

January 15, 2021

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Ave.
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Support for Vancouver's Community Safety & Well-being Framework

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) to express our support for the motion put forth by Councillor Wiebe for Vancouver's Community Safety & Well-being Framework.

Community safety and the general perception of feeling unsafe is regularly brought up by our members as being a primary area of concern in the downtown core. Working together with the community and key stakeholders would enhance community safety and well-being, as well as address high priority areas such as safe public spaces, personal health, homes and amenities, crime prevention and reduction, emergency preparedness, transportation safety, and social development. The framework's development and implementation should not only be reflective of those who live in the community, but of everyone who visits and works here.

A 2019 survey conducted by the DVBIA and Justason Market Intelligence Inc. surveyed 944 adult Metro Vancouver residents on feelings of safety in Vancouver's downtown peninsula. The survey found that only 68 per cent of respondents felt safe, the lowest percentage in the 22 years of the survey being completed. 30 per cent of respondents, the highest percentage in 22 years, indicated that they consistently felt unsafe. This is indicative of the perception of safety, and accurately reflects what we hear from the members of our community.

It is important that downtown Vancouver holds a distinctive sense of place and arrival. To achieve this, we must contribute to the downtown core being clean, safe and welcoming as well as being a healthy, life-affirming place to spend time. The DVBIA supports the notion that 'Community Safety and Well-being' should be a Council priority, and encourages all City departments to report on how they are contributing to community safety and well-being outcomes. The DVBIA strongly believes that the framework's development and implementation should engage all sectors of the community, including those with lived experience and knowledge of the various experiences held by community members. The business sector plays an

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Downtown Vancouver BIA

important role as front-line service providers, and holds a genuine interest in what happens in their community, specifically when related to public safety. Therefore, we look forward to the opportunity to participate in creating Vancouver's Community Safety and Well-being Framework in order to assist in providing strategic direction along with other key stakeholders and members of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gauthier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Charles Gauthier, MCP
President & CEO