



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 27, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** June 27, 2019
From: Councillor Loveday, Councillor Collins, and Councillor Potts
Subject: **Preventing Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in the City of Victoria**

Preventing Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault in the City of Victoria

Background:

The City of Victoria has committed to the creation of a Municipal Liquor Policy in 2019 to help guide the City's programs and approvals. The City of Victoria also facilitates a Late Night Program which aims to balance a safe and lively downtown nightlife while maintaining and enhancing the livability of the downtown neighbourhood.

Council's Strategic Plan 2019 includes an action to "explore ways to end sexual harassment and assault in Victoria, including using the Good Night Out international model to create a safe nightlife campaign for Victoria venues, bars, clubs and festivals."

In the Late Night Program Update, presented to Committee of the Whole on May 16, 2019, the report noted that previously,

"a sexual assault prevention workshop was conducted primarily for bar and restaurant operators, but also included VicPD and taxi stand attendants. The session was well-received, and several follow-up initiatives were supported by attendees. These included venue audits, a common code of conduct and a trial of a late night street patrol team modelled after Good Night Out in Vancouver."

While this workshop was an important first step, the report acknowledged the need to take additional actions to improve safety. Directions for improving safety included: working with licensees to address public space issues related to their operations; completing the update to the BarWatch program; conducting audits of venues to ensure the staff and environment minimize risk of sexual harassment incidents; developing a common policy for business operators that establishes a best practices standard for conduct; and initiating awareness patrols of teams that are activated late on weekend evenings interacting with patrons and providing information about sexual harassment.

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre states that:

“Most people assume sexualized violence is rape or sexual assault, but it includes many other forms of violence and encompasses all forms of unwanted sexual contact. Sexualized violence is an overarching term used to describe any violence, physical or psychological, carried out through sexual means or by targeting sexuality.”

Motion:

1. That Council includes sexualized violence prevention in the mandate of the Municipal Liquor Policy and the Late Night Program.
2. That Council direct staff to report back with implications of and options for mandating sexualized violence prevention training for bar and nightclub staff as part of either the liquor license or business license approval process.
3. That Council request that liquor license applicants submit a sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention plan alongside their liquor license application.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Loveday



Councillor Collins



Councillor Potts