enforcement first hand, I am very pleased to see the budget increase. I believe a budget increase is appropriate at this time given the following:

- COVID-19 has resulted in an increase in domestic violence and more property crime;
- Victoria's population continues to grow and maintaining a safe community through a properly funded Police Department is increasingly important;
- the VicPD has demonstrated that they serve *all* community members in Victoria, especially marginally housed folks after successfully investigating crime in Centennial Square last summer.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to **support the safety of our community and the trust it has in our police department by ensuring the VicPD has the necessary resources to respond to all safety incidents.**

I support the allocation of other funds towards other community safety initiatives, like community outreach programs, mental health services, housing initiatives, harm reduction services, etc.) and eventually defunding the police. However, I believe there needs to be a lengthy period of overlapping services to ensure that when someone calls for help they are certain that it will come.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by increasing the VicPD budget while also meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely.

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 5, 2021 7:45 PM
To: Engagement
Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

My name **Personal information** I am a resident of the City of Victoria. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 1.5% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget for 2021. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is frozen so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need, and to communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I have been deeply disturbed by the behaviour displayed by VicPD toward marginalized and radicalized folks, and I do not believe that any budget increase would be appropriate at this time, for the following reasons:

- COVID-19 has resulted in a substantial decrease in revenue for the City of Victoria, requiring Council to make more fiscally responsible decisions for the 2021 budget cycle.
- The VicPD budget is the City's highest operating expenditure, with a whopping 23% of the City's total operational budget.
- The City of Victoria's 2021 Draft Financial Plan allocates \$60.7 million of its \$256 million budget to the VicPD, a 1.5% increase from 2020.
- In stark contrast, the draft operating budget only allocates \$23.7 million for parks, recreation, and facilities, \$6.0 million for sustainable planning and community development, and \$5.6 million for public libraries.
- Despite the already enormous allocation of city funds to the VicPD, the VicPD's budget is steadily increasing every year. From 2019-2020, the VicPD's budget increased by 4.43%. Between 2021 and 2024, the City's Consolidated Financial Plan commits to yearly increases to the VicPD budget, allocating over \$250 million — a quarter of a billion dollars — to the VicPD over the next four years.

As a resident of the City of Victoria, I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to freeze the VicPD budget and begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in meaningful change.

Mayor Helps' [Statement on the Need to Take Action Against Racism](#) on June 3, 2020 proclaimed that "condemning racism and building understanding requires more than words, it requires action." Unjust police violence continues to occur throughout North America, and right here in our city.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing more financial resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Personal information

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From: Personal information
Sent: January 4, 2021 5:10 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft Budget Feedback

January 3, 2021

Dear councillors:

I was just going over the 2021 Draft Budget Summary when I noticed #5 in the budget highlights.

“Invest \$270,000.00 in capital to remove the roadway between Mile Zero and Beacon Hill Park to create a continuous green space.”

You must be kidding, is this some kind of a joke?

Why would you spend money to remove a perfectly good street? All traffic travelling west on Dallas Road uses that street to connect to Douglas on their way downtown. They would be forced to turn at the T intersection at the foot of Douglas and drive in front of the apartment buildings at the end of that block. After years of disruption the owners and residents of those buildings lobbied successfully to get the tour buses to stop using that route. When cruise ships were in town, the noise and exhaust fumes from all the buses going by was almost unbearable. I can only imagine what it would be like if all the traffic from Dallas is forced to use that route all the time day and night.

In order to turn left onto Dallas at the existing curve there is a stop sign and good sight lines in both directions. If you have to turn left at the T intersection at the foot of Douglas the visibility to the west is restricted. With constant traffic it would be a high accident zone.

When was this ill conceived plan approved? I don't remember any public forms or discussion with stakeholders. Just all of a sudden there it is in the budget. There is not a logical reason given, it just states that you want to create a continuous green space. There is already a continuous green space running from Clover point to the Ogden Point Breakwater.

The very first sentence of your 2021 Draft Budget summary states

"The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted cities worldwide and the city of Victoria is no different. We're experiencing significant revenue reductions this year, which is projected to continue in 2021."

So why in all good conscience are you proposing to spent \$270,000.00 to remove a perfectly good roadway, that will disturb approximately 100 residents and to make the streets far more dangerous? There is crumbling infrastructure all around this city that needs attention. This is an unnecessary waste of limited resources.

Every year our property taxes increase, please focus on spending these taxes on essential projects not frivolous make work projects.

Your truly,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 2, 2021 7:58 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: Street and pedestrian lighting

In your 2021 Budget.

How many streets km do not have proper street and/or pedestrian lighting? Many street lights are not up to the current standards as they were installed many years ago.

Thank You
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: January 1, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Defund the 2021 VicPD Budget

I am writing to you today to express my absolute outrage regarding the Victoria Police Department 2021 Draft Budget. It is 23% of the total operational budget for the City of Victoria. This astronomical police budget is unacceptable and requires serious action. I call upon our elected officials to start divesting from the inherently violent institution that is the Victoria Police Department immediately.

I am asking that you, as an elected official, pledge to do the following:

1. To never again vote to increase the Victoria Police Department budget.
2. To prioritize the expansion of **community-led health and safety initiatives** over future financial investment into the Victoria Police Department.
3. To take direction from communities with lived experience of harm caused by policing.

In the face of cyclical police violence happening throughout North America right now, there is no better time to commit ourselves to change. What we need in Victoria is leadership that can initiate reform that aims towards the eventual abolition of police and prisons - and, in turn, the immense police violence that targets our most oppressed and repressed people.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe, rather it directly threatens the lives of our community members made most vulnerable (Black, Indigenous, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc). It is impossible to effectively reform the police to protect the marginalized communities they were designed to target, therefore, we must choose to transition towards abolition.

Instead of investing in the police, our city must prioritize alternatives like child care support, education, comprehensive mental health intervention and social support, peer-based programming, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, accessible rehabilitation, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, access to recreational facilities and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most oppressed and repressed communities, take leadership from, financially compensate and center the experiences of Black and Indigenous peoples in Vancouver.

I urge you all to reach out to redistribute our tax dollars and effect actual change in keeping communities safe by consulting directly with, funding, and otherwise supporting the local organisations that do amazing work helping our community members.

I'm asking that our city is among the first to eradicate the notion that police are necessary for safety and order, and that harmful policing is the only solution to the many issues we face as a community, when in fact the opposite is true. We must create a better future for all, and there is a surplus of evidence and experience to tell us that policing is not the answer and only causes further harm. Defunding the VicPD will save lives and increase the overall health of many intersecting communities in Victoria

As a resident here, this is a top priority for me and I'm asking you to listen to this concern seriously and to do everything in your power to address it. Significant change is possible and significant change is necessary.

Sincerely,
Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: December 30, 2020 1:42 PM
To: Parks (Public Inquiries)
Cc: Community Planning email inquiries; Victoria Mayor and Council; Engagement
Subject: RE: Franklin Green Pickle Ball court

BUDGET REQUEST:

I would like to request that a budgetary item be added for the proper drainage and resurfacing to the Franklin Green pickle ball court on Mason St.

Franklin Green park pickle ball court is the only fully realized sport specific dimensionally correct pickle ball court in the City of Victoria.

Large roots, worn lines and puddles of water are currently making three times a week play very challenging.

Other courts in the CRD are very busy converted tennis courts or very coveted pre-booked courts. As a very large housing project is scheduled for development at the Wellburns location directly adjacent the costs could be included for the resurfacing and drainage with the possibility of an additional court.

Pickle Ball is the #1. Growing sport in North America

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sports/what-is-pickleball-unusual-sport-sweeps-across-canada-1.3310626>

<https://www.amazinaces.com/blogs/news/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-america>

<https://www.pickleballportal.com/blog/pickleball-what-is-why-popular/>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Happy Holidays,

Personal information

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: December 27, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Draft budget feedback

Hello City of Victoria, Mayor, Council and Staff,

I just took your online budget survey but was disappointed at the lack of detailed questions. It seemed the questionnaire focused more on sorting the citizens in the appropriate demographic categories than on hearing what citizens have to say on the actual line items in the budget. Your survey last year was much more detailed and better designed!

My key feedback on the proposed budget is that **property taxes need to go up more**. As the City itself acknowledged in the budget documents provided, there is a revenue gap due to Covid-19, and many residents and businesses are suffering. This suffering is NOT going to be alleviated by less taxation, rather the reverse! **Let the households that can afford to own real estate in Victoria carry their fair share!** I just learned from another city pdf, about housing, that the median cost of a new two-bedroom condo is over \$800,000, and of a new detached home more than \$1.5 million! Compared to these staggering sums, a median tax increase of \$44 per year is ridiculously small. Ten times that would not be too much!

The City should raise more revenue from taxation, and by securing more grants from senior governments, in order to spend it on the following:

- (a) buying land for, and building, non-market affordable housing - incentivizing co-ops and land trusts (which actually is in your strategic plan)
- (b) incentivizing market affordable housing through public-private partnerships
- (c) urgent construction of housing for the unhoused - why can't we already house the 300 homeless people living outdoors (the number estimated in city documents)?
- (d) incentives and short-term bridging help to businesses - especially in the hospitality industry - that are at risk of closing due to Covid-19, or that are operating at lower capacity, leading to more unemployment
- (e) additional help for seniors and families with children who can't fully meet their nutritional need (expanding the Good Food Box program, for example with matching funds from the City)
- (f) acquiring properties for future non-market housing, and community gardens

Meanwhile, I appreciate your efforts in 2019 when you listened to citizens and reduced the police budget. **Not a penny more should be given to Vic PD above 2019 levels until**

there has been a comprehensive community consultation about public safety and the multiple ways it can be delivered, not just through more police officers and more expensive equipment for them.

Sincerely,

Personal information

Victoria BC
V8T2Y3

Rob Gordon

From: Personal information
Sent: December 17, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: 2021 Draft budget feedback

Hello City of Victoria City Council,

Thank you for providing this venue for feedback!

An issue which may have inadvertently slipped through the cracks in this year of change, is regarding the issue of our lovely city being build over top of sacred ground.

A significant way to begin the process was initiated with the Beacon Hill Project in 2013, to designate a Special Burial Place for these Ancient Burial Grounds, and as of this moment no forward movement has taken place. The area has been greatly enhanced by the Dallas road construction project and so access to the potential site at existing Cairns at Beacon Hill Park is now greatly facilitated.

An opportunity to give back to the Indiginous whose land we now reside on is at hand, how fabulous it would be to honor them in this way.

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/parks/beacon-hill/first-nations-burial-ground.html>

This article also provides an excellent overview on the larger situation...

<https://www.capitaldaily.ca/news/indigenous-bones-victoria-burial-mounds-songhees-lekwungen-coast-salish-oak-bay>

It is my fervent hope that seemingly forgotten plans might be ressurected in 2021.

Kind regards,

Personal information

Hillside Quadra Community



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Special Meeting of January 18, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** January 7, 2021
From: Susanne Thompson, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer
Subject: 2021-2025 Draft Financial Plan – Remaining Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Consider and provide direction on funding:
 - a. resource requirements for financial plan motion report-backs and 2021 Strategic Plan action items,
 - b. items deferred in 2020,
 - c. additional grant requests,as determined by Council based on information contained in Appendix 1 and 2 to this report
2. Approve allocating additional new property tax revenue from new development as follows:
 - a. additional Legal Services resources of \$183,410
 - b. any remaining amount to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve
3. Approve a one-time allocation of \$30,000 to continue the implementation of the Youth Strategy with funding from the one-time envelope as outlined in this report
4. Approve the direct-award grants as outlined in Appendix 3 to this report
5. Approve other grants as outlined in Appendix 4 to this report
6. Direct staff to bring forward the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2021, as amended, to the April 22, 2021 Council meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council deliberated and provided initial direction on the draft 2021-2025 Financial Plan in November and December of 2020, followed by a public consultation period on the draft Plan that concluded with an E-Town Hall on January 13, 2021.

Two special meetings, January 18 and 25, have been scheduled for Council to consider the feedback from public consultation and provide further direction on any amendments to the draft Plan. Appendix 1 to this report summarizes the items that Council directed staff to bring back for

consideration at these meetings. They include supplementary requests; resource requirements related to financial plan motion report-backs and 2021 Strategic Plan action items; additional grant requests; and items deferred in 2020. Furthermore, Appendix 2 provides new financial plan motion report-backs from motions passed at the November 30, 2020 special Committee of the Whole meeting. The initiatives outlined in appendices 1 and 2 are a combination of ongoing, one-time and capital.

Consistent with previous financial planning processes, staff recommend funding supplementary requests brought forward by staff first since these outline capacity challenges to support current service delivery and would result in reduced service levels if not funded.

Due to the pandemic, there is no surplus to allocate from 2020 and Council has already provided direction on allocating \$1 million of new property tax revenue from new development. As outlined in previous reports for the financial planning process, the actual amount of new property tax revenue from new development will likely be different than the \$1 million estimate. The actual amount can be calculated once BC Assessment (BCA) has provided the final assessment roll at the end of March, incorporating results of assessment appeals. However, based on current information released in early January by BCA this may be in the range of \$1.3 million. Staff recommend that the supplementary request for additional resources in Legal Services be funded from this additional revenue and that any remaining funds be allocated to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve to support narrowing the funding gap for the three asset groups identified in previous financial plan reports: roads, facilities and fleet. All other ongoing funding has already been allocated, however, options for Council's consideration to create additional ongoing funding include increasing property taxes above inflation plus 1% or reducing service levels and reallocating funding from other services.

In addition, in reviewing other funding options for Council's consideration, staff have calculated an envelope of one-time funding of \$582,000 that could be used to fund some of the items in appendices 1 and 2. This takes into account the full amount of the *Restart Grant* from the Province, which Council has previously allocated the majority of (\$5.74 million of the total \$6.522 million.) However, it does not set aside any funding related to the motion passed by Council on November 12, 2020 to help fund solutions that will move people indoors. It is likely that funding will be needed for logistical start-up costs for the transitional tiny home community at 940 Caledonia, should that project be undertaken, although an exact amount is not yet known. Should Council wish to set aside funding, the remaining grant amount would of course be lower. For clarity, the grant funding would be used to fund expected revenue shortfalls and additional COVID-related expenses, which is consistent with the conditions for this funding.

