

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
Date: 7/14/2020 4:36:40 PM
Subject: RE: Robson Street 1100 Blk

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see staff responses below addressing questions we received from Councillors today.

1. How/when was the decision to install this kind of tree-choking lighting made?

The lighting was installed in 2009 by the Downtown BIA in consultation with the City. The Urban Forestry team at the Park Board is working on a new policy which would only allow this type of lighting to be installed on a temporary basis during the holiday season, and then removed when spring growth occurs.

2. How could this happen when we are regularly checking on the health and maintenance of our street trees?

There is currently a provision in the bylaw which allows lighting to be installed for up to 20 years at a time. It was under this provision that the BIA installed the lighting on Robson in 2009.

3. Are there other street trees similarly girdled and dying?

Urban Forestry crews frequently encounter this type of lighting in isolated instances across the City and work with businesses and residents to either remove or ensure the lighting doesn't pose a risk to the health and growth of the trees. Currently there is some concern that the trees on Main St. could be at risk by the way the lighting has been installed there by the BIA.

4. Moving forward are we considering how we best promote and the maintain the health of our street trees?

Arborists are working with Robson Street BIA and CoV Engineering to ensure that lighting efforts in the future are done in a more sustainable manner, such as restricting lights in trees to 90 days during the winter months. Urban Forestry is increasingly adopting a more proactive approach to the care of the City's 200,000 street trees, particularly focusing on the young trees to mitigate any issues like rot or decay taking hold as they get older.

Best,
Sadhu

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

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: Johnston, Sadhu
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL
Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL
Subject: Robson Street 1100 Blk

Hello Mayor and council

Starting Wednesday July 15, 2020, we will be removing 24-trees on Robson Street between Thurlow St and Bute St (the 1100Blk)..

These trees are all dead or almost dead, primarily as a result of ornamental lighting that has girdled (choked) the trees.





We are working with the Robson BIA and CoV Engineering to ensure that lighting efforts are done in a more sustainable manner moving forward.

This work will continue until the afternoon of Thursday July 15th 2020.

After the time noted, we will be grinding the stumps in preparation for this falls planting season with a suitable species to be installed at that time.

Robson will have the crews working from 8am to 3:30pm both days and traffic will be disrupted in a minor way throughout the process, all efforts will be made to not be too impactful to the business in the surrounding area.

Thanks

Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager

City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue

Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4

604.873.7627 | Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

Twitter: [sadhuajohnston](https://twitter.com/sadhuajohnston)

