

# DOWNTOWN Victoria

Downtown Victoria Business Association  
20 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1P7

August 31, 2020

Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1P6

RE: Newspaper Boxes in Downtown

Dear Councillor Thornton-Joe,

This is a follow up to my letter to Mayor and Council of July 17<sup>th</sup> regarding newspaper boxes in downtown.

Since that initial letter I have met with several of the publishers of the various publications that use these boxes as part of their distribution network. I believe we have come up with a workable plan that will keep the benefits of these publications being freely available to the public while reducing the overall number of boxes and their appearance.

The agreed upon plan of action includes:

- Black Press has joined the DVBA as an associate member, together we will work to maintain the appearance of the 10 boxes they currently operate within our boundaries on public property;
- The Clean Team will remove any graffiti from the boxes as they appear, Black Press will focus on maintaining the appearance of their boxes;
- Mark Goodwin, who utilizes many of the other boxes in the core, has identified approximately 30 boxes that can be immediately removed; he will do this and the DVBA will cover the cost out of our Clean & Safe budget;
- Mark will also ensure that we limit the concentration of boxes in any one spot, thus freeing up valuable sidewalk space;
- Over the next few months, the DVBA will monitor the situation to confirm if this plan improves the streetscape, or if other measures need to be investigated.

To that end, the DVBA is supportive of your motion to remove these boxes outright being withdrawn as we work on these other solutions.

Yours truly,



Jeff Bray  
Executive Director