Since it is currently unknown how long the City's finances will be impacted by the pandemic, Council may wish to consider that using the entire *Restart Grant* in 2021 may not be desired. However, the City also has its Financial Stability Reserve (approximately \$7.8 million) which could be used to fund further unforeseen, and/or prolonged, impacts during 2021 and 2022; this is in addition to the regular \$1 million contingency that is included in the draft 2021 Financial Plan.

In addition to the one-time funding envelope, there are a few other potential funding sources for some of the initiatives outlined in the appendices to this report. Capital items could be funded by a portion of the \$3 million of funding to be added back to the Capital Plan. While the majority of that funding is earmarked for complete streets programs; Pemberton Park improvements; Peter Pollen Waterfront Park cultural and educational design; and the feasibility study for the Central Library, approximately \$200,000 could be allocated. Also, a few of the items involve retaining external consultants and could be funded through the Corporate Consulting budget. The summary page for appendices 1 and 2 notes the potential funding sources for these initiatives.

Council also directed staff to seek out grant funding for the Reconciliation Dialogues, exploring options for an Indigenous Relations Function, and the work related to the International Decade for People of African Descent. There are a few grant opportunities available, however, they appear to be better aligned with future phases rather than the scoping work that is contemplated first. Therefore, staff have provided suggestions for alternate funding sources for now but will continue to monitor and research further grant opportunities.

While Council has already allocated budgets to the City's various grant programs, the authorization to pay 'direct-award' and 'other' grants to specific organizations has yet to be given. This report recommends approval of grants to the organizations listed in appendices 3 and 4 attached to this report.

Before the Financial Plan Bylaw, as amended, is brought to Council for consideration of approval, it will be updated to include all projects that are in progress and will be carried forward from 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Thompson
Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager

List of Attachments

Appendix 1 – Summary of Supplementary Requests, Resource Requirements for Financial Plan Motion Report-backs and Strategic Plan Action Items, 2020 Deferred Items, and Additional Grant Requests
Appendix 2 – New Financial Plan Motion Report-backs
Appendix 3 – Listing of Direct Award Grant Organizations
Appendix 4 – Listing of Other Grant Organizations

Appendix 1 and 2 Summary						
Page Number	Description	FTE	On-going	One-Time	Capital	Potential Funding Source
2021 SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS (Nov 5 report Appendix A)						
Appendix 1, p.1-2	Legal Services	1	183,410			2021 NMC OR 2021 from one-time envelope; 2022 NMC
Appendix 1, p. 3-4	Youth Strategy			30,000		One-time envelope
STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 ACTION ITEMS (Nov 5 report Appendix B)						
Appendix 1, p. 5-6	Initiate a Governance Review			75,000		Corporate Consulting
FINANCIAL PLAN MOTION REPORT BACKS (Nov 5 report Appendix C)						
Appendix 1, p. 7-13	Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Project Resourcing Requirements	1 FTE for a two-year term		135,000	-	One-time envelope; funding for future years (\$160,000 in 2022 and \$20,000 in 2023) to be determined during those future financial planning processes
Appendix 1, p. 14	Transit Shelters Increased Funding				20,000	Portion of \$3M not reallocated from capital
Appendix 1, p. 15	Electric Kiosk Beautification Program		17,000			2021 from one-time envelope; 2022 NMC
Appendix 1, p. 16-19	International Decade for People of African Descent			70,000		Corporate Consulting
Appendix 1, p. 20	Extended Hours for Our Place			50,000		One-time envelope
Appendix 1, p. 21	South Island Prosperity Partnership		218,962			2021 from one-time envelope; 2022 NMC
DEFERRED ITEMS FROM 2020 (Nov 5 report Appendix D)						
Appendix 1, p. 22	Create Victoria - Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program			100,000		One-time envelope
Appendix 1, p. 22	Create Victoria - Cultural Spaces Roadmap			25,000		One-time envelope
Appendix 1, p. 23-25	Climate Leadership Plan - Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program			100,000		One-time envelope
Appendix 1, p. 26	Reconciliation Dialogues			40,000		One-time envelope
Appendix 1, p. 26	Indigenous Relations Function - Options Development			37,500		Corporate Consulting
Appendix 1, p. 27	Banfield Park Swimming Dock - Study and Implementation				95,000	Portion of \$3M not reallocated from capital
ADDITIONAL GRANT REQUESTS (Nov 5 report Appendix E)						
Appendix 1, p. 28	Victoria Heritage Foundation		3,402			2021 from one-time envelope; 2022 NMC
Appendix 1, p. 28	Victoria Civid Heritage Trust		2,350			2021 from one-time envelope; 2022 NMC
NEW FINANCIAL PLAN MOTIONS (November 30)						
Appendix 2, p 1	Capital Project Prioritization					
Appendix 2, p 2-3	Paid Parking on Portion of Dallas Road					Not recommended for 2021
Appendix 2, p 4-5	Pedestrian Master Plan/Sidewalk Rehab				100,000	Portion of \$3M not reallocated from capital
Appendix 2, p. 6-7	Pathway Lighting Upgrades - Burnside Gorge					Not recommended for 2021
Appendix 2, p. 8	Stone Markers - Memorial Road on Shelbourne Avenue				20,000	Portion of \$3M not reallocated from capital
Appendix 2, p. 9	Vic West Skate Park Lighting					Not recommended for 2021
Appendix 2, p. 10-11	Security Services Options		3,334,000		630,000	Not recommended
Appendix 2, p. 12	Our Place - Storage of Belongings			50,000		One-time envelope
Appendix 2, p. 13-20	Neighbourhood Association - Part-time Coordinator			100,000		One-time envelope
Appendix 2, p. 21	Pro Art Alliance Grant		10,000			2021 from one-time envelope; 2022 NMC
Total						
			3,769,124	812,500	865,000	

APPENDIX 1

LEGAL SERVICES – 2021 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET REQUEST

1. REQUEST DESCRIPTION

One full-time Assistant City Solicitor position to replace the temporary funding (0.6 FTE) that expires on December 31, 2020.

The incumbent is retiring from the legal profession at the end of his term in December, therefore, new recruitment will be required. A full-time position is being proposed to address growing workload demands and to increase our chances of recruiting qualified candidates.

2. REQUEST RATIONALE

In 2018, temporary funding was provided for an additional Assistant City Solicitor (0.6 FTE) to address increased demands on Legal Services due to a number of strategic plan initiatives that required legal work. While that temporary funding is expiring in December, the workload has not decreased and is not expected to decrease in 2021 and beyond. In fact, the demand for legal services has increased due to the growing legal complexity of new initiatives/programs Council is exploring or pursuing, as well as new and increased demands for legal assistance to address emerging and continuing issues such as homelessness, sheltering in parks, and climate change. All of these issues involve novel responses, which require considerable legal analysis to ensure that they are legally sound and defensible.

3. SERVICE LEVEL IMPACT IF NOT APPROVED

Legal Services is a service department as it supports all other City departments. Therefore, there would be impacts on all other departments if the position is not approved, as all legal services would require more time to process, having ripple effects throughout the organization. The most immediate impact of not approving the requested position would be on:

- a) Development Services (SPCD) – There has been no reduction in the volume of land use and land development applications. The majority of these include preparation of numerous legal agreements and bylaws, as well as, frequent legal advice regarding various creative proposals and initiatives. Without the proposed new position, the response time for these applications would likely be increased by 30%, impacting Development Services response times and, potentially, delaying public hearings.
- b) Strategic Real Estate (SRE) – Virtually every transaction contemplated or negotiated by SRE heavily relies on Legal Services both at the strategic level of structuring the transaction and the actual preparation of legal agreements to implement it or to properly secure the City's interests. A delay in Legal Service's ability to respond promptly to SRE's inquiries would have significant impacts on their ability to successfully pursue various initiatives or opportunities.
- c) Community Planning (SPCD) – Many initiatives pursued by Community Planning explore the limits of the City's legal authorities to maximize achievement of Council's objectives.

APPENDIX 1

All of them require legal review and advice, frequently in areas that are novel and very complex. Without such review, availability of which would be severely limited if the proposed position is not approved, there is a risk of initiatives that exceed City's jurisdiction and expose the City to legal challenges and failure, in addition to slower response times.

- d) Energy and Climate Action (EPW) – Municipal authorities in the field of climate change and sustainability remain uncertain and most initiatives are open to potential legal challenges (e.g., plastic bags). Early and comprehensive involvement from Legal Services is critical to successful development and implementation of most new initiatives for addressing climate change and sustainability. Failure to approve the proposed new position would make legal review and advice significantly slower (the ability to process requests would be reduced by as much as 25%) significantly delaying development and implementation of the projects required to meet the Climate Action Leadership plan.
- e) Bylaw Services – enforcement of City bylaws is critical to successful implementation of most of Council's policies and priorities. Successful enforcement relies on close co-operation between Bylaw Services and Legal Services. Without the proposed new position, Legal Service's ability to provide prompt assistance to Bylaw Officers would be severely impacted with significant impacts on successful enforcement outcomes.

It is theoretically possible to address some of these impacts by utilizing external legal resources (i.e., send work to external law firms) rather than by creating an additional in-house position. However, external legal services cost, on average, twice as much as in-house lawyers. Therefore, that option would have much greater financial impacts.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total cost of a full-time Assistant City Solicitor (salary and benefits) is \$183,410. However, recently the City has increased air space subdivision fees to \$15,000. This increase was primarily driven by the legal work associated with processing air space subdivisions. Land Development (EPW) estimates that the City will receive three to five such applications every year, generating between \$45,000 and \$75,000 in fees, which could offset a significant portion of the cost of the new position.

5. ONE-TIME OR ONGOING FUNDING

Ongoing funding to replace expiring one-time funding.

6. FTE REQUIRED

1 FTE – one permanent full-time position.

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YOUTH STRATEGY – 2021 SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST

1. REQUEST DESCRIPTION

Part-time Youth Strategy Assistant to continue to implement the City of Victoria Youth Strategy.

2. REQUEST RATIONALE

In 2017, the City of Victoria adopted a Youth Strategy designed to get more youth involved in local government, give young people a voice in local government and be part of planning the future of their community. Written by a team of 10 youth between the ages of 12 and 25, and informed through engagement with hundreds of youth, educators, youth workers, and community members, the plan includes practical and creative initiatives to get youth involved in their local government.

The youth strategy identifies more than 20 actions over a three-year period that fall under three broad categories:

- Openness and inclusivity
- Communication and education
- Opportunities and support

Activities include creating tools for City staff to better engage youth, connecting youth with local support services, and developing a curriculum for schools to teach youth about local government.

Work in 2021 will continue to advance key actions identified in the strategy that have not yet been fully realized or that have been delayed due to COVID. As well, the Youth Strategy Assistant will lay the groundwork for a review and refresh of the Youth Strategy in 2022.

The Youth Strategy Assistant and responsibility for the Youth Strategy will move to the Neighbourhoods Team in 2021 from Engagement to further align ongoing work to implement the strategy with other youth-related programs and services delivered across the City.

Key activities include:

- Revamping the Youth section of the City's website to act as a clearinghouse for all City of Victoria youth-related initiatives, services and opportunities.
- Pilot a YouthHub drop-in space, as part of the downtown NeighbourHub, once COVID restrictions are lifted.
- Continue to work closely with the City of Victoria Youth Council to coordinate activities and projects
- Advise and support youth engagement on City projects including ZeroWaste, Climate Action, Park improvements, Active Transportation, and Budget 2021
- Support the Welcoming City Strategy development

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3. SERVICE LEVEL IMPACT IF NOT APPROVED

Will slow further progress on implementation of some Youth Strategy initiatives and halt action to implement others. Some of the previously completed initiatives have been operationalized as part of regular service delivery within departments, particularly Engagement, Arts, Culture and Events, Community Relations and Human Resources.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

\$30,000

5. ONE-TIME OR ONGOING FUNDING

One time

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GOVERNANCE REVIEW – STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 ACTION ITEMS

Initiate a Governance Review

BACKGROUND:

At the January 7, 2019 Council meeting and following the Q2 2019 update, Council passed the following motion to advance the Strategic Plan action to “Initiate a Governance Review” in 2021.

That Council strike a working group consisting of Councillors Isitt, Loveday and Alto, to work with Legislative Services and Engagement in the first quarter of 2021 and report back to Council for a proposed governance review.

A governance review can encompass some or all of the following areas, or be of an even greater scope:

1. Functions
 - What is working
 - What is not working
2. Roles and Responsibilities
 - Mayor/Council/City Manager/Department Heads
3. Strategic Planning Process
4. Decision Making Process
 - a) Council Procedures Bylaw
 - Council Meetings Days and Times
 - Council Committee Structure
 - Advisory Bodies to Council.
 - b) public engagement/feedback on decision making processes
6. Council Code of Conduct
7. Council Remuneration (please refer to attached response on Council remuneration review).

A minor review was undertaken with existing staff resources in 2015/16 that covered Council and Committee meetings and Procedure Bylaw Amendments. Outside of the governance review, other 2020 Strategic Plan items relating to Good Governance and Civic Engagement involving video submissions, public hearing only council meetings and the creation of a lobbyist registry will be coming forward to Council in the coming weeks.

At the October 22, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting Councillor Loveday provided a report (attached) for Council’s consideration to define the scope of the Governance Review.

The following recommendation to Council was made and will be considered at the November 5, 2020 council meeting:

APPENDIX 1

Initiating a City of Victoria Governance Review

That Council direct staff to schedule a Council workshop and a separate workshop for staff and a workshop for residents and stakeholders to provide input to further inform the scope and priorities of a Governance Review and the selection of a consultant;

And That Council direct staff to report back with a proposed work plan and engagement strategy for the Governance Review aligned to the scope outlined in this report and informed by input received at the workshops outlined previously;

And That Council directs staff to report back with a budget estimate for the Governance Review and include that estimate in the 2021 budget for Council's consideration;

And That Council appoints up to 3 councillors as a sub-committee to guide the Governance Review process.

