

[REDACTED]

From: Mehdi Najari [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Council Secretary; [REDACTED]; Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: October 6 2022 / addressing the council

Hello, I am scheduled to talk to the council on October 6. Would you please include the following as background information.

Best Wishes.
mehdi najari

Questions for Mayor and Council and the city of Victoria



Mehdi Najari [REDACTED] > Mon, 1 Mar 2021, 11:39

to mayorandcouncil, engage



To: Mayor & Council and Mr. Bill Eisenhower

We Were told by the media that Island Health approached city officials in mid March of 2020 and expressed concern about homeless camping along Pandora Ave. Island Health was concerned about the close proximity of tents and campers and the possibility of catastrophic outcomes of COVID-19 if the virus spread in the homeless camp. My questions are:

1- Did Island Health express concern about the density of tents and their close proximity in Pandora Ave.? Did Island Health communicate their concern in a written form to the city?

2- Would you provide me with all written communication between Island Health and city of Victoria officials, Mayor and councillors in regard to COVID-19 and the camping on Pandora Ave. for the months of March and April of year 2020.

3- Did city of Victoria officials and council decide to allow camping in Topaz Park and Royal Athletic Park to remedy Island Health's concerns in regard to the situation in Pandora Ave. homeless camps.

4- Did the city of Victoria at any time during the months of March and April of 2020 express publicly in clear terms that the homeless issues are the responsibility of the provincial government and not of the city of Victoria. If yes, can you please provide me with a copy of those statements.

Thank you so much.

mehdi najari

Jack Etkin

New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon <rgordon@victoria.ca> Fri, 15 Jul, 13:27

to me



Good afternoon Mehdi,

I received your March 1, 2022 Request yesterday as well as your new request for Victoria Police Department budget amounts for 2007-2020. You can find the police budgets in the annual reports under "Protective Services". The reports can be found here: [Document Library | Victoria](#).

Your march 1st request consists of three requests for records for information and one question. The three requests for records have been combined into one FOI request, file #VIC-2022-088, with March 1st as the start date. The legislated due date to respond was April 14th. Consequently, you have the right to complain to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner on a "deemed refusal" to respond basis. The Privacy Commissioner's contact information can be found here:

[Contact Us - Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC \(oipc.bc.ca\)](#). I will begin working on the request and try and expedite the process. The three requests for records are as follows:

"1- Did Island Health express concern about the density of tents and their close proximity in Pandora Ave.? Did Island Health communicate their concern in a written form to the city?"

2- Would you provide me with all written communication between Island Health and city of Victoria officials, Mayor and councillors in regard to COVID-19 and the camping on Pandora Ave. for the months of March and April of year 2020.

4- Did the city of Victoria at any time during the months of March and April of 2020 express publicly in clear terms that the homeless issues are the responsibility of the provincial government and not of the city of Victoria. If yes, can you please provide me with a copy of those statements."

The question you submitted is:

3- Did city of Victoria officials and council decide to allow camping in Topaz Park and Royal Athletic Park to remedy Island Health's concerns in regard to the situation in Pandora Ave. homeless camps.

The City has received previous requests for COVID-19 related records that I will review for the purpose of locating records responsive to your request as well as information to answer your question.

If you have questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Rob Gordon, BA, MLIS

Information Access and Privacy Analyst

Legislative Services

City of Victoria

1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC, V8W 1P6

T 250-361-0347

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

RE: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon <rgordon@victoria.ca> Tue, 19 Jul, 11:52

to me



Good afternoon Mehdi,

The VicPD website here [Publications - VicPD.ca](https://publications.vicpd.ca) has the annual reports back to 2015 and in the reports are the yearly budget total. I will contact someone there regarding the other years and pass on what info I receive. The records are Victoria Police Department records and it will be it that provides the budget amounts for the remaining years.

Thank you,

Rob

Re: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets



Mehdi Najari <[REDACTED]> Tue, 19 Jul, 14:38

to Rob



Good afternoon Rob Gordon,

i simply can't find the police budget for the years since 2015 as you suggest. i could only find for 2019 and 2020 after spending some time. i was hoping when one requests information from the city, the information will be gathered and provided to the person and not just providing leads to find the requested information in the maze of the city website. i am still looking for the police budgets for the years of 2000 to 2020 and hoping the city provides me with the information.

Best Wishes.
mehdi najari

RE: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon <rgordon@victoria.ca> Wed, 20 Jul, 08:03

to me



Good morning Mehdi,

At the bottom of the page I sent you to there is a grey banner that states load more posts which will provide access to the other annual reports. Public bodies make documents publicly available on websites because it saves substantial staff time by allowing individuals to access information without help. I do agree though that some websites are difficult to navigate. The Victoria Police Department has told me that it is looking for the annual rep-orts prior to 2015.

