

July 28, 2020

Council Covid-19 Recovery Committee
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Council Covid-19 Recovery Committee,

Thank you for you inviting the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association to provide recommendations regarding economic recovery related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and resiliency planning for future events.

Below are our responses to the questions provided from Councillor Carr.

What steps can the City of Vancouver take to support businesses re-opening and residents returning to work and play in the city?

- Streamline permitting. Specific recommendations for streamlining permitting are outlined in the [LOCO BC report](#) that was sent to City Council in June.
- Reduce or waive permit fees.
- Allow more permanent patios for restaurants.
- Create more flexible zoning and land use policies. For example, more office development and light manufacturing on downtown Granville Street.
- Reduce the commercial tax burden through tax shifts and split assessments.
- Reduce parking rates in commercial areas.
- Build more child care facilities on city properties and school sites, and further incentivize developers to include child care spaces in new developments.
- Increase street cleaning activities and resources.

How can the City of Vancouver advance action on other emergencies such as housing affordability and climate?

- Zone for more housing supply near public transit.



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Downtown Vancouver BIA

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- Expedite projects with an affordability component such as MIRHPP proposals.
- Pilot a shared e-scooter program.
- Continue progress with single-use item reduction strategy.

How can the City of Vancouver rebuild a more resilient/sustainable local economy with a focus on small business and local jobs?

- Support a stronger local supply chain through grants and subsidies.
- Expand on the success of recent pilot projects (eg. temporary patios and pop-up plazas).
- Implement new pilot projects, for example new locations for outdoor markets.

How can the City of Vancouver foster a healthier and more just and people-friendly city?

- Increase social worker and outreach supports for homeless individuals.
- Build on slow streets initiative to encourage walking.
- Install more permanent benches and picnic tables as rest areas for pedestrians.
- Install more 24-hour public washrooms.

How can the City of Vancouver increase resiliency to prepare for future pandemics and other emergencies?

- Utilize supply-sharing technologies (eg. Emergency Asset Management App used in Portugal during COVID-19) to connect people and businesses with essential products during emergencies.
- Take the lead on surveying and data collection immediately following an emergency.
- Clarify definitions of essential services.
- Ensure reliable supply chain for personal protection equipment.
- Strong communications around public health expectations (eg. when/where to wear face masks).
- Invest in a downtown WiFi network that could also be used to assist with opt-in contact tracing.

What recovery plan actions can the City take within its powers?

- Streamline project approval.
- Continued tax breaks and revised tax payment schedules as needed.

What does the City need to advocate for with senior governments?

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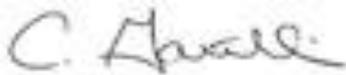
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- Financial support for TransLink while ridership is low due to the pandemic
- Access to personal protection equipment.
- Split tax assessments.

Over the past few months the City of Vancouver has improved efficiencies with online permitting processes, and supported creative ways to help businesses through pilot projects such as the temporary expedited patio program. These efforts have had a positive impact, and we appreciate the continued commitment to economic recovery through the Council Covid-19 Recovery Committee.

We look forward to further collaborations on the recommendations noted in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gauthier".

Charles Gauthier, MCP
President and CEO