That Council direct staff to include in their report back best practices regarding embedding an equity and anti-racism mandate into the governance review.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The scope of the Governance Review will influence the costs and resource implications. A medium to full scope review would require the use of consultant services. Until a scope for the review is defined, it is difficult to assess financial and resource implications, as this could be within a range of \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Estimates of costs for the scope of review identified in the motion Council will be considering is in the range of \$50,000 to \$75,000 and would require the engagement of consultant services.

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MOTOR VEHICLE ACT PILOT PROJECT – FINANCIAL PLAN MOTION REPORT BACK

The following staff report from the January 7, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting outlines the resourcing requirements for the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of January 7, 2021

To:	Committee of the Whole	Date:	December 18, 2020
From:	Philip Bellefontaine, Director, Engineering & Public Works		
Subject:	Motor Vehicle Act Pilot – Reduced Default Speed Limits on Local Roads		

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

Direct staff to finalize any outstanding stakeholder engagement, pending approval of resources through the 2021 Financial Planning process, and prepare an application to participate in the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program to reduce default speed limits on local roads without a continuous centre line in the City of Victoria from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr as per the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lowering speed limits on local streets aligns with the City's Mobility Strategy, Go Victoria, and objectives identified in the Official Community Plan. In its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, Council identified a 2021 action to reduce default speeds on local neighbourhood streets to 30 km/hr.

Municipalities have authority to regulate the use and enforcement of traffic on roads through their Streets and Traffic bylaw under the context of the "parent" provincial legislation, including the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). Currently, the blanket, or default, speed limit for local streets within the City of Victoria is set by the Province at 50 km/h unless otherwise posted. Different speed limits are permissible on individual streets, provided signage is posted on every block.

In 2019, the Province amended the MVA to enable pilot projects to research, test, and evaluate new technologies and policies, including options to reduce default speed limits. City staff have evaluated the costs and benefits of achieving Council's speed reduction objective through the Pilot Project model, either on its own or in coordination with several municipalities from across the Capital Region. The pilot would use gateway signage and education, rather than signs on every street, to communicate a lower default speed limit to road users. This represents a more cost-effective and streamlined approach for achieving Council's goal of lowering speed limits on local roads.

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Costs for participating in the MVA pilot have been included for Council's consideration as a part of the 2021 Financial Plan process. The Province is anticipated to release a call for applicants early next year. With Council's approval of participation and the required resources to deliver on this strategic priority, the City would apply through this intake to implement a three-year project that would lower the speed limit on local roads without a continuous centre line to 30 km/hr.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to share information and seek approval to proceed with an application to the Province of BC to participate in the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program on speed reduction, pending approval of resources in the 2021 Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND

As a part of Council's approved Strategic Plan, there is a 2021 action to lower speed limits on local neighbourhood streets to 30 km/hr. Associated resources for achieving this action have been incorporated into the draft 2021 Financial Plan.

Reducing speed limits has a number of benefits including improving overall road safety and neighbourhood liveability. Slower streets contribute to improved comfort for pedestrians and cyclists and decreased noise levels. Collisions with vulnerable road users at 30km/hr or less correlate with a 10% probability of death when compared to a 30% probability of death at 40 km/hr or 85% at 50 km/hr.

Municipalities have authority to regulate the use and enforcement of traffic on roads through their Streets and Traffic bylaw under the context of the "parent" provincial legislation, primarily the MVA. Reducing speed limits can be achieved under the City's current authority whereby the City designates and installs signage on each individual street. Were the city to undertake the implementation of a lower default speed limit, this would require a significant investment to install new signs on hundreds of streets as well as adding the associated on-going maintenance costs to the City's annual operating budget.

The newly established Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program enables a municipality to apply to reduce the default speed within its jurisdiction by installing gateway signage, avoiding additional visual clutter in the public road right of way.

Go Victoria Alignment

In 2019 the City adopted its Mobility Strategy, Go Victoria, with a commitment to support increased use of sustainable transportation, improved liveability, and a continued focus on safety for all road users. Go Victoria includes a target to reach and maintain zero annual traffic fatalities and injuries by adopting the Vision Zero model.

Vision Zero is an international approach to improved road safety that prioritizes human life over ease of mobility and convenience and acknowledges the importance of safeguarding people with better roadway design and minimized speed to reduce collision frequency and severity. Lower speed limits can result in both fewer collisions and reduced severity of collisions when they do occur.

It is recognized that most collisions resulting in fatalities and serious injuries occur on major roadways in the City of Victoria, particularly at intersections. Lowering speed limits on local roads is not intended to take the focus away from safety improvements or enforcement at high collision

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locations or on busier arterial and collector streets, rather it acts as a complementary effort to build a culture of safe mobility and maintain a road network that is designed and operated to prioritize protection of human life.

Speed limit reductions are becoming increasingly common in North American cities and are supported through infrastructure changes and traffic calming interventions. The City continues to make changes to roadways to support vulnerable road users through its annual capital budget including the Complete Streets Program, the Bicycle Master Plan Program and the Traffic Calming Program.

Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program – Initial Planning

In May 2020, Council directed staff to work collaboratively with other municipalities to explore one or more proposals for the next call under the MVA Pilot Program, including reduced speed limits. Since July 2020, the District of Saanich has been leading a collaborative initiative with several Capital Region municipalities to investigate reducing default speed limits on local streets without a continuous centre line. Several communities (listed below) are anticipated¹ to move forward with a group pilot project to lower default speeds from 50 km/hr to 40 km/hr.

- District of Saanich
- Town of Sidney
- District of Central Saanich
- District of Oak Bay
- Township of Esquimalt

The participating municipalities arrived at this 40 km/hr speed limit pilot based on assessment of their current speed profile as well as support or formal direction from their individual Councils. There is no interest among these participants to pursue a lower speed limit pilot at this time.

All elements of a Motor Vehicle Act Pilot must be planned for, delivered, and resourced by the participant. There are four major stages:

1. **Pre-Planning:** This stage is largely complete and focused on understanding resource requirements, undertaking initial engagement and communications, conducting a bylaw review and considering evaluation requirements.
2. **Application:** This stage involves the City formally applying to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure with a proposal to deliver a specific speed reduction pilot project. Under the model, Cabinet is required to approve an Order in Council (OIC) for the pilot to proceed. Projects must meet all requirements of Part 13 of the Motor Vehicle Act and be consistent with the Provincial Government's objective of supporting active transportation.
3. **Preparation:** This stage focuses on preparation including a new signage plan, a comprehensive communication and education campaign, and data collection plan.
4. **Pilot Period:** This stage focuses on the delivery of the three-year pilot itself. There are annual monitoring requirements and a formal evaluation at the beginning of year 3.

¹ Staff discussions and/or Council decisions, where made by December 15, 2020

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Based on information available at this time, there is nothing that prohibits Victoria from applying and delivering its own speed reduction pilot that is separate from other local governments in the region.

ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

Speed Profile

As a part of the process described above, City staff have gathered baseline data to assess current conditions measuring the 85th percentile speed. This is the speed at or below which 85% of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions. Given Victoria's land use, density, and network characteristics, 85th percentile speeds are typically lower than that of other CRD municipalities, particularly those in suburban or rural settings.

As a comparison, typical 85th percentile speeds within the District of Saanich are an average of 46 km/hr in 50km/hr zones. Within the Town of Sidney, vehicle speeds are closer to 40km/hr while in Victoria, it is 38km/hr. Not all roads are the same however, and there is a range of recorded speeds on local streets in different neighbourhoods with some higher and some lower. Should the City pursue a Motor Vehicle Act Pilot, annual data collection will be a requirement.

Engagement Process

The 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan was informed, in part, through the 2019 Engagement Summit which brought together 150 community leaders to share ideas, learn and reflect on proposed objectives and actions developed by Council.

More recently, the City participated in a regional engagement process, led by the District of Saanich, from September to November 2020. Regional stakeholders were consulted by the District of Saanich, while the City of Victoria was responsible for outreach to local partners.

The regional engagement process focused on gathering feedback from organizations including the CRD Traffic Safety Commission, police and emergency services, school districts and parent advisory councils, active transportation groups, road safety partners, and other agencies, such as ICBC, BC Transit and the Capital Regional District.

Regional input was collected through virtual meetings as well as written correspondence. Public engagement findings suggested:

- A consistent, predictable and coordinated speed limit approach across the entire region would yield maximum compliance and support.
- There was general support for the need to reduce speeds. Some stakeholder groups expressed a desire to see speed limit reduction, specifically to 30 km/hour.
- Specific considerations related to implementation included:
 - The need for public education, continued public engagement, and clear signage.
 - Expectations around enforcement and clear definitions and authority vested within the Motor Vehicle Act.
 - Questions about what data exists, what specifically will be collected and the need for adequate data during a pilot period.
- Some stakeholders have identified opportunities to participate in the pilot and partner in data collection.

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Locally, the City of Victoria consulted with stakeholders through an on-line survey and invited neighbourhood associations and other agencies not covered in the regional dialogues to contribute. The City did not specifically consult on a 30km/hr reduced speed limit but gave the opportunity for open comments. The City received 130 emails and over 200 survey responses during this period in addition to the regional comments and feedback. The detailed local engagement summary can be found in Appendix A and email submissions in Appendix B.

Findings from the City's efforts suggested stakeholders were either in favour of lower speeds or against them. While some comments articulated a preference for certain speed limits, most comments were related more to the principle of reducing the default speed limit. Themes included:

- Support for the safety benefits for vulnerable road users, specifically pedestrians, cyclists and children.
- The need for proper education and enforcement to support compliance.
- Concern for increased traffic congestion and travel times.
- Support for engineered investments in traffic calming to compliment reduced speeds.
- Concern about potential "road rage" from slower speeds on local roads.

Survey respondents in support of lower speeds commented on the sense of safety and quality of life benefits. Survey respondents opposed to any speed limit changes expressed concern for increased traffic congestion and required resources required to implement changes. The City's Active Transportation Advisory Committee continues to remain in support of reduced speed limits.

Education and Communications

Any changes to default speed limits in the City of Victoria will require coordinated, consistent and comprehensive education and road user awareness. Agency partners, such as ICBC, BCAA, School District 61, and Island Health will play important roles in sharing information. Costs for planning and delivering a comprehensive education and communication strategy has been identified in the draft 2021 Financial Plan considerations.

Enforcement

Victoria Police have been engaged in both regional and local dialogue on speed related pilot projects. Existing police resources dedicated to traffic safety within the City of Victoria are focused on areas of highest risk to public safety – such as distracted driving, impaired driving, intersection enforcement, and excessive speeding. Should the City pursue a speed reduction pilot on local streets, enforcement activities would continue to be focused on high-risk locations and behaviours. A significant component of the pilot would be encouraging behaviour change through education and encouragement.

OPTIONS AND IMPACTS

Lowering speed limits in the City of Victoria will require resources for planning, implementation, monitoring, outreach and assessment. Both Option 1 and Option 2 include respective bylaw changes, a speed limit harmonization strategy to reconcile posted limits that are not consistent with this approach, as well as deliver education and data collection.

Both Options also anticipate that the City will continue to undertake its annual traffic calming program.

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Option 1: Direct staff to finalize any outstanding stakeholder engagement, pending approval of resources through the 2021 Financial Planning process, and prepare an application to participate in the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program to reduce default speed limits on local roads without a continuous centre line in the City of Victoria from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr as per the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan. (RECOMMENDED)

Under this option the City would apply to undertake a MVA Speed Reduction pilot on its own. All costs to plan, implement and evaluate the pilot would be born by the City. Road user education and awareness would be largely the responsibility of the City.

Option 2: Direct staff to finalize any outstanding stakeholder engagement, pending approval of resources through the 2021 Financial Planning process, and prepare an application with other interested local governments to participate in the Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program to reduce default speed limits on local roads without a continuous centre line in the City of Victoria from 50 km/hr to 40 km/hr.

Under this option the City would apply to undertake MVA Speed Reduction pilot with a group of participating municipalities from the Capital region. All costs to plan, implement and evaluate the pilot would be born by the City. Road user education and awareness efforts would be shared among participants.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Lowering speed limits on local roads is consistent with the Official Community Plan under Goal 7: Transportation and Mobility (7A, 7B and 7C) and Goal 15: Community Well-being (15F and 15G)

Accessibility Considerations

Reducing speed limits can improve the comfort of people with disabilities including those with mobility challenges, hearing or vision loss when using sidewalks and crosswalks. Stakeholders with disabilities will continue to be stakeholders through the process to evaluate lower speed limits on local roads should a pilot project be pursued.

Financial Plan Considerations

The transportation projects included within the 2021 Financial Plan are largely related to on-going asset management, road safety and the promotion of mobility options and staff have the capacity to deliver them.

As a part of the Strategic Plan development process in 2019, staff provided an initial assessment of required resources to deliver each action item. At the time, costs of delivering a municipal wide speed reduction project were estimated at \$520,000. Updated resourcing requirements in the 2021 Financial Plan now reflect a streamlined MVA Pilot process to complete this action, totalling \$315,000 over 3 years. This includes all costs of implementation, education, and data collection with the support of a dedicated two-year FTE within the transportation division. Of this, \$135,000 is required in 2021, \$160,000 in 2022 and the remaining \$20,000 in 2023.

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SUMMARY

In its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, Council identified a 2021 action to reduce default speeds on local neighbourhood streets to 30 km/hr. Lowering speed limits on local streets aligns with the City's Mobility Strategy, Go Victoria, and objectives identified in the Official Community Plan.

Reducing speed limits has a number of benefits including improving overall road safety and neighbourhood liveability. The Motor Vehicle Act Pilot Program is the most cost-effective and streamlined approach to achieving this Strategic Priority and can be delivered in coordination with capital investments that continue to improve road safety and support vulnerable users.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Webb

Manager, Sustainable Transportation
Planning & Development

Philip Bellefontaine

Director, Engineering & Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

List of Attachments

Appendix A: MVA Speed Reduction Pilot Engagement Summary

Appendix B: Email Submissions

APPENDIX 1

ATAC MOTION - TRANSIT SHELTERS – FINANCIAL PLAN MOTION REPORT BACK

Increase capital spending on transit shelters.

