

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

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

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

"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

"Adcock, Jessie" <Jessie.Adcock@vancouver.ca>

Date: 7/23/2020 9:29:32 AM

Subject: Staff Responses to Questions re: Women's Safety and COVID19

Attachments: CoV Mayor and Council GNO.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see below some information from ACCS and DBL staff as a follow up to the recent correspondence you received from Stacey Forrester at Good Night Out.

Request 1: Dedicate resources to support the continued drafting of recommendations in regards to the July 23rd 2019 motion as soon as is realistic, and verbalize a commitment to this;

The City Manager met with GNO, women's groups, and industry representatives in 2019 following the motion, expressing a commitment to addressing the motion. It was integrated into Social Policy's 2020 workplan and the Managing Director, Social Policy Mary Clare Zak led the project initially due to capacity challenges in her team. This initial work included scoping, terms of reference, and two workshops with GNO, industry and union groups, Worksafe BC, and participation from CoV licensing and inspections. To formulate recommendations, continue to liaise with the various parties, and get back to Council with these recommendations is expected to take about 3-4 months.

This work was put on pause due to COVID. Mary Clare met with Stacey Forrester last week and let her know that the project was on hold until later in the Fall or more likely 2021 given COVID response, recovery, and second wave planning efforts and unanticipated accelerated priorities, such as the broader anti-racism work, etc. Mary Clare conveyed the work on the June 23rd motion is important but we have significant capacity challenges at the moment.

Given increased workloads due to COVID Response, Recovery, and Second Wave Planning and issues arising out of COVID, Mary Clare is unable to lead the project at this time. Should Council wish for staff to focus on this work sooner, other priorities would need to be delayed, such as the Covid recovery stream on populations disproportionately impacted by Covid, the City's anti-racism response and sex worker safety initiatives. Both the Murdered and Missing Women's and Girls Inquiry / Red Women Rising Report review and UN Safe Spaces Scoping Study for Women and Girls are underway with staff that have expertise in this area, however, taking staff away from these projects to focus on the GED initiative risks these two projects not only being delayed, but not being completed within assigned budget as there is a set amount of budget attached to each project. At this point, staff have decided to prioritize the work above over the June 23rd Motion, but could revisit that decision at Council's direction should Council prefer to see a different prioritization.

Request 2: Increase investigation of and enforcement for Food-Primary and Liquor Primary establishments in the GED who are not in compliance with public health orders;

The City's Property Use Inspection team is working closely and actively with Vancouver Coastal Health and WorksafeBC to ensure compliance with the Provincial Health Officer orders. City staff investigate complaints and work with operators to educate and support them in complying with the PHO orders, while enforcement for non-compliance falls to VCH and WorksafeBC. DBL is aware of the increased

concerns regarding non-compliance in the GED and are in dialogue with the industry and establishment operators to address the matter.

Request 3: Clarify when, how, and under what criteria the grant awarded to Good Night Out in February 2020 in the amount of \$30,000 in will be released;

The City social grant was not issued in March 2020 because Good Night out stopped operating due to Covid. GNO is now beginning to consider re-opening, and are looking for assistance to do this. Staff connected Ms. Forrester to VCH to provide guidance on how to begin their services in a safe way, and also let her know that if GNO is able to open, that the grant could be made available as early as mid-September, once Council resumes. The amount of the grant would be pro-rated for the year. GNO needs to let staff know of GNO operating/reopening plans, get confirmation from VCH that the plans are aligned with health guidelines, and then we can align this with the report to Council to have the grant approved at the September meeting. Staff also offered to provide a small contract if GNO needed funding to prepare safe opening plans in the interim, recognizing that their current business model will require significant changes in order to operate safely.

Request 4: Work with our team to explore creative options for the Good Night Out Granville Street team to restart our sexual violence prevention services. Potential ideas include establishing a “pop up,” or a walk-thru window, making use of empty store front in the area;

Mary Clare Zak discussed these initial ideas with Ms. Forrester. However, there are no staff available now to help support/develop these ideas at this time. VCH staff can however provide some guidance related to their new model with respect to health and safety.

Request 5: Ensure that all measures related to the economy in Vancouver involve an intersectional feminist anti-racist lens;

The Equity Framework will provide this lens to all of the work of the City. Timing for the draft framework to be presented to Mayor and Council for consideration is November, 2020. In the interim, an Equity Tool and Intersectionality introduction is being distributed to staff groups to implement and ‘test’ prior to the actual framework being implemented.

Request 6: Assistance in communicating to these industries that sexual violence prevention training is currently free due to a grant from the Province of British Columbia Crime Prevention Granting Stream;

This would require a letter or some form communication/email from senior staff to the Industry to remind /advise them of this opportunity. This could potentially be done, however staff are aware that much of the Industry is very focused on re-opening right now. ACCS will explore the potential for such a letter in the fall.

Request 7: Be accountable to previous targets related to the safety of women and marginalized genders as previously established in the Health City Strategy, Women’s Equity Strategy, as well as in the underlying principles of the UN Safe Spaces Study for Women and Girls.

