



Downtown Victoria Business Association
20 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
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July 17, 2020

Mayor Lisa Helps & Council
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

Re: 'newspaper distribution boxes' and their detrimental affect on the downtown appearance

It is our understanding that these distribution boxes for free magazines and papers have no approval from the City allowing them to be installed on public sidewalks. The organizations pay no fees to allow the sidewalk clutter (unlike sandwich board signs and other regulated street installations) and rarely maintain the pick-up boxes.

The DVBA Clean Team reports frequently needing to pick up magazines which have been scattered by careless or mischievous people. There is rarely a workday where none of our workers have to remove graffiti from the boxes, as they are a frequent target of vandalism.

We would like to ask the City to remove these pick-up boxes. Due to COVID-19, sidewalk space is especially important (to allow for proper social distancing in line-ups) and the boxes interfere with shared use of the sidewalk. When lines are waiting the boxes become an obstacle. And they are unsightly clutter which contributes to the perception of some visitors that downtown is "messy."

Thank you for your time and your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Bray".

Jeff Bray
DVBA Executive Director