BACKGROUND:

There are nearly 200 bus shelters within the City of Victoria. More than 100 shelters are owned directly by the City or BC Transit, with the remainder owned and maintained by a third-party vendor.

Over the past decade the City has been systematically replacing older shelters through an annual partnership with BC Transit. Each year, BC Transit provides the City between three and five new shelters and the City's annual capital budget (in 2020 \$31,000) supports the design and preparation of sites.

In 2018 BC Transit updated its shelter design standards to provide a consistent design aesthetic within all its service communities. They are also working on new station designs and branding for rapid bus routes which will roll out in 2021 and inform upgrades on Douglas Street.

For the approximately 80 third party owned facilities, the current contract is up for renewal in 2020 and a procurement process is underway. This procurement has offered the opportunity for staff to identify a range of bus stop improvements associated with lighting, future proofing for future technology retrofits and sustainability features. Assuming a successful award, a new contract will provide for a major multi-year transit shelter replacement program.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Even modest additional funding for this program of between \$15-20,000 a year would offer additional support for continued growth in the number of transit shelters that are replaced each year. Additional funding would also offer more flexibility and options for staff to implement other supportive improvements such as accessible curb letdowns, widened bus stop pads as well as improvements to seating, garbage cans, and lighting.

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ELECTRIC KIOSK WRAPS – FINANCIAL PLAN MOTION REPORT BACK

That Council direct staff to report back on the implications and opportunities to fund an Arts Creation Project to fund wraps on electric kiosks similar to our banner, bus shelter and mural project.

BACKGROUND:

The Engineering and Public Works Department currently manages all aspects of the kiosk wrapping program on utility boxes. The purpose is to enhance the public realm and deter graffiti on the utility boxes throughout the city.

Staff within the Public Works Division source heritage photographs from the City Archive and whenever possible select images that reference the area in which a kiosk is located. Approximately 4 to 7 kiosks are wrapped each year.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

This program is currently funded from the Public Works operations budget and includes all staffing and administrative expenses to install, inspect and maintain the kiosks. An increased scope to this program would require additional Public Works resources with the cost per kiosk to install, inspect and maintain assessed at approximately \$700.

A call to artist or artist roster could be established to enhance the current archival photograph program. The call to artist process would mirror the current Commute Bus Shelter and Mural Roster program. Staff estimate \$750-1000 per kiosk to cover artist fees, printing, and administrative expenses.

Options to create a kiosk art program include:

1. Allocation of up to \$10,000 to the Public Art Creation budget to establish an annual kiosk beautification program to cover artist fees and expenses and \$7,000 to Public Works for labour and maintenance expenses.
2. Direct staff to explore grant opportunities through the Hydro Beautification electrical box program. The annual grant's deadline is September 30.

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INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT – FINANCIAL PLAN MOTION REPORT BACK

On July 23, 2020, Council approved the following Council Member Motion dated July 16, 2020 from Councillor Dubow and Mayor Helps regarding the International Decade for People of African Descent as follows:

That the City of Victoria joins the government of Canada, the province of Ontario, the cities of Toronto and Ottawa, in acknowledging the International Decade for People of African Descent for the purpose of promoting respect, protection and fulfillment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

That Council directs staff to report back at the Period 2 2020 Update on the resource implications of reporting back as part of the 2021 budget on how to implement the International Decade of People of African Descent from 2021-2024 including:

- i) Raising awareness in the general public about the heritage and culture of people of African descent and around the International Decade of People of African Descent's broader goals and actions in Victoria.*
- ii) Delivering anti-racism including anti-black racism training to prevent systematic racism in city policy, bylaws, programs and services.*

Creating an advisory committee of people of African descent to work with and advise staff between 2021-2024 on the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and commitment to People of African descent.

Developing a capacity building grant program for Black-led organizations, black business owners, and institutions supporting and working with people of African descent.

Tracking and demonstrating progress with respect to City hiring practices at all levels to reflect the diversity of the community.

Creating internship opportunities for people of African descent to diversify the city's workforce

On October, 22 Council passed the attached motion (page 39) referring a number of funding decisions to the 2021 financial planning process.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The following information is being provided for Council consideration on the human and financial resources required to include each aspect of the approved motion in the 2021 Financial Plan.

Public Awareness

i) Raising awareness in the general public about the heritage and culture of people of African descent and around the International Decade of People of African Descent's broader goals and actions in Victoria.

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The City's Engagement Department can report back within existing resources as part of the 2021 budget on a communications plan to raise awareness about the heritage and culture of people of African descent and around the International Decade of People of African Descent's broader goals and actions in Victoria.

Anti-Racism Training

ii) Delivering anti-racism including anti-black racism training to prevent systematic racism in city policy, bylaws, programs and services.

To identify the scope or the required elements necessary for the effective development and delivery of City of Victoria specific anti-racism training (including anti-black racism training), will require consulting services estimated at \$18,000. Staff will support this work however do not have the additional capacity or expertise needed, or direct lived experience that specialized consultants can bring to this work.

Advisory Committee

Creating an advisory committee of people of African descent to work with and advise staff between 2021-2024 on the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and commitment to People of African descent.

Staff recommend retaining external resources to assist with the establishment of a time-limited committee, to include support with committee meeting logistics and follow-up and research for the first year of \$5000.

New Grant Program

Developing a capacity building grant program for Black-led organizations, black business owners, and institutions supporting and working with people of African descent.

Staff recommend updating the terms of reference for the City's five available grant programs (Strategic Plan Grant, Micro Grants, Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Grants, My Great Neighbourhood Grants, and Festival Investment Grants) to include an equity weighting for approval. The City's Business and Community Relations Department can improve awareness of all grant programs with a stronger promotional campaign that will not require additional financial resources in 2021.

Hiring

Tracking and demonstrating progress with respect to City hiring practices at all levels to reflect the diversity of the community.

Staff do not have the required expertise nor the capacity to determine the resources required to establish and track workforce metrics (including appropriate demographic categories and comparators), implement reporting mechanisms, and develop initiatives to remove barriers to employment for underrepresented groups consistent with the BC *Human Rights Code*. Staff estimate the cost of engaging an experienced consultant with the required expertise at approximately \$10,000.

Internship Opportunities

Creating internship opportunities for people of African descent to diversify the city's workforce.

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Staff do not have the required expertise nor the capacity to determine the resources required to establish an effective internship program. Staff anticipate the scoping exercise may require extensive internal and external engagement and consultation, and recommend retaining a consultant with experience in successfully establishing programs providing employment opportunities to underrepresented groups. The estimated cost is approximately \$7,000.

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October 22, 2020

E.1.a.c Accountability Report - Period Two 2020

Motion:

That Council:

- a. Receive this report for information.
- b. Staff provide draft terms of reference by November 23 of 2020 for the International Decade People African Descent Advisory Committee.
- c. That Council forward the information contained in Attachment K and the following motion to the 2021 Financial Planning process.

That Council:

- A. Recognize the experiences of Black communities by fulfilling the calls of the International Decade of People of African Descent (IDPAD); and
- B. Form an International Decade People African Descent Advisory Committee by the first quarter of 2021 and that:
 - a. The advisory committee membership be compensated for their participation; and
 - b. The advisory committee be asked to report to the City Council by May 2021 on an action plan for the City to address anti-Black racism and
 - c. The action plan be informed by community consultation.
- C. Approve the inclusion of \$18k in the 2021 budget to hire a consultant to develop and implement anti-black anti-racism training for all City staff, beginning with Council and senior management, and that the City Manager provide an update by Q4 of 2021 on the status and outcomes of this training including a breakdown of who received the training by department.
- D. Approve \$ 25k to be included in the 2021 budget to support Black children and youth leadership opportunities by providing grant funding to Black-led organizations, with the grant program to be co-designed by the IDPAD advisory committee.
- E. Include \$10,000 in the 2021 budget to engage a consultant to provide the capacity and expertise to establish and track workforce metrics in order to remove barriers to employment for underrepresented groups.
- F. Include \$7000 in the 2021 budget to engage a consultant with the expertise required to develop an internship program.
- G. And that Council include address systemic racism and fulfill the calls of the International Decade of People of African Descent (IDPAD) as an action item in the Strategic Plan as a 2021 action item.

Carried

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OUR PLACE EXTENDED HOURS - FINANCIAL PLAN MOTION REPORT BACK

That Council forward an allocation to Our Place for Council's consideration as part of the 2021 budget process; and request that the Mayor write to the provincial government requesting adequate funding for Our Place.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the 2020 financial planning process, Council allocated a one-time grant of \$50,000 for extended hours.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

No funding allocation is included in the draft 2021 financial plan.

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SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PROJECT – FINANCIAL PLAN MOTION REPORT BACK

Council directed staff to report back on implications of adding funding for South Island Prosperity Project for 2021-2025.

BACKGROUND:

South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) has submitted a funding request for the next five years as outlined in Appendix E to the Draft 2021 Financial Plan cover report dated November 5, 2020.

To this point, Council has provided funding to SIPP on an annual basis by allocating funding through the budget process using prior year surplus. Council requested that staff report back on funding options for adding this grant into the core budget for the five-year period 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

To add this funding on an ongoing basis there are a number of possible options including:

1. Provide funding through a tax increase; \$218,962 is equal to 0.15%.
2. Provide one-time funding in 2021 by using the one-time envelope of funding available and direct staff to incorporate funding from new tax revenue from new development for 2022 onwards.
3. Reallocate a portion of the remaining funding from Downtown Late Night Great Night and Special Events budgets in 2021 and direct staff to incorporate funding from new tax revenue from new development for 2022 onwards.
4. Reduce another ongoing program budget and reallocate the funding.
5. Use a combination of the above options.

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ARTS AND CULTURE – DEFERRED ITEMS FROM 2020

Create Victoria – Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program and Cultural Spaces Roadmap

Strategic Plan Objective #4: Prosperity and Economic Inclusion			
Topic	Action	Comments	New Resource Requirements
Arts and Culture (Create Victoria) (BCR)	Support arts, culture and innovation venues and spaces (On-Going)	Create Victoria Strategic Priority #1 provides goals, objectives and action items to implement this action. In 2020 Council added staffing (1 FTE). This action also requires one-time funding of \$100,000 to establish a Cultural Infrastructure Grant program and \$25,000 to develop a Cultural Spaces Roadmap to serve as a guide for cultural space planning.	\$100,000 (one-time) + \$25,000 (one-time)

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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – DEFERRED ITEMS FROM 2020

Climate Leadership Plan – Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program

HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE 1: OIL TO HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Issue/Problem Statement:

Over 1500 oil furnaces heat homes in Victoria, most of which are in older single-family homes. Most households replacing their oil heating system are opting for fossil gas-powered furnaces, which 'locks' them into continued greenhouse gas emissions, instead of a low carbon heating system, such as an electric air source heat pump. In the year 2018 alone, 116 households switched from oil to gas whereas only 18 took advantage of existing incentives to upgrade to a heat pump. Without intervention, this trend is expected to continue, which is problematic as it ties households to continued fossil fuel reliance for likely more than a decade further.

Factors and Considerations:

- a. Affordability: (ownership and upgrades): Switching from oil heating to an air source heat pump can typically save 40-75% on annual heating bills according to the previous Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program, which was funded by the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources. When combined with other energy efficiency measures, switching to a heat pump can provide greater energy reduction and better business case over gas (Evins, 2018).
- b. Safety and Environmental Protection: Home heating oil tanks can fail, leading to oil spills into soil, ground water or nearby ecosystems, causing potential health and environmental risks that are costly to remediate. Once spilled, rain and irrigation water carry oil through the soil into residential perimeter drains and the surrounding environment. Perimeter drains can quickly carry oil into the storm drain systems, which empty directly into creeks, harbours or shorelines (CRD, 2016).

It is estimated that 1 litre of leaked oil can contaminate 1 million litres of water and the average cost of a cleanup for a homeowner is \$250,000 to more than \$500,000 (Insurance Bureau of Canada, 2017). The presence of gas lines as an alternative pose leakage risks during seismic events or during excavations / digging. Malfunctioning gas appliances, inadequate ventilation, and lack of monitoring may also put gas households at greater risk of carbon monoxide poisoning (Natural Gas Safety – FortisBC, 2019).

- c. Equity: Previous phone surveys to oil heated households in Victoria have revealed that many are owned or inhabited by elderly residents on lower or fixed incomes. Insufficient incentives, confusing selection and installation options and processes are a few of the noted barriers that some homeowners face when upgrading to heat pumps.

In addition to increased affordability for those who would benefit most, heat pumps provide key climate adaptation features. By also providing cooling, households are able to cope more effectively with the expected increase in heatwaves where daytime temperatures reach above 25°C. Cooling comfort is essential for our older population and other vulnerable groups who are more susceptible to health impacts from prolonged heat events. When compared to oil, heat pumps can also provide airflow, dehumidification with options to add an enhanced filtration system to improve indoor air quality.

- d. Related Programs: The CleanBC Better Homes fuel-switching incentive is currently offered to homeowners where they can receive up to \$4200 for switching from oil (or gas) to a heat

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pump, which is made up of top-ups from the City of Victoria (\$350), the CRD (\$350), electrical panel upgrade (\$500) and base \$3000 incentive offered by the Province. For 2020, there is an opportunity for the City to increase the available top-up offering to \$2000 as well as the electrical panel upgrade incentive which would improve the business case for homeowners to switch to heat pumps instead of fossil gas.

The program will also be expanded to offer a zero-interest finance program, and may also introduce a corresponding equity-based program with an opportunity to partner with local governments. It is unclear if these programs will run past the fall 2022, which provides a 2-year window to leverage existing funds and provincial administration.

