



# VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Planning, Research and Audit Section

VPD 68(08)

**Date:** May 29, 2009

**To:** Leslie Stevens, Sergeant 1711  
Planning, Research and Audit Section

**From:** Allison Metzack, Planning and Policy Analyst  
Planning, Research and Audit Section

**Subject:** RTS 7684: Granville Street Closures Report

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This memo provides a short summary of findings and history of the joint COV-VPD report on the Granville Street Closures pilot project. As part of City Council's approval of funding for the Granville Street closures on Friday and Saturday nights, the VPD was instructed to report back on the outcomes at the end of the pilot project. The Licensing Branch of the City was also instructed to offer some possible recommendations on the ongoing funding of this initiative.

### Key Findings

The effectiveness of the street closures was assessed by means of an analysis of calls for service as well as a public opinion survey. The primary results from the analysis of calls for service were:

- In 2008, calls for service in the Granville Entertainment District decreased by 13% on weekend evenings compared to weekend evenings in 2007.
- Some of the more specific decreases in calls for service include:
  - SIPP (subject intoxicated in public place) calls decreased by 48% in the GED
  - Fights decreased by 5% in the GED, and by 19% in District 1 altogether
  - Assaults in progress decreased by 14%

Survey respondents were asked to assess the frequency in which they have observed, during the weekends of summer of 2008, the following types of street disorder: drunk and disorderly conduct, street violence, harassment, excessive street noise, and vandalism. The public felt that drunk and disorderly conduct and street violence had decreased as a result of the initiatives. However, street noise harassment in terms of begging and panhandling was still an issue. A total of 93% of respondents favoured the continuation of the pilot project in 2009.

## History of the Report

- **September, 2008:** The VPD component of the report back was completed in mid, September 2008.
- **December, 2008:** A finalized version of the joint COV-VPD report was scheduled to go to the Planning and Environment Committee meeting on December 16, 2008. At this time it was decided that the Licensing Branch would submit a joint-report with the recommendations for recovering the funding instead of a separate report. The VPD was instructed to postpone the submission of the report until the licensing portion was complete
- **January 2009:** The report, with the joint licensing portion, was scheduled to go to the Planning and Environment Committee meeting on January 22, 2009 and placed on the agenda for the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the direction of the City Manager, the report was pulled from the agenda and rescheduled for a Planning and Environment meeting in April or May after the budget had been passed. The licensing recommendations were also to be reviewed.
- **April 2009:** The report was scheduled to go to the April 9, 2009 Planning and Environment Committee meeting but was subsequently pulled from the Agenda by the City Manager.
- **May/June 2009:** The report is currently scheduled to go to the Planning and Environment Committee meeting on June 11, 2009. Superintendent Lemcke, Inspector Porteous and Allison Metzack (analyst) will attend this meeting to address any questions and concerns on the VPD portion of the report.