

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

Date: 4/28/2020 8:25:24 AM

Subject: FW: Letter from Vancouver Police Board to Mayor Stewart and City Council regarding the VPD's budget

Attachments: 00_Letter to Vancouver Police Board April 15 2020.pdf

00__Apr 27_Board Response to Council RE Budget.pdf

Good Morning Mayor and Council

Please find attached the response from the Police Board regarding your request for them to identify savings opportunities. As you will see in their letter, they are not pursuing budget reduction measures. Frankly, I am disappointed with this response given the severity of our budget situation.

Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
604.873.7627

Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

From: JOHANSEN, Stephanie (Police Board) [mailto:Stephanie.JOHANSEN@vancouverpoliceboard.ca]

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:34 PM

To: Johnston, Sadhu

Cc: Palmer, Adam

Subject: Letter from Vancouver Police Board to Mayor Stewart and City Council regarding the VPD's budget

Good evening Mr. Johnston,

Attached is a letter from the Vancouver Police Board in response to your correspondence of April 15th, 2020 regarding the VPD's 2020 Budget.

Please pass the attached correspondence along to Mayor Stewart and Vancouver City Council at your earliest convenience.

The Board recognizes the Mayor's unique position with respect to the budget, considering his dual role as Chair and Mayor. The Board confirms that Mayor Stewart did not participate in discussions on this matter, or take a position with regards to the content of this letter.

We trust this is in order.

Regards,

Stephanie Johansen
Executive Director

Vancouver Police Board

2120 Cambie Street

Vancouver, B.C V5Z 4N6



Direct line: 604.717.3280

stephanie.johanssen@vancouverpoliceboard.ca



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April 15, 2020

Vancouver Police Board
2120 Cambie Street, 5th Floor,
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4N6

Dear Vancouver Police Board Members:

RE: Motion Approved by Vancouver City Council at April 14th In-Camera

Dear Vancouver Police Board members,

I would like to bring to your attention a motion that was approved by Vancouver City Council at an In Camera meeting on April 14th, 2020, related to the Vancouver Police Board and Vancouver Public Library Board:

That Council request a report from the Vancouver Public Library Board and the Vancouver Police Board on measures that those organizations have implemented to reduce operating expenses in response to the COVID pandemic, as well as an evaluation of options for additional operating savings including, but not limited to, deferral of hiring activity, temporary layoffs, exempt staff compensation reductions and reductions in non-compensation expenses.

Further that Council requests the reports from the Vancouver Public Library Board and Vancouver Police Board be submitted to Council by no later than April 27, 2020.

The City is experiencing a significant financial shortfall for 2020 related to the pandemic, and are taking measures across many areas to address this shortfall. Given the urgency, Council has asked for a report back by **April 27, 2020**. Our City staff is available to provide any support you may require in developing your plans and response.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Patrice Impey, General Manager – Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management at patrice.impey@vancouver.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadhu A. Johnston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Sadhu A. Johnston
City Manager

604.873.7627 | sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

cc: Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management
Adam Palmer, Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Services



"PROVIDING INDEPENDENT CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT, GOVERNANCE, AND STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TO THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT, REFLECTING THE NEEDS, VALUES AND DIVERSITY OF VANCOUVER'S COMMUNITIES."

MAYOR KENNEDY STEWART, CHAIR April 27, 2020

DR. SHERRI MAGEE, VICE-CHAIR

PATRICIA BARNES, MEMBER

ALLAN E. BLACK, Q.C., MEMBER

BARJ DHAHAN, MEMBER

WENDY JOHN, MEMBER

CLAIRE MARSHALL, MEMBER

RACHEL ROY, MEMBER

DR. PETER WONG, MEMBER

Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Members of Vancouver City Council
c/o City Clerk's Office, City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Vancouver City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Board in response to correspondence from the City requesting information on measures that the Vancouver Police Board (the Board) has implemented to reduce operating expenses of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) in response to the COVID pandemic, as well as potential options for additional operating savings.