- e. **T2050 Residential Retrofit Acceleration Program:** The City is currently working with City Green Solutions (non-profit energy retrofit agency) and a cohort of eight other Vancouver Island municipalities through a FCM-funded program. This work aims to develop longer term strategies and solutions to accelerate the adoption of low-carbon retrofits, such as heat pumps. The project is coordinated by both City Green Solutions and the Home Performance Stakeholder Council, where engaging with industry and consumer engagement are key components to gain localized insights on barriers and opportunities. This is the first study of its kind in Vancouver Island, and is galvanizing support for increased investments and regional alignments in retrofit program development. To date, a draft strategy has been submitted and is in the process of being reviewed by the City. The work identifies heat pump adoption priorities and actions and program requirements related to local industry engagement, communications/ outreach plan development, target market analysis, consumer engagement strategies, and industry support. The study also highlights the need for longer-term market transformational approaches that include advocacy for greater municipal powers and funding, development of an equity program, industry support initiatives, home energy labelling, and broader consumer outreach strategies. For the remainder of 2019 and throughout 2020, these draft strategies will be finalized, and pilot programs will be discussed and initiated. The T2050 program will end in 2020 and it is yet unclear what steady-state actions will be implemented.

Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program - Program Overview

Target(s)	Advance and intensify the CLP targets by 5 years, so that ALL remaining oil heating systems are replaced with heat pumps by 2025.
GHG Benefit Potential	Removal of oil heating would result in the avoidance of an estimated 62,000tCO ₂ e each year (15% overall GHG savings).
Program Objectives:	1. Rapidly reduce the emissions burden of oil heating. 2. Ensure a transition to renewable energy.
Program Description	<p>The City will immediately increase its fuel-switching top-up offer from \$350 to \$2000. An additional \$500 top-up will be offered to the Province's new electrical panel service upgrade incentive.</p> <p>This will be done to leverage the existing \$3000 fuel-switching rebate from the Province and \$350 top-up offered by the CRD. Topping up the new electrical panel upgrade rebate will bring the total available incentive amount to \$6350.</p> <p>The City will allocate additional funding to the forthcoming Provincial oil to heat pump equity incentive that is targeted towards lower income households in 2020.</p>

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	In the longer-term, alternative equity programs will also be explored to ensure that funds are prioritized for those populations that need it most.
Key Barriers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Artificially low price of gas energy costs 2. Gas marketing effectiveness 3. Split incentives for landlords
Strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong time-limited financial incentive from the Province (2020-2022 only). 2. Integrated marketing campaign focussed on oil furnace replacement timings. 3. Education and awareness materials/support.
Priority Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediately increase the City's top-up offer for the Province's CleanBC Better Homes fuel-switching rebate; including the electrical panel upgrade offer and forthcoming equity program. 2. Accelerate proactive oil removals and heat pump uptake in the community by employing a variety of outreach strategies.

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RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS RELATIONS – DEFERRED ITEMS FROM 2020

Reconciliation Dialogues

Strategic Plan Objective #2: Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations			
Topic	Action	Comments	New Resource Requirements
Truth and Reconciliation Dialogues (Council-Mayor's Office)	Create the Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues (2019)	Funding required to support the City Family and the Esquimalt and Songhees nations to engage community in the City's reconciliation initiatives to cover costs of outside venues, advertising, catering, honoraria, venues, etc.	\$80,000 (One-Time)

Indigenous Relations Function

Strategic Plan Objective #2: Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations			
Topic	Action	Comments	New Resource Requirements
Indigenous Relations Function Indigenous Elders in Residence (Council)	Establish an Indigenous Relations Function (2020) Appoint Indigenous Elders in Residence to provide advice on municipal programs, initiatives and operations (2020)	As approved on July 11, 2019: "That Council consult with the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations as per the direction in the Strategic Plan to get their ideas on what <u>these look</u> like and get that information back no later than October 2020" Once these discussions have taken place, resource requirements will be included in the Financial Plan discussions.	\$75,000

Motions passed by Council on November 30, 2020 as follows:

Direct staff to report back on the implications and suggested funding source(s) for up to \$40,000 to enable presentation of up to four (4) Reconciliation Dialogues in 2021, platform and method to be determined and report back in January with sources of grant funding to undertake this work.

Direct staff to report back on the implications and suggested funding source(s) for contracted services up to an amount of \$37,500 to investigate, research and propose options to establish an Indigenous Relations Function within the operations of the City of Victoria, with such report to be delivered in time to be considered for inclusion in the 2022 Financial Plan and report back in Jan with sources of grant funding to undertake this work.

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SWIMMING DOCK AT BANFIELD PARK STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION – DEFERRED ITEMS FROM 2020

In December 2020, Council directed staff to report back on a potential funding source for the Banfield Park Swimming Dock Study and the installation of a dock in time for summer 2021.

BACKGROUND:

The expansion of the City's public dock at Banfield Park has been the subject of Council consideration for several years. In the 2020 Financial Plan, Council initially approved funding (\$15,000) for a preliminary study of the environmental, safety and other technical design implications. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this project was deferred until 2021.

Last year, staff advanced a portion of the assessment work relating to the aquatic considerations as part of another related risk management exercise. Based on this information, the Park Design team also conducted an initial design review of key requirements for accommodating expanded use of the swimming dock. The proposed design is anticipated to include an extended gangway so that the new, expanded swim platform is accommodated in deeper water, where there are fewer environmental risks or hazards to swimmers.

Swimming in the Gorge Waterway adjacent to Banfield Park is a very popular recreation activity. Along with the project above, Council has also received a donation proposal for a 29.1 square metre (20-foot diameter) floating swimming platform, anchored in the immediate area of Banfield Park. This will be considered in early 2021.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

In order to meet Council's direction of December 3, 2020, staff recommend completing the design study in the first quarter of 2021 at an estimated cost of \$15,000. Based on preliminary design details, staff are proposing a budget for the supply and installation of an extended gangway and expanded dock of \$80,000, for a total budget of \$95,000.

The management of this project is anticipated to require 4-5 months of support from staff in Park Design and Construction and with input from staff from Public Works, Finance and other support departments.

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ADDITIONAL GRANT REQUESTS

Organization	2020 Funding	2021 Request	Increase
Victoria Heritage Foundation	\$226,810	\$230,212	\$3,402
Victoria Civic Heritage Trust	\$116,500	\$118,850	\$2,350

SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL PROJECTS PRIORITIZATION

That Council direct staff to report back in January 2021 with a list of significant capital projects both included in the 2021 Financial Plan and proposed as motions during the budget process and request that Council rank the projects in order of importance.

BACKGROUND

The City's Capital Plan is developed based on information and direction from the City's Strategic Plan and various master plans and condition assessments.

In staff's assessment, the projects already included in the financial plan are those that are of higher priority for 2021 compared to those raised by motion during the budget deliberation meetings. The majority of projects included in the Plan are related to ongoing asset management and/or safety issues, and staff have the capacity to deliver them. Therefore, staff recommend that the focus of Council's prioritization be on the new projects identified through motions of Council and not any from the draft Capital Plan, other than consideration of potential impacts to the projects in the draft Plan if new projects were to be added.

The summaries on the next several pages (p. 2-9) outline the projects Council requested report-backs on and provide some background, assessment of staff capacity to take on within existing resources, and any implications of taking these on.

Potential points for Council to consider when prioritizing could be:

1. CAPACITY - Does the new project impact other projects? Do staff have capacity to take this on within existing resources?
2. VALUE - What is the level of impact/value for the community? Does the project have a narrow or broad impact? Does the project fill a current gap in service?
3. URGENCY - What is the level of urgency to deliver this project? Consideration of timing and potential coordination opportunities with other projects would be valuable.

DALLAS ROAD PAID PARKING

That Council request staff to report back with information regarding the potential for paid parking along a portion of Dallas Road with exemption for accessible parking spaces.

BACKGROUND

There are more than 500 parking spaces on the stretch of Dallas Road between Ogden Point and Clover Point including designated stalls for people with disabilities. Dallas Road attracts residents, and visitors from across the Capital Region and tourists throughout the year and with the walking, cycling and balustrade upgrades implemented over the last year, it has established itself as a popular recreational destination.

As a part of the works associated with the CRD Force Main Project and the balustrade replacement, the on-street parking layout has been changed on Dallas Road in several locations. Time restrictions have recently been introduced in several areas along the road to discourage all day commuter parking and overnight stays and provide for turnover of spaces. Parking utilization data will be collected on Dallas Road and adjacent local streets in 2021 and further time restricted parking expansions will be assessed in future years.

Go Victoria, the City's Sustainable Mobility Strategy, identifies pay parking as an available tool to help manage parking supply and maximize the efficient use of curbside parking. It is often seen as the highest level of intervention within the hierarchy of available measures.

Current priorities for pay parking are focused within the downtown where there is the highest demand for both on-street and parkade parking and the availability and turnover of on-street parking is most valued by drivers, local businesses and services. In the shorter term, on-street paid parking expansion is expected to occur in areas adjacent to existing paid parking zones and locations that are experiencing growth and demand such as streets where new development or densification of land is happening.

Consistency and Parking Displacement

When planning for and implementing new parking controls staff are mindful of two important considerations:

- The value that road users give to a consistent and understandable parking environment on a particular road or area.
- The risk of displacement of current parking onto adjacent streets with unintended impacts to residents, businesses and road safety. Experience has shown that there is often a transfer of parking onto other streets as drivers seek to avoid having to move their car after a defined period of time or wish to avoid paying to park. With the implementation of any project there is always a period of assessment, review and adjustment and sometimes further expansion.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This initiative is not a part of the proposed 2021 work plans. The necessary project management resources for this work are currently committed through the other proposed capital projects included in the Draft 2021 Financial Plan as well as other existing on-street management priorities. The implementation of on-street paid parking on Dallas Road, even for only a portion of it, would be expected to generate considerable community interest and this proposed work could not be delivered within existing resources unless another project(s) is delayed.

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Should Council direct staff to advance this project, the human resource implications are estimated to require approximately 0.25 FTE of effort for a Project Manager. The associated costs for purchasing and installing payment kiosks are estimated to be approximately \$11,500 per kiosk with approximately a minimum of 12 new kiosks required.

The implementation of paid parking on a portion of Dallas Road is not recommended at this time. With the new parking arrangements plus the recent introduction of 3.5-hour time limited parking restrictions, staff are confident that the parking on Dallas Road can be effectively managed at this time. The introduction of paid parking in the future would not be ruled out and should staff identify future growing on-street parking pressures which would benefit from having paid parking, that would be assessed appropriately within the context of a comprehensive parking management approach for the whole of Dallas Road and neighbouring streets with associated resources.

Prioritization Considerations:

1. CAPACITY - Does the new project impact other projects? Do staff have capacity to take this on within existing resources?
2. VALUE - What is the level of impact/value for the community? Does the project have a narrow or broad impact? Does the project fill a current gap in service?
3. URGENCY - What is the level of urgency to deliver this project? Consideration of timing and potential coordination opportunities with other projects would be valuable.

Staff's assessment using the above considerations is that the priority for this project is low.

PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN/SIDEWALK REHABILITATION PROGRAM

That Council direct staff to report back on a potential funding source for and implications of adding \$100,000 for the Pedestrian Master Plan implementation and/or Sidewalk Rehabilitation programs and that the work align with the Equity Framework.

BACKGROUND

The *Pedestrian Master Plan* guides construction of new pedestrian infrastructure and reconstruction of existing. New sidewalks are prioritized based on completing missing links within the network, with arterial and collector roadways given a higher weighting, along with roads that are adjacent to parks, schools, community centres, commercial areas and higher density housing. Layered onto this prioritization are co-ordination opportunities with other City capital projects (e.g.: road repaving, underground utility replacements and Bicycle Master Plan), land development projects and public requests. The 2021 program is anticipated to implement up to 4 projects.

Staff assess that should additional funding be available for 2021, that there is there is both value and staff capacity to deliver an expanded program of work.

The *Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program* is guided by the 2019/2020 sidewalk condition assessment which identified sidewalks in need of repair or full replacement over and above the smaller ongoing repairs undertaken through annual maintenance programs. These replacement projects prioritize pedestrian safety including trip and fall reports but also consider adjacent land use, level of pedestrian usage plus co-ordination opportunities with other capital projects. The program for 2021 is anticipated to replace approximately 4 high priority blocks of existing sidewalk.

Staff assess that this program is adequately resourced for 2021 and any expansion would need additional staff resources.

In assessing the implications of an additional \$100,000 for new or replacement sidewalks and opportunities to deliver this through an equity lens, staff have considered:

- The overall total proposed funding for new, replaced and upgraded sidewalks as part of the 2021 budget including the increased capital funding to support walking made available by Council over recent years.
- Existing planned and prioritized sidewalk projects already under design for 2021.
- The number and “spread” of new sidewalks and sidewalk upgrades across the City being delivered through other capital programs.
- Available staff resources to deliver additional projects in terms of design, community outreach and construction.

Because sidewalks are only one component of the overall pedestrian infrastructure, a review of the broader “landscape” of other planned pedestrian improvements across the city including the proposed 2021 crosswalk program which includes some 16 (+/-) projects has also been undertaken.

Equity Lens

Although a formal city-wide Equity Framework has not been developed at this time, equity considerations are already built into the sidewalk programs and weighted along with the other criteria described above.

The original 2008 Pedestrian Master Plan and 2019 sidewalk condition assessment seek to rank and assess all sidewalks in the city based on consistent criteria such as physical characteristics

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of the road and adjacent land use. This approach helps to ensure that locations are being looked at consistently, fairly and equitably with those locations having the greatest need and demand being given a higher priority.

In addition to the ranking, staff also proactively identify locations where the community has already indicated that a sidewalk is desired through, for example, worn paths in grass.

Simcoe Street – Oswego Street to Menzies Street

Although this motion does not direct staff to recommend a specific initiative or project, staff have identified a candidate project for Council consideration.

In Spring 2020, a temporary sidewalk was added as part of the City's pandemic response plan. Space for the sidewalk was created through the removal of on-street parking and by modifying the section of Simcoe Street between Oswego and Croft Streets to one-way operation. Staff are planning to make these measures permanent by widening the sidewalk in phases over two years with Phase 1 proposed as part of the 2021 Pedestrian Master Plan program. This project has been prioritized based on:

- James Bay has one of the highest population densities in the City.
- Over 30% of the population within the James Bay community is over the age of 65.
- Simcoe Street is an identified City Greenway.
- The existing sidewalks have several existing accessibility barriers given the presence of utility (hydro) poles.
- The project will be coordinated with the road repaving of Simcoe Street as part of the Complete Streets program.
- The project provides a positive community legacy to the 2020 Covid-19 emergency.

