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THANK YOU for this opportunity to speak with you.

I'd like to raise some questions that I don't feel are being adequately addressed related to Victoria's challenges with drug addiction, homelessness, crime, and 844 Johnson street.

Decisions by City Council could make a difference for approx. 2000 people whose lives revolve around drugs, criminal activity, and homelessness. This could result in better quality of life for citizens in the CRD and in Victoria city.

I have been volunteering on "the street scene" in Victoria for 7 years. I have been involved in outreach for tent cities, including The Courthouse and Topaz Park. I have developed relationships with a number of people in the STREET SCENE, as well as volunteered at OUR PLACE for a year.

RE: 844 Johnson Street - MANAGED by Portland Hotel Society. P.H.S.

147 rooms.

The residents I have spoken to believe there's been as many as 30 deaths there in 5 years. They also estimate \$250,000 a month in dope going through that location, as well as hundreds of stolen bikes.

I would like to acknowledge the deaths of :

Shane, Lincoln, Elizabeth, Jamaal, and Maria. All gone too soon from 844 Johnson.

I challenge you to ask the Police, B.C. Housing, and BC ambulance three questions:

1. How many actual deaths at 844 Johnson and the causes of death?
How many of those were murders or suicides?
2. How many police calls and Swat team calls in 2022? Probably more than you're aware of...
- 3 . I suggest you ask BC Housing AND the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction:
How many times in the past 6 months has a representative personally had an onsite visit at 844 Johnson and the Motels?

I believe it could be very helpful for you to visit 844, and to speak to some of the residents and ask:

1. How are the management and staff treating you?
2. How can PHS and the city make your home better?
3. Is everything clean and working well in the building?

I'd like to share some thoughts that could help reduce the drug problems:

1. Allow smoking at detox: Get an exemption from the smoking bylaw and create a ventilated smoke room. Addicts will quit detox if they can't smoke.
2. Here's a few thoughts about Decriminalization of drugs, because its going to affect our city:
 - I believe it will increase O.D.s
 - Hard-core street addicts could care less about STIGMA, and they think decriminalization is a joke.
 - No one has been busted for years.
 - Addicts like it that their drugs won't be taken away by police.
3. We need more A.C.T. teams - Assertive Community Treatment on the street.

RE: Pandora Street: First I would like to acknowledge the City workers, police, and bylaw officers for recent improvements on Pandora.

1. Pest control, on a tour with a Councillor, there were not just people running around, but also rats.
2. Portapotties: Police are there for street sweeps, when they can be serviced.
3. Our Place needs funding for extended hours. Now it is open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
4. It's unfortunate that any of us have to warn friends and visitors to our city: not to walk, drive or bike down Pandora.

Thank you.

If you have any questions or what to discuss any of this further please contact me.

Paul Christopher

Text 250 419 2426

betterchoicesoutreach@gmail.com