Thank you,

Rob

Re: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets



Mehdi Najari <[REDACTED]> Thu, 21 Jul, 08:53

to Rob



Good Morning Rob Gordon,

i did that 2 days ago and when i clicked on the annual report for 2018 i could not find the budget numbers. Last night again i followed your advice and checked budget numbers for 2015 and 2016 and i found them in their respective annual reports but not 2017 & 2018.

Best Wishes.
mehdi najari

RE: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon <rgordon@victoria.ca>



21 Jul 2022, 14:42

to me



Good afternoon Mehdi,

Attached are records from Council of the Whole meetings from March 2020 to May 2020. I am providing them because they are responsive to bullets 1, 2 and 4 of your FOI Request. It also answers your question in bullet 3. They are all publicly available records available on our website, but I spent the time reviewing all the agendas for the time period stated because you have expressed frustration in locating public records. More importantly, I did the work because you submitted your request in 2020 and never received a response.

I am also reviewing previous FOI request for records responsive to your request.

Thank you,

Rob

Re: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets



Mehdi Najari

Thu, 21 Jul, 16:50

to Rob



Mr. Rob Gordon,

Thank you very much for providing this information. Is this all the information available and could be located in response to my FOI? Please let me know if that is the case.

Best Wishes.
mehdi najari

RE: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon <rgordon@victoria.ca> Fri, 22 Jul, 11:05

to me



Good morning Mehdi,

The records I sent are just those that are publicly available. I have others I am processing for release.

Thank you,

Rob

RE: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon Thu, 8 Sept, 15:59

to me



Good afternoon Mehdi,

Your FOI request for COVID-19 records regarding Topaz Park was submitted for sign off on July 28th. I have followed up three times since then, including this morning before I received your phone call. I also called Victoria Police Department about the yearly police budgets from 2000 to 2014. I was advised the financial officer is currently on holiday but returns next week and will search for the information. If I do not receive a response from the Victoria Police Department by next Friday, I will provide you with the contact information for you to follow up directly. The police budget information was created by the

police department and it is responsible to respond to your request. I meet with my boss tomorrow and will request the sign off on the Covid-19] Topaz Park records be released.

I apologize for the delay in completing your request.

Rob

RE: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon Wed, 21 Sept, 11:18

to me



Good morning Mehdi,

I have not heard back from the Victoria Police Department. You can contact the department directly here: FOI@vicpd.ca for the outstanding yearly budgets. The information was created by the Victoria Police Department and it is responsible for providing the information.

With regard to your FOI request regarding COVID-19 and Topaz Park and correspondence with Island Health, I followed up three times with management. The records were submitted for sign off on July 28th. You have the right to complain to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner because the legislated due date to respond to your request has passed. The contact information is here: [Contact Us - Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC \(oipc.bc.ca\)](https://oipc.bc.ca). If you submit a complaint, advise the Commissioner's office that your complaint is a "Deemed refusal" to respond to your request and provide the details requested. I will follow up again on sign off.

Thank you,

Rob

Re: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets



Mehdi Najari <mehdi.galaxybooks@gmail.com> 21 Sept 2022, 11:37

to Rob



Mr. Rob Gordon, "I received your March 1, 2022 Request yesterday as well as your new request for Victoria Police Department budget amounts for 2007-2020". Is this mean that the City of Victoria does not have the records of the police budgets that they approved & paid for in the last 22 years? I asked for the police budget from the year 2000 to 2022 and I did not get an answer.

mehdi najari

RE: New FOI Request VIC-2022-088 - COVID-19 & police budgets

Rob Gordon Wed, 21 Sept, 13:12

to me



Good afternoon Mehdi,

With respect, I have provided an answer each time you have asked the question. I have tried to obtain the police budget information for you and provided those the city had readily available. Additionally, I wen to the Victoria Police Department website and looked others and provided you with information to obtain the remaining police budgets. You advised you could not navigate the website so I contacted police staff to provide the information and told you if I didn't get a response from the police by last Thursday, I would provide you the contact information to follow up. So the issue is not whether the City of Victoria could not provide the information. The

issue is that the police budgets were easily available back to 2015 and for the years before 2015 would require staff to provide. The Victoria Police Department does the paperwork and produces the budget which, as you state, is approved by the City. However, as the creator of the records, the police department is responsible for providing the information. It would be much easier for the police to obtain the budgets and provide. I only tried to help obtain the budgets because your original request was not acted on by the city for many months after the city received it. And, you repeatedly told me you could not navigate the police website to obtain information.

Your recourse now is to follow up with the police department for the remaining budget information. I will not assist further in helping you obtain the information. I will, however, continue to request that the records you requested under FOI be released immediately. I would also suggest that you submit a complaint to the Privacy Commissioner's office because the delay in providing the records is unacceptable.

Thank you,

Rob

VIC-2022-088 FOI Request Response - COVID-19

Rob Gordon



Wed, 28 Sept, 11:28 (7 days ago)

to me



Good afternoon Mehdi,

Please find enclosed a copy of the records responsive to your request and the response letter.

Thank you,

Rob