The additional \$100,000 would allow accelerated completion of the project in one year instead of the original planned two-year phasing.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The extension of the wider sidewalk on Simcoe Street can be delivered within existing staffing resources as it represents additional scope to an existing project. Staff assess that additional new sidewalk projects or expansion of sidewalk rehabilitation work could not be delivered within existing staff resources without impacting other planned capital works.

Prioritization Considerations:

1. CAPACITY - Does the new project impact other projects? Do staff have capacity to take this on within existing resources?
2. VALUE - What is the level of impact/value for the community? Does the project have a narrow or broad impact? Does the project fill a current gap in service?
3. URGENCY - What is the level of urgency to deliver this project? Consideration of timing and potential coordination opportunities with other projects would be valuable.

Staff's assessment using the above considerations is that the priority for this project is high.

PATHWAY LIGHTING UPGRADES

That Council direct staff to report back on the implications and potential funding source(s) for lighting upgrades in Burnside Gorge (Galloping Goose, Burnside Bridge and Cecelia Ravine) in collaboration with the CRD where necessary, including treatments that require less infrastructure i.e. solar lighting treatments.

BACKGROUND

Staff are currently liaising with the CRD and Province of BC on a major City-led project on the Galloping Goose in Spring/Summer 2022 to upgrade the existing sanitary sewer located under the trail.

The CRD has been studying improvements to the Galloping Goose including trail widening and lighting as a part of the Regional Trails Management Plan. The upgrade to the sewer is expected to require the full closure of the Galloping Goose for several months and there are strong opportunities to coordinate trail improvements at the same time, including lighting, thereby reducing costs and minimizing the impacts to users.

Staff are mindful of the significant impacts of the planned closure of the Galloping Goose to complete this essential utility replacement work and are in the preliminary planning stages. More information will be provided to Council during 2021 once the project impacts and duration are more defined including details on the public communications and outreach plus planned temporary diversions.

Staff have assessed the option of temporary lighting, considering:

- The upcoming 2022 capital project and associated benefits of an integrated design and implementation approach
- Potential opportunities to work with CRD and Province of BC to finance portions of trail upgrades in the area
- A CRD assessment undertaken 4 years ago that determined that due to the physical nature of the Galloping Goose being in a ravine and surrounded by mature forest, there is insufficient sunlight to provide consistent and adequate solar lighting
- Risks of adding “spot” lighting outside of a comprehensive treatment with the associated issues of establishing an inconsistent lighting experience including the creation of dark spots with unintended safety and personal security outcomes
- Likelihood of implementing lighting which would be “throw away” or inconsistent with a more comprehensive treatment in a short period of time
- Available staff resources to deliver this project in terms of design and construction

Even with a full and comprehensive design undertaken in advance of the utility replacement projects, there are risks of additional design work and construction costs being required to ensure integration with the broader project. Staff recommend deferring the proposed lighting project to 2022 so that the design can be undertaken more comprehensively, and implementation (full or phased) can be pro-actively integrated into the sewer replacement project with comprehensive budget estimates and external funding opportunities fully determined and optimized.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Should Council direct staff to advance this project, given the recommendation for any design of lighting to be undertaken comprehensively and the absence of in-house professional street lighting design capacity, the estimated consultant fees associated with the assessment, design and cost estimation work for temporary lighting solutions are estimated to be approximately \$55,000.

The human resource implications are estimated to require approximately 0.5 FTE of effort for a Project Manager. The necessary project management resources for this work are currently committed through the other proposed capital projects included in the Draft 2021 Financial Plan as are the electrical/street lighting construction resources in Public Works. This project cannot be delivered within existing resources unless another project(s) is delayed.

Prioritization Considerations:

1. CAPACITY - Does the new project impact other projects? Do staff have capacity to take this on within existing resources?
2. VALUE - What is the level of impact/value for the community? Does the project have a narrow or broad impact? Does the project fill a current gap in service?
3. URGENCY - What is the level of urgency to deliver this project? Consideration of timing and potential coordination opportunities with other projects would be valuable.

Staff's assessment using the above considerations is that the priority for this project is low.

MEMORIAL STONE MARKERS ON SHELBOURNE STREET

That Council direct staff to report back on the implications and suggested funding source(s) of up to \$15,000 to create and install stone markers commemorating the Shelbourne Street memorial road, working in collaboration with the District of Saanich, and direct staff to refer the matter to Fernwood, North Jubilee and Oaklands Neighbourhood Associations and report back by January 15, 2021.

BACKGROUND

In 2019 the City installed several commemorative medallions along Shelbourne Street to serve as a memorial to the soldiers of British Columbia who died, fighting during the First World War. The installation extended the medallions that the District of Saanich had introduced on the section of Shelbourne Street within Saanich and are in addition to the commemorative London Plane trees planted on Shelbourne Street in 1921.

In 2021, the District of Saanich is planning to design, manufacture and install stone markers along the Memorial Avenue to give more context to the medallions and to provide an opportunity for residents to reflect upon those who died.

The District of Saanich is in the early stages of planning the design and implementation of the markers which would likely take place in 2021. Should funding be approved, staff would work with the District to develop a consistent design treatment and construction schedule for the memorial markers within both municipalities.

The Neighbourhoods team referred the proposal to the appropriate Neighbourhood Associations and to date we have received feedback from the North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association and the Oaklands Community Association who have volunteered to be involved with the consultation to identify a location for the markers.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This project can be completed with existing staff resources within Engineering and Public Works with staff anticipating the District of Saanich being the lead on the design and fabrication of the markers. Given the uniqueness of the work involved and unconfirmed design proposal / site conditions, it is recommended that additional contingency be included in the budget for a total investment of \$20,000.

Prioritization Considerations:

1. CAPACITY - Does the new project impact other projects? Do staff have capacity to take this on within existing resources?
2. VALUE - What is the level of impact/value for the community? Does the project have a narrow or broad impact? Does the project fill a current gap in service?
3. URGENCY - What is the level of urgency to deliver this project? Consideration of timing and potential coordination opportunities with other projects would be valuable.

Staff's assessment using the above considerations is that the priority for this project is medium.

VIC WEST SKATE PARK

That Council direct staff to report back with implications of adding lighting to the Vic West Skate Park.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the City developed a long-term plan for Vic West Park. During the public engagement process, potential improvements to the Vic West Park Skate Park identified lighting as a desired addition to the facility.

Due to the nature of the sport, skate park lighting is subject to stringent requirements which must be met in order to address liability concerns related to the high speed, multi-directional sport. Proper lighting is required to ensure the safety of all users and spectators and reduce the potential for injuries. Lighting must be carefully designed to provide uniform illumination while avoiding glare and shadowing to allow users to quickly and clearly see contour changes and safely navigate the undulating terrain. Numerous light sources set high on tall strategically located poles are typically required to provide adequate lighting. The services of a professional lighting designer will be required.

Light distribution and spillage into adjacent areas must be carefully considered as neighbouring residents, businesses and roadways can be subject to unwanted, distractive spill light. A robust engagement process including consultation with adjacent resident and businesses as well as an analysis of potential impacts to motorists on Esquimalt Road will be required. Impacts to the future residents of the Roundhouse development to the south must also be considered.

Lighting is included in the scope of the **Topaz Park Skate and Bike Park** Design-Build project. This project will be underway in early 2021 and the facility is anticipated to be completed and ready for use in summer 2022.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The consultant fees associated with the assessment, design, technical analysis, and cost estimation work are estimated to be approximately \$25,000.

Due to the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of this project, the human resource implications are estimated to require approximately .5 FTE (\$60,000) of effort for the Project Manager, as well as support from Public Works, Transportation, Engagement, Finance, and other departments. The necessary resources for this project are currently committed through the proposed capital projects included in the Draft 2021 Financial Plan. This project cannot be delivered within existing resources unless another key project is delayed.

Prioritization Considerations:

1. **CAPACITY** – Staff do not have the capacity to take this project on unless another capital project (Parks) is removed from the draft list for 2021
2. **VALUE** – The impact of this project is narrow and focused on a single stakeholder group (skate park users)
3. **URGENCY** – This request is not considered urgent by staff as the Topaz Park project is underway and will deliver similar benefits.

Based on the above considerations, staff recommend deferring the proposed project to a future year, so that the necessary staff capacity can be pro-actively integrated as part of an annual workplan.

SECURITY SERVICE DELIVERY

That Council direct staff to report back on options and implications for security services.

BACKGROUND

For many years, the City has utilized a contracted delivery model for service at City owned properties. This approach is common amongst local government organizations, given the complexities involved and the extensive expertise available through external vendors. These partners are responsible for turnkey delivery of labour, supervision, health and safety, reporting, equipment, fleet, insurance, guard training, and other operational costs.

Based on the staff assessment, a shift to an in-house model would be a significant undertaking. This change must, for example, account for considerations relating to human resources, capital investment, risk management, as well as impacts to other City departments. Along with acquiring the subject matter expertise in this area, one of the more noteworthy implications of such a transition would be the resource investment. To achieve the same level of service, the City would need to develop a new staff division comprised of approximately fifty-four new employees, with an estimated annual operating cost of \$5.4 million (2020).

Staff have also noted that operational costs would be updated to account for increased equipment and supplies, technology, and fleet maintenance expenses. Upfront equipment and fleet needs are estimated to cost \$255,000, as well as a capital investment of \$375,000 to fit-up office space, including workplace furniture and equipment. Therefore, the estimated capital total is \$630,000 (2021).

The primary objective of the corporate security service program is to eliminate, mitigate, and manage the organization's risks associated with its physical properties. It is apparent that this goal can be met through a partnership with a contractor that possesses the necessary expertise. Further, an assessment of costs and benefits associated with the service delivery options favours the contracted service model. Although the potential exists for these services to be delivered by a new staff team, at this time staff have not identified a compelling rationale to invest the required resources for such a change. Staff recommend that the City continue to deliver security services through the contracted service model.

External Contracted Service Model (Current)

The City's experience with the contracted model has evolved over several years, as the municipality has grown into a more populous urban environment. The increasing complexities and demands have necessitated a range of responses through the service providers who are managing the risks in public spaces. The ability of these external partners to quickly scale-up as needed, as has been required over the past few years, is an important benefit of this model. The City's current program is delivered at an annual cost of approximately \$2.1 million (2020).

In-House City Service Model

Security service delivery is a complex 24/7 operation. Security guards frequently deal with incidents involving a high degree of risk, and in-house delivery of these services would increase the City's risk management responsibilities significantly. To achieve the same level of service through an in-house delivery model, the City would be required to significantly increase its annual investment. This would include the development of a new organizational division with an estimated annual cost of \$5.4 million.

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High Level Service Model Comparison

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Contracted Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost effective• Risk management• Administration• Scalable• Efficiencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality control
In-House Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant cost• Risk management• Limited scalability

Summary of Projected Costs

Operational cost comparison between Contracted and In-House service models				
Description	Contracted Service		In-House Service	
	No. of Staff	Annual Total	No. of Staff	Annual Total
Security Staff (includes supervision & relief staff, and employee benefits)	44	\$2,091,993	54	\$5,184,214
Equipment, fleet maintenance, supplies, training & licences	included	\$0	—	\$241,920
Average Annual Cost		\$2,091,993		\$5,426,134

*Job descriptions and pay grades for these positions have yet to be developed. Should Council decide to pursue in-house security services staff would develop formal job descriptions for evaluation and assignment of wage rates under the CUPE job evaluation plan.

Given the relatively limited benefits and considering the additional investment, as well as new risks the City would be accepting with an in-house security service, staff recommend continuation of the contracted service model.

Council may wish to instruct staff to pursue the in-house service model. In this instance, staff would need to create a fulsome implementation plan that considers the human resources, financial, and infrastructure needs of such a transition. Staff anticipate creation of this plan would take approximately three months, and a further six to nine months to implement. During the implementation phase contracted services would remain until in-house resources are established. Following the development of the plan, staff would report to Council in a public meeting on the implications and proposed updates to the Financial Plan.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of the contracted service model have already been captured in the Draft 2021 Financial Plan. Should Council direct staff to pursue planning the implementation of the in-house service model, an updated budget would be developed. Based on staff's assessment to-date, it is projected that an additional \$3,334,000 in annual costs would need to be accounted for, along with one-time capital expenditures of approximately \$630,000.

Further, an in-house model would necessitate additional capacity for support services, such as human resources, finance, IT and administration staff to support the various operational needs of a large new staff group. Staff have yet to quantify the support department resource implications, insurance and WCB cost increases, however, further analysis would be completed should Council choose to pursue this option.

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OUR PLACE – STORAGE OF BELONGINGS:

That Council direct staff to report back on a potential funding source for the Our Place Storage of Belongings costs of \$50,000.

That Council receive an annual update from Our Place on the use of grant funds provided by the City.

That staff report to Council with a list of grants provided to Our Place in the last five years.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last several years, Council has awarded grants to Our Place on an ad-hoc basis in addition to those awarded as part of the Strategic Plan Grant program. The following table summarizes the grants from 2016 to 2020:

Year	Description	Amount Paid
2016	Strategic Plan Grant (extended hours - morning, evening, weekends)	50,000.00
2017	Strategic Plan Grant (extended hours)	50,000.00
2018	Strategic Plan Grant (seniors program initiative)	20,000.00
	Next Steps Employment Program	25,000.00
	Extended Hours (new spring/summer operating hours)	25,000.00
	Storage Facility (construct & operate - 6hrs/day x 7 days/week)	130,000.00
		200,000.00
2019	Strategic Plan Grant (seniors social inclusion)	30,000.00
	Extended Hours-April to Oct (match winter hours)	50,000.00
	In-kind services (staffing & police for July 28 block party)	1,493.00
		81,493.00
2020	Strategic Plan Grant (integrated re-housing program focus on first-time homelessness)	22,000.00
	Extended Hours - April to Oct (match winter hours)	50,000.00
	Storage Facility	50,000.00
		122,000.00
	Total	503,493.00

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Staff assumed that Council did not wish to reallocate funding from other grant program budgets. As such, a grant for storage of belongings for \$50,000 as a one-time grant could be allocated from the additional envelope of funding staff have identified for all requests outlined in appendices 1 and 2 to the January 18, 2021 Financial Plan report. However, there is insufficient funding to provide to all initiatives listed in those appendices.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (WITHOUT COMMUNITY CENTRES) – PART-TIME COORDINATOR:

That Council direct staff to report back on a potential funding source for \$20,000 each for a part-time coordinator for the Downtown Residents Association, North Jubilee, South Jubilee, Rockland and North Park Neighbourhoods as a one-year pilot with a final report on the utility of the coordinator position to be provided at the end of the pilot.

