



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 3, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** May 30, 2021
From: Councillor Thornton-Joe and Councillor Alto
Subject: Release and Monitoring of Repeat Offenders living in Community while awaiting disposition of charges

BACKGROUND

When the global health pandemic hit in March 2020 and physical distancing measures were put in place, and with new laws themed with 'principled restraint' as introduced by Bill C-75, we are hearing that individuals charged with violent offences and those with several past criminal convictions and/or a history of repeat offences are sometimes being released on a "promise to appear" or released from the court with restrictive behavior conditions. Unfortunately, those individuals have been known to, or shown a pattern of, repeat offences, creating concerns about public safety and taxing our police department as they endeavor to provide follow up, oversight and work with other agencies to monitor and support such released individuals. Some public officials have publicly stated that some of those individuals, who would normally be in custody while awaiting charge disposition, are now residing in our community with insufficient supervision or access to support services.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request the Mayor to write to David Eby (Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing), Josie Osborn (Minister of Municipal Affairs), and Mike Farnworth (Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General) to express the City of Victoria's concern that those charged with violent offences or with numerous repeat offences are being released on a "promise to appear" or released from the court prematurely, and to further ask the provincial government to find ways to keep such individuals held in custody until charge disposition or until an informed determination of their potential risk to public safety can be made, and/or to provide sufficient funds for policing to assist with and support these individuals while they are living in community while awaiting disposition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charlayne Thornton-Joe".

Councillor Thornton-Joe

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alto".

Councillor Alto