As a Board, we understand that this pandemic will challenge all levels of government to manage both the public health needs, and the resulting financial implications. We appreciate the difficult decisions that are being made on all levels, and the need for everyone to do their part to get through these extraordinary times. It is however, all of our responsibility to maintain public safety on behalf of the community, especially during times of crisis when crime is increasing, and the mental wellbeing of our citizens is being severely challenged. At the municipal level, police and fire services are on the frontline of the pandemic protecting the welfare of our community; these services must be steadfastly supported during a crisis, not reduced. The Board firmly supports the VPD and its members who, through their service, are compromising their personal wellbeing even more so than ever to ensure the safety, health, livability and vibrancy of our community.

The Vancouver Police Board, as the governing authority of the VPD, is committed to strong and prudent financial oversight by ensuring that the VPD performs under budget and actively manages its budget to maximize its potential savings. These savings can be redirected to mitigate the financial impacts faced by our partners at the City of Vancouver. To achieve this goal, the Vancouver Police Board has directed the VPD that, after ensuring public safety is maintained, its fiscal management is its top priority in 2020. To provide active oversight, the Vancouver Police Board's Finance Committee is conducting regular meetings with the VPD to ensure all fiscal control measures, which do not impact public safety, are considered and, where feasible, are enacted.

The Board would like to provide context for its decision to firmly support the VPD's budget. While the pandemic has decreased or eliminated service demand for many organizations, demand for VPD service has not declined. And unlike any other Canadian

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policing centres, school liaison officers, youth resources including the VPD cadet program, and diversity and inclusion programming that is key to furthering relationships with Indigenous, LGBTQ2S+, vulnerable and traditionally underserved populations. As these crime mitigation and community outreach programs support the long-term success of the VPD in ensuring public safety, any service reductions would have a disproportionate negative impact to such a marked degree that these impacts would outweigh the potential savings that could be achieved.

During the pandemic, many organizations have an ability to reduce their operations to ensure the safety of their staff and delay work projects to mitigate financial pressures. The VPD has neither of these abilities. Instead, the pandemic has required a department-wide response and, accordingly, the VPD has not ceased or scaled down its operations.

legal obligation to apprehend offenders,

**Maintaining public safety
led to the following:**

faced by police, fire, (Police 25%, Fire 6%). For every \$1 the VPD receives, the VPD can lead to months of

as TransLink and BC however, these layoffs service or operations. activities, the VPD has stabbings, robberies, acts and social unrest nue their protests. have placed additional

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Emergency Program Act, n Oppenheimer Park that the majority of sing options, there is y with the provincial

order, which will require a significant number of VPD resources to manage.

- There has been a reduced ability to have offenders sentenced for their crimes, as trials in BC Provincial Court have declined by 57%. There are also 607 fewer individuals in provincial correctional facilities in response to the risk of transmission in prisons.
- Both Provincial and Federal governments have added new enforcement responsibilities for police in an effort to manage the pandemic, placing an increased burden on police.
- The imminent economic downturn is expected to lead to higher levels of unemployment and subsequently crime.
- As physical distancing restrictions are lifted, it is expected that major pipeline protests will return and become even more contentious. Protests have typically occurred at ports, rail lines and bridges; these are locations that are critical to the recovering economy and are vital components of essential supply lines.

Vancouver City Council to
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It must also be taken into consideration that the VPD's exempt staff are responsible for running a 24/7 operation, tirelessly working on evenings and weekends to keep up with the unceasing demands of policing. As such, reducing VPD exempt staff compensation to mirror the City's 10% reduction would result in negligible budget savings and seriously impact morale during this stressful time.

In discussions of how different City of Vancouver departments can reduce operating expenses, careful distinction must be drawn between areas that are legislated core municipal services versus non-core services. Similarly, even amongst core municipal services, a distinction must be made between essential and non-essential services. While these classifications are often debated, the pandemic has made such distinctions a reality. The VPD is unquestionably a core service, and one that is a legislated mandate of

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Respectfully,



Barj Dhahan
Finance Committee Chair, Vancouver Police Board

Cc: Mr. Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Adam Palmer, Chief Constable