Forward this motion to VCAN for their feedback.

BACKGROUND:

Five neighbourhoods do not have City-provided community centres. The remaining neighbourhoods provide recreation, youth or seniors programming using City-provided facilities and receive grants from the City to do so.

All neighbourhoods receive an annual base grant based on population. This grant program started in 1994 and supported neighbourhood associations in their engagement and organizing roles. The funding is to be used to:

1. (Maintain) ongoing access to a meeting space,
2. (Provide) some form of local coordination of activities (e.g. meetings), and
3. (Develop) an appropriate means of communication with its members.

Although these were the minimal requirements, the grant program also required applicants to indicate how the funding would enable the association to implement the neighbourhood development policy objectives that had been in place at that time. Neighbourhood associations are now required to submit a brief report each year prior to receiving further base grant funding. There are no formal terms of reference for neighbourhood associations that would otherwise guide expectations.

Starting in 2020, Council approved doubling this grant for the neighbourhoods without a centre (\$1.55 per capita compared to \$0.78 per capita for neighbourhoods with a centre). In addition, this grant is increased each year by inflation. The following table summarizes the grant amounts included in the draft 2021 Financial Plan:

Neighbourhood	Type of Grant	2021 Draft Budget
Blanshard (Hillside Quadra)	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,880
Burnside/Gorge	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,290
Downtown (incl Harris Green)	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	8,550
Fairfield Gonzales	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	12,780
Fernwood	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	7,620
James Bay	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	9,350
North Jubilee	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	5,010
North Park	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	5,550
Oaklands	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,530
Rockland	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	5,700
South Jubilee	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	3,590
Vic West	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,960

Staff forwarded this motion to Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) as directed by Council. No VCAN meeting were scheduled in the requested time period, however members determined that the referral would be directed to affected neighbourhood associations for

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comment with an invitation to any other neighbourhoods to provide comments should they so desire.

The summary of their feedback is as follows (complete responses attached):

Jubilees The Jubilee Neighbourhood has evolved historically with two associations representing the area. Individually, North and South Jubilee have the smallest populations in City neighbourhoods and collectively Jubilee is the third smallest.

South Jubilee does not feel that they currently have the capacity to manage a coordinator position, but identifies organizational goals that would benefit from such a position. North Jubilee shares similar concerns with South Jubilee about managing a coordinator, but notes that there would be benefits to having a person provide that role.

North Park The North Park Neighbourhood Association welcomes the opportunity to receive \$20,000 in funding which it believes will allow it to continue to expand and develop its community work. North Park has had a coordinator in place over the last year. This has helped support the association with organizing community meetings, managing board business, supporting grant applications and evaluating community needs. The position has also enabled the association to apply for grants and coordinate a food hamper program, food market and recreation offerings at Royal Athletic Park.

The North Park and Downtown neighbourhood associations submitted a request for operational funding (\$75,000 each) last year.

Downtown-Harris Green The Downtown Residents Association (DRA) is supportive of being awarded the funding. The DRA has identified the complexities of the downtown neighbourhood as a unique challenge and its lack of capacity as a significant constraint in allowing it to fulfill its role. They believe that increased funding would allow greater engagement with downtown residents and propose a specific outreach campaign. In addition to a part time coordinator for up to 25 hours a week, the DRA believes that it needs a dedicated office in the downtown and is therefore requesting \$47,000 in support.

Rockland Rockland Neighbourhood Association is supportive of receiving the funding and believes it will assist their organization in outreach with residents, coordinating administrative duties, sustaining communication and managing various projects.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Staff assumed that Council did not wish to reallocate funding from other grant program budgets. As such, a grant to each of the five neighbourhoods of \$20,000 could be allocated from the additional envelope of funding staff have identified for all requests outlined in appendices 1 and 2 to the January 18, 2021 Financial Plan report. However, there is insufficient funding to provide to all initiatives listed in those appendices.

Should Council direct this grant funding be awarded, next steps would include clearly articulating the intent and purpose for the funding, establish reporting requirements, determine a staff position to coordinate this new grant program etc.

COMPLETE NEIGHBOURHOOD SUBMISSIONS

The following are the submissions from each neighbourhood:

South Jubilee

I've canvassed the South Jubilee Board on the proposal to get \$20,000 for a part-time coordinator. Due to the quick-turnaround, we didn't have time for a rigorous debate and do not have a firm conclusion. Instead, I'm going to provide you with some summary-bullets to outline our feelings. Some of these may be contradictory, so I'm open to your input on how to move forward here.

Overall, the general feeling is that we do not have the time or administrative capacity to hire and manage a part-time coordinator. We have a large and active volunteer board that is excited about doing the work in our community and we are doing a reasonably good job of this (e.g. recycle day, community events, CALUC).

That said, we do feel this offer came up too quickly and didn't have enough time to fully explore this with North Jubilee. With more time, we could work towards becoming more organized so we could use a coordinator. There is definitely LOTS to do to improve the neighbourhood. **One suggestion is to delay this proposal and revisit it at a later date (post COVID), maybe in Fall 2021.**

A few of us felt that there is benefit to using the money to hire a contractor for short term projects. Hiring a contractor would mean we don't have to do all the administrative work. For example, the main project we have is to contact all the Multi-Unit Residential Buildings (condos, apartments, etc.). A contractor (let's say \$3,000) could work at contact all the strata councils and getting people to join the SJNA. **Would the city be open to funding for short-term contractor positions? Does the My Great Neighbourhood Grant cover this?**

We do have a huge need for more funding in our community for other community infrastructure and projects, which may be a better use of the \$20,000. For example, we desperately need proper drainage in Redfern Park. This would make the park more usable, stop flooding in nearby homes, and allow for more rec space. Other projects include replanting local species in Kasapi Park, future heritage projects, more urban garden funding, and \$3000 for our annual festival (My Great Neighbourhood only covers a one-time fest).

We support the Downtown Residents Association in their request for \$20,000 as we recognize they have unique needs and likely require a coordinator as soon as possible.

North Jubilee

The North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association has discussed the prospect of getting \$20,000 for a part-time community coordinator for the North and South Jubilee Neighbourhood Associations and we are cautiously optimistic, but would like to know more information about the nature of this potential resource.

First we would like to express our full support for other neighbourhoods in Victoria getting/finding coordinators regardless of whether North Jubilee moves forward with getting a coordinator. We echo South Jubilee's sentiment: we also support the Downtown Residents Association in their request for \$20,000 as we recognize they have unique needs and likely require a coordinator as soon as possible.

As the information was fairly limited about the part-time community coordinator program we have a few comments/questions about this opportunity:

1. Would the \$20,000 for North and South Jubilee be in the form of funding of a somewhat discretionary nature or is it "locked-in" as coordinator wages / work hours in-kind?

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If the \$20,000 is aimed to support the activities of SJNA and NJNA, then we would like to know if we could instead use the money to hire a contractor for a targeted project (such as some work on the Spirit Garden) or if we could get \$20,000 worth of support for the neighbourhood in the form of work hours by City of Victoria landscaping/ maintenance staff to work on community projects such as the Spirit Garden.

If the \$20,000 for North and South Jubilee was for a part-time coordinator to be hired and overseen by the City of Victoria, with part of their time allotted to NJNA to assist with association activities, then we would be interested in their help. We envisioned a full-time coordinator hired by the city and then their time divided in part-time equivalents across several neighbourhood associations. We would be especially interested if the coordinator could assist with community outreach and other activities that improve communication and engagement in our neighbourhood.

NJNA Board volunteer time is unfortunately severely limited so NJNA does not have the capacity to engage in any hiring activities, payroll preparation, or “coordinating the coordinator”. We would be looking for a coordinator who is more of a “self-starter” who could be assigned tasks with minimal oversight, and help us with organizing NJNA meetings and activities.

If the \$20,000 for SJNA and NJNA is money earmarked for hiring a coordinator, but NJNA and SJNA would have to search for a coordinator and perform all employee administration tasks including payroll etc., then we (NJNA) would be likely to decline this opportunity; as the effort to engage and a supervise coordinator would far outweigh any benefits realized from the coordinator’s assistance due to NJNA capacity constraints.

2. What is the timeline for the part-time coordinator funding opportunity and over what duration must this funding be used? Due to Covid-19 SJNA and NJNA community events are currently severely limited, however after the pandemic we may have more need of a coordinator later in the year or next year once we can start planning events again.

North Park

The NPNA is interested in being awarded for the \$20,000 community coordinator grant as a pilot project. The NPNA has expressed interest in the past for such funding, and obviously the NPNA believes that this should be an annual base grant.

As it stands right now, the NPNA only has funding for my position through to the end of August 2021. The past year has demonstrated what is possible for North Park with a dedicated staff person for the North Park neighbourhood. Seeking external grants will always be a part of the NPNA mandate, however, a consistent base grant, like those awarded to the neighbourhood associations with community centres would provide consistency in service that is at risk right now without consistent funding.

With the \$20,000 funding for 2021, the NPNA would continue offering services like our weekly grocery hamper program that goes out to 66 low income and/or isolated households per week, our monthly food market at Royal Athletic Park (started September 2020). We would also be better equipped to expand into more programs, such as the drop in playgroup currently in the planning process. This playgroup is planned to coincide with the George Jay drop off time, and be located at a nearby community gathering space. The NPNA is currently in the process of carrying out a Needs Assessment with two UVIC PhD candidate researchers. We intend on using the results of this needs assessment to guide our grant requests as well as program development and delivery.

This \$20,000 funding pilot is an opportunity for the City to demonstrate equity in budget development, recognizing the important work done by neighbourhood associations without a

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dedicated community centre, and the extra obstacles they face by not having a dedicated gathering space. We are happy to abide by reporting requests, and will be sharing our 2020 report with the City and the community once it is finished. 2020 has been an incredible year of change and growth for many, and the NPNA has experienced much of this change and growth. This \$20,000 would allow us to build on the momentum from the past year, and to continue serving our community's most marginalized members.

The existence (and maintenance) of a community centre is an asset that already sets some neighbourhoods in a privileged and higher tiered standing. Having access to stable and certain funding from the City's annual operating budget should not be another rung from which they get to stand taller and reach further.

\$20,000 is still inequitable and inadequate for North Park. As is well known from our community centres' pleas of recent years, anything less than \$75,000 is too little to fund a fulltime staff person. This is why for last three years, community centres have enjoyed their annual bump to \$75,000.

The NPNA is in favour of equitable, not necessarily equal, funding to neighbourhoods on the basis of need and marginalization, and on basis of the neighbourhood association's ambition and commitment to building/growing community resilience and wellbeing.

Downtown

Victoria's neighbourhood associations, and the often-associated community centres, fulfill a vital role in building resilient communities, enhancing citizen engagement in civic activities, identifying and addressing the specific and unique needs of the community's residents, and providing accessible and equitable access to resources. Many other cities also utilize and recognize the value of neighbourhood associations and community centres in achieving civic goals.

Since 2004, the Downtown Residents Association (DRA) has worked hard to address the needs of the residents of the Downtown-Harris Green Neighbourhood, taking as many actions toward realizing neighbourhood resiliency and liveability goals as are achievable without the support of a community centre, paid staff, or even a fixed address.

Adding to those resource challenges, the Downtown-Harris Green Neighbourhood is relatively unique among Victoria's neighbourhoods in that it has and continues to experience a rapidly increasing and quite diverse population. Additionally, our neighbourhood faces the challenges of balancing residents' interests with supporting a vibrant business, entertainment and tourist sector; equity concerns respecting the significant lack of green space and access to recreational opportunities; a significant segment of our residents lacking access to housing and, in some cases, experiencing substance abuse and/or mental health issues; extensive and ongoing construction and land development with a wide variety of planning, heritage and other issues; adjacency to the City's important Inner Harbour resource; as well as high daily volumes of motorized and non-motorized traffic into and out of our neighbourhood. Arguably, Victoria's other neighbourhoods experience far fewer of these challenges, and typically only on a reduced scale or of less complexity.

Despite this unique set of challenges, as an organization the DRA has grown steadily in scope and capacity to the point where it now co-ordinates a number of highly-engaged volunteers to participate in, independently deliver or partner with other stakeholders on a wide variety of community activities, all commensurate with the complexity of our neighbourhood.

Council is no doubt already highly familiar with the extensive volunteer work undertaken by our very active Land Use Committee. Indeed, the creation of this committee was the original genesis for the DRA, and it continues to be highly involved in providing Council valuable resident feedback on not only by far the largest number of development projects in the City, but also probably the

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most complicated projects, often incorporating heritage components, interactions between diverse stakeholder groups and sophisticated developers, with projects on a scale generally not found elsewhere in the city. In addition, the Land Use Committee responds to requests for community feedback on hospitality industry licensing and regarding cannabis dispensaries, and on land use documents such as the Official Community Plan, Old Town Guidelines, and others. The result is a significant amount of correspondence generated by that Committee directed to both Council and City staff, plus on a number of occasions making presentations to council and City staff as appropriate.

However, in addition to the valuable work of our Land Use Committee and without providing an exhaustive survey of the DRA's activities, I would draw your attention to the wide and broad extent to which the DRA is and has been involved in providing value to residents well beyond land use issues.

The DRA publishes a monthly e-newsletter, distributed to our members, and maintains both an active (and soon-to-be-updated) website and a social media presence to engage with and provide Downtown-Harris Green residents with up-to-date information on neighbourhood and wider civic activities and resources. We also receive and respond to ongoing traffic to our general email address from residents and others looking to obtain information or express concerns about matters related to our downtown community.

