



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 21, 2024

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 21, 2024
From: Councillor Matt Dell, Councillor Jeremy Caradonna, Councillor Dave Thompson, and Councillor Krista Loughton
Subject: Advocacy to VicPD and SD61 on unregulated substances known as date-rape drugs

Background

Recent reporting has raised awareness of the dangers and widescale usage of unregulated substances, such as GHB and Rohypnol, as so-called "date-rape drugs." In 2021, an 18-year-old in Victoria was given one of these drugs and subsequently died from the impacts. Her death has now been ruled a homicide by the B.C. Coroners Service, after years of advocacy and independent investigation by her mother. More recently, a 16-year-old girl in Oak Bay was given the same drug at a party and nearly died from the toxic effects.

It is very clear that these are not isolated incidents, and that "date-rape drugs" are commonly slipped into the drinks of unsuspecting people, especially young women, at parties, bars, and other gatherings in Victoria and across the region. Evidence suggests that these incidents are widespread and under-reported. There appears to be a culture of impunity in which perpetrators, generally men, get away with these heinous acts, which can result in physical illness, sexual assault, and even death. It would benefit the people of Victoria for Council to 1) raise awareness about this issue, and 2) to gain a clearer understanding of what the VicPD and School District are doing to combat this trend.

Recommendation

That Council directs the Mayor to request a formal update from the VicPD and SD61 about any efforts currently being undertaken to raise awareness about and prevent the use of unregulated substances, such as GHB and Rohypnol, commonly known as "date-rape drugs."

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Coun. Matt Dell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Caradonna".

Coun. Jeremy Caradonna

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krista Loughton".

Coun. Krista Loughton

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Thompson".

Counc. Dave Thompson