We actively participate in, maintain contact with and/or provide valuable resident feedback to many stakeholder bodies including a number of City of Victoria Departments, the Province, CRD, VCAN, DVBA, GVHA, the LNAC and act as a resource to various media outlets on issues and activities of local importance.

We have represented downtown residents, for a number of years, on the 900 Pandora Group and the Downtown Service Providers and have partnered with other neighbourhoods on equity work, housing issues, land use issues and recreational initiatives.

The DRA has also served as the backend administrative support and supervisor of the very successful Yates Street Community Garden since its inception.

We have produced, independently or in partnership, a number of well-attended civic forums including most recently, election forums/panels and a Truth and Reconciliation film event. The DRA has also had an ongoing presence at various local festivals including, among others, Wicked Victoria and Car Free YYJ. We have also partnered with a number of local businesses to create pop up events with food and live music and have partnered with local artists to enliven the public realm.

In addition, we are responsible for all of the administrative responsibilities that go along with maintaining the DRA as a provincially registered society including running our meetings and finances, maintaining records and policies and responding to intra- and interorganizational communications, and operating all of our various committees, as well as providing a point of contact for residents on matters of civic importance.

The DRA does all of this, without any paid staff resources or a designated meeting space, relying 100% on its Board and other volunteers and gathering in frequently changing, ad hoc meeting spaces. While we have access to a base grant and the capacity to apply for additional one-time project specific grant funds from the City, the amounts involved are insufficient to retain staff or obtain a permanent space.

The DRA believes that with the support of a dedicated, paid staff person and a dedicated, known meeting space, it would attract a greater number and a more diverse range of downtown residents

Appendix 2 - New Financial Plan Motion Report Back

to participate in civic activities, addressing the specific and unique needs of our community, all of which will result in a more resilient downtown community.

To address this gap in our resources, the DRA requests that in its 2021 budget deliberations Council approve an allocation to it of \$47,000 as a pilot project. These funds will enable the DRA to retain a part-time staff person up to 25 hours per week to assist in targeted outreach activities to build a broader and more diverse DRA membership, identify and deliver on residents' needs and improve access and equity to civic resources, actively seek other potential sources of funding to meet community needs, and conduct on-going evaluation of and reporting on DRA activities.

The staff person would also assist the DRA in exploring opportunities to locate a small office space in a downtown location to provide a physical community "heart" where downtown residents people can meet and problem-solve, and which would also be partly paid for by these additional funds.

The DRA is poised and ready to proceed with engaging a paid staff resource and we have a strong and committed Board, with a number of projects in the preliminary development stage.

For example, if funding permits, the DRA will undertake conducting a specific, targeted outreach to four to-be-identified residential buildings - 2 rental/2 condo, 2 older/2 newly developed, with hopefully at least one of those being some form of supported housing, to identify and address the needs of a broader and more diverse DRA membership. Broader outreach is especially critical in our Downtown-Harris Green Neighbourhood, which is hampered not only by the challenges described above, but also our unique characteristics in that:

- Almost all of our population resides in multi-unit, higher density buildings, with a high percentage of renters
- Our population is more heavily weighted to the younger (under 30) and older (over 50) ends of the adult demographic spectrum, with many of those living alone - often for the first time in their lives
- Significant and rapid residential development has recently occurred and is continuing, which means a large number of newcomers to our community - many without former ties to our City
- Our population experiences a wide range of economic circumstances, from newly employed to retired pensioners, including a large segment of people without steady or any source of income or housing, and
- Our neighbourhood does not have any public schools, playgrounds, front porches or front yards – the usual and typical neighbourhood meeting grounds.

These characteristics also mean our neighbourhood has a unique set of needs to be met in order to enhance public engagement and reduce social isolation, improve mental and physical health, and reduce the perception of a lack of safety and pride in where we live. However, as an organization, we lack the specific skills and the significant additional dedicated time necessary to develop these projects further, without dedicated staff assistance.

Many other neighbourhood associations not only have a significant physical presence through being located within and supported by a community centre, but also multiple paid staff positions — resulting in an obvious situation of unfair and inequitable access to resources based solely on where citizens happen to make their homes in the City.

Only four other neighbourhood associations are in a somewhat similar situation to the Downtown Harris Green neighbourhood — North Park, Rockland, North Jubilee and South Jubilee. And North Park's highly successful 2020 programs, which may be attributed at least in part to its recently hired paid staff positions, clearly illustrate the value of such additional resources in

Appendix 2 - New Financial Plan Motion Report Back

building strong communities. Our goal is to achieve similar success within the specific needs of the Downtown–Harris Green neighbourhood and we commit to provide to Council a full and complete report on the success and added value of this much needed investment, to provide support for and a guide to future investment in all of Victoria's disadvantaged neighbourhood associations.

The Downtown Residents Association thanks Council for giving our request your serious consideration. By approving this investment in our neighbourhood, Council will acknowledge the importance of our downtown community and our residents, and our role and activities in supporting a vibrant and diverse city, and the importance of neighbourhood associations as a key and critical opportunity for all citizens to engage in Victoria's civic activities and institutions.

Rockland

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association (RNA) directors met online regarding the proposed funding for a part-time coordinator to help the association. Each of the nine directors expressed full support for the concept after several questions were raised and discussed. Our discussion touched on the use of taxpayer's money (was it wise? was it feasible?), the way in which the program would be run (not determined yet) and – of course – what would the program mean for our association. We finished our discussions with the motion: "That we correspond with the city supporting the idea of a part-time community liaison/community development person." In discussion of the motion the following ideas were put forward and should be seen as attached to the motion:

- We need to strengthen our membership. In particular, we need to better reach our large population of renters. (Approximately 70% of the residents in our area are renters, whom we have a hard time reaching.) A part-time coordinator would help us devise, develop and deliver more effective outreach systems. Inherent in improving our outreach to members is the idea of improving the ways in which we receive feedback from those members. Because this is an issue in other neighbourhoods, we would also hope for a sharing of approaches between coordinators/associations.
- Our administrative systems need updating and coordinating. In particular, we need to improve our communications systems and our membership entry and tracking systems. A part-time coordinator would allow us to make the needed improvements and see that they worked over the course of a year. The coordinator would aim to leave behind systems that function better, directors that are better trained, and documentation that ensures we would continue to operate smoothly.
- We need to improve our neighbourhood-building initiatives, including the development of content for our website and place-making initiatives for the neighbourhood (e.g., building tiny libraries, building information kiosks, developing boulevard gardens). A part-time coordinator would help significantly by providing ongoing attention and energy to these initiatives.

Without a center of operations and because of recent turnover in our executive, the association is struggling somewhat at present. A part-time coordinator would certainly help us. We hope this brief letter adequately serves to convey our support for this city initiative. We would welcome an opportunity to speak further on the matter, if desired.

PRO ART ALLIANCE OF GREATER VICTORIA GRANT:

That Council direct staff to report back on a potential funding source for an annual grant of \$10,000 for the Pro Art Alliance of Greater Victoria to fund the City of Victoria Creative Builder Award on an ongoing basis.

BACKGROUND:

The City has a number of grant programs that non-profit organization can apply for funding under. The Strategic Plan Grant Program is an existing funding source for this organization to seek funding from. However, staff interpret Council's direction as providing a grant outside of any of the grant programs the City has in place. Therefore, this would require an additional budget to be established for this purpose.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Staff assumed that Council did not wish to reallocate funding from other grant program budgets. Also, there is no ongoing funding remaining to be allocated in 2021. However, a \$10,000 grant could be allocated from the additional envelope of funding staff have identified for all requests outlined in appendices 1 and 2 to the January 18, 2021 Financial Plan report. However, there is insufficient funding to provide to all initiatives listed in those appendices. In addition, Council could provide this funding as one-time in 2021 and direct staff to include an ongoing grant in the Financial Plan starting in 2022 funded by new tax revenue from new development.

Appendix 3 – Listing of Direct Award Grant Organizations

Organization	Type of Grant	2020 Final Budget	2021 Draft Budget	Change
Victoria Civic Heritage Trust	Building Incentive	920,000	920,000	0
Victoria Civic Heritage Trust	Operating	116,500	116,500	0
Victoria Heritage Foundation	Operating	226,810	226,810	0
Victoria Youth Council	Operating	26,000	26,000	0
Quadra Village Community Centre	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Quadra Village Community Centre	Youth Programming	8,875	8,960	85
Quadra Village Community Centre	Lease Grant	44,060	44,060	0
Fernwood Community Centre	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Fernwood Community Centre	Youth Programming	8,875	8,960	85
Vic West Community Association	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Vic West Community Association	Youth Programming	8,875	8,960	85
Vic West Community Association	Facility (janitorial)	36,280	36,280	0
Fairfield Community Place	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Fairfield Community Place	Youth Programming	8,875	8,960	85
Fairfield Community Place	Facility (janitorial, recycling)	48,180	48,180	0
Fairfield Community Place	Liability Insurance	5,610	5,610	0
Fairfield Community Place	Youth Outreach	15,000	15,000	0
Cook Street Village Activity Centre	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Cook Street Village Activity Centre	Facility (strata fees)	18,423	18,600	177
Victoria Silver Threads	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Victoria Silver Threads	Facility (lease)	122,390	122,390	0
Burnside Gorge Community Centre	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Burnside Gorge Community Centre	Youth Programming	8,875	8,960	85
Burnside Gorge Community Centre	Youth Outreach	10,000	10,000	0
James Bay Community School Centre	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
James Bay Community School Centre	Youth Programming	8,875	8,960	85
James Bay Community School Centre	Facility (janitorial, recycling)	56,340	56,340	0
James Bay New Horizons	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
James Bay New Horizons	Facility (janitorial)	28,520	28,520	0
Oaklands Community Centre	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Oaklands Community Centre	Youth Programming	8,875	8,960	85
Oaklands Community Centre	Facility (janitorial)	17,610	17,610	0
Cool Aid Downtown Community Centre	Operating	75,000	75,750	750
Seniors Outreach	Operating	30,000	30,000	0
Victoria Community Association Network	Operating	920	920	0
Blanshard (Hillside Quadra)	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,826	5,880	54
Burnside/Gorge	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,233	5,290	57
Downtown (incl Harris Green)	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	8,464	8,550	86
Fairfield Gonzales	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	12,652	12,780	128
Fernwood	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	7,542	7,620	78
James Bay	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	9,258	9,350	92
North Jubilee	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	4,956	5,010	54
North Park	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	5,494	5,550	56
Oaklands	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,480	5,530	50
Rockland	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	5,648	5,700	52
South Jubilee	Per capita base (1.55 times population)	3,554	3,590	36
Vic West	Per capita base (0.78 times population)	5,902	5,960	58
		2,689,777	2,699,600	9,823

Note: The City provides janitorial services to Quadra Village Community Centre and Fernwood Community Centre and Cook Street Village Activity Centre; no support is provided to Burnside Gorge Community Centre

Appendix 4 – Listing of Other Grant Organizations

Organization	Grant Amount
Greater Victoria Bike to Work Week Society	\$7,500
Coalition to End Homelessness	\$100,000
Urban Food Table	\$6,000
Restorative Justice	\$34,120
Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission	\$45,000
Total	<u>\$192,620</u>



Council Member Motion
Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 18, 2021

Date: January 14, 2021

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: Additional Funding for Police Support for Encampments

Background:

Attached is correspondence from Chief Constable Manak outlining an additional funding request to support City Bylaw Services with encampments throughout the city. As the correspondence notes, Council has authorized up to \$94,528 for this purpose from September to the end of December 2020 and this request would provide the funding required to continue that support from January 1 to March 31, 2021.

Motion:

That Council approve up to an additional \$75,960 of funding from the Financial Stability Reserve to continue to deploy two VicPD officers for four hours per day/seven days a week from January 1 to March 31, 2021 to support City of Victoria Bylaw Services in carrying out their duties at the various encampments within the City of Victoria.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Helps'.

Mayor Lisa Helps

Attachment A – Correspondence from Chief Manak dated January 5, 2021



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

850 CALEDONIA AVENUE VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA V8T 5J8 T: 250.995.7217

January 5, 2021

Mayor Lisa Helps
Lead Co-Chair
Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board

Via Email

Dear Mayor Helps:

RE: VicPD Special Duty Funding to Assist City of Victoria Bylaw Services

I am respectfully requesting that Victoria City Council approve an additional \$75,960 so I may continue to deploy two VicPD officers for four hours per day/seven days a week from January 1 to March 31, 2021 to support City of Victoria Bylaw Services in carrying out their duties at the various encampments within the City of Victoria.

As you know, in September 2020, Victoria City Council passed a motion to allocate up to \$94,528 from the Financial Stability Reserve to provide additional policing resources in the City of Victoria until December 31, 2020. This allowed VicPD to provide two officers to accompany Bylaw officers seven days a week from 7am-11am to the various encampments in the City. The arrangement ensured Bylaw officers were kept safe while carrying out their duties and it also allowed VicPD to be proactive in preventing crime, educating campers, and taking action when crime was observed. From all accounts, this partnership has worked very well and received good community support.

Our current Patrol Division and Community Services Division resources continue to be short-staffed and on-duty resources cannot be relied upon to assist Bylaw officers at any given time. Given the current number of encampments as well as the associated challenges that VicPD and Bylaw continue to experience on a daily basis, I am seeking a three-month extension for this partnership to continue until March 31, 2021.

Ensuring the safety, security and well-being of campers and nearby residents remains an on-going priority for the Victoria Police Department. Thank you for considering my request.

Yours truly,



Del Manak
Chief Constable

c. Mayor Barbara Desjardins, Deputy Co-Chair – Victoria & Esquimalt Police Board



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 7, 2021

Date: December 18, 2020

From: Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Reallocation of Funds to Housing Reserve

Recommendation:

1. That Council direct staff to reallocate \$10,000 in the 2021 Financial Plan from the Council Meeting Catering line item to the Housing Reserve Fund, in recognition of increased reliance on remote meetings and heightened economic hardship arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. That this reallocation of funds be implemented with immediate effect.
3. That this resolution be considered at the daytime Council Meeting of January 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Councillor Isitt