Staff are making every effort to retain accountability to targets, noting that achieving these is often interdependent on variables outside of the City’s jurisdiction/control. Principles of the UN Safe Spaces are very similar to those underpinning the Healthy City Strategy and forthcoming Equity Framework.

If Mayor and Council have any further questions, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh at Sandra.singh@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
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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: Stacey Forrester [<mailto:stacey.forrester@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:27 AM

To: Wiebe, Michael; Carr, Adriane; Bligh, Rebecca; De Genova, Melissa; Dominato, Lisa; Fry, Pete; Hardwick, Colleen; Kirby-Yung, Sarah; Swanson, Jean; Boyle, Christine; Stewart, Kennedy

Subject: Women's Safety and COVID19

Hello Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached letter regarding the activities and needs of Good Night Out Vancouver as they relate to the current climate of gender-based violence and COVID 19.

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Stacey Forrester

she / her / hers

[Good Night Out \[goodnightoutvancouver.com\]](http://goodnightoutvancouver.com) | [Bass Coast \[basscoast.ca\]](http://basscoast.ca)

Sent from the occupied and unceded ancestral territories of the [xwməθkwəy̓əm \[musqueam.bc.ca\]](http://xwməθkwəy̓əm.musqueam.bc.ca), [Skxwú7mesh \[squamish.net\]](http://Skxwú7mesh.squamish.net) and [səlilwataʔ \[en.wikipedia.org\]](http://səlilwataʔ.en.wikipedia.org) people.

GOOD NIGHT OUT VANCOUVER



July 17th 2020,

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing you today as the economy in Vancouver moves forward with re-opening, to revisit previously made commitments related to the safety of women and marginalized genders in Vancouver. In particular, we are referencing the City's commitment to the safety of women and marginalized genders who are and participating in the hospitality and nightlife sectors of our city.

For Context:

- Nearly 1 year ago, on July 23rd, 2019, a motion was unanimously passed by council to combat the [pervasive and insidious](#) sexual harassment and assault in the hospitality industry. City staff moved quickly to engage stakeholders on drafting recommendations in the hopes of presenting them to council in Late Spring / Early Summer. Understandably this work was halted mid- March due to COVID-19. It not yet resumed.
- In mid-February 2020, Good Night Out, alongside other community-based organizations, was awarded a social service grant to support the operation of our Granville street team. We did not receive this funding due to the street team operations stopping on March 17th due to COVID.

Currently:

COVID has devastating effects on these industries, and yet we cannot understate that the reality that sexual violence has not gone away amidst this pandemic. Angela McDougal from BWSS [recently acknowledged](#) how shelter-in-place has been 'compounding the experiences of domestic violence and sexual violence for women,' calling gender based violence a 'pandemic within a pandemic.'

We are hearing that [calls to crisis lines are up](#). We are hearing that women are being forced back to work in these industries without protections from sexual violence. We are hearing that some people actually felt safer during shelter-in-place because they did not have to navigate sexual harassment and violence in public space and that they now have anxieties about having to be out in Vancouver. We do not want these realities to take a backseat to economic development.

Good Night Out has been explicitly asked by stakeholders to re-start our Granville Street Team. The VPD have told us that despite the GED only recently reopening, there have been sexual assaults connected to the Entertainment District. Concerned by this, members of our team recently went out in the GED on the weekend to see how could re-start while prioritizing team safety. On a typical night, our team members come in very close contact with crying and vomiting people. We are often holding people up to transport them into a cab. While our team

We carry out this work on the occupied and unceded ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətaʔi people. As a feminist anti-violence project and as settlers, we are committed to unpacking the links between colonialism and all forms of violence and oppression, as well as making space in our work to call attention to the continuing colonial genocide that is non-consensual land occupation and resource extraction, and the ongoing and unsolved cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG). To learn more about MMIWG, [please click here](#).

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members were out in the GED doing this research, our team witnessed very close line ups, no measures for

distancing, and very crowded liquor and food primaries with no observable physical distancing. We contacted VCH's Chief Medical Health Officer Patricia Daly in regard to what we saw and

have communicated with her about the need for further measures to bring GED into compliance. We know that our services are needed to help keep women safe. In the summer months, [we record connecting with over 200 people](#) a month. However, we do not feel it is appropriate that we will have to work in nightlife when businesses are not adhering to the rules.

We are asking you to consider supporting Good Night Out with the following:

- Dedicate resources to support the continued drafting of recommendations in regards to the July 23rd 2019 motion as soon as is realistic, and verbalize a commitment to this;
- Increase investigation of and enforcement for Food-Primary and Liquor Primary establishments in the GED who are not in compliance with public health orders;
- Clarify when, how, and under what criteria the grant awarded to Good Night Out in February 2020 in the amount of \$30,000 will be released;
- Work with our team to explore creative options for the Good Night Out Granville Street team to restart our sexual violence prevention services. Potential ideas include establishing a "pop up," or a walk-thru window, making use of empty store front in the area;
- Ensure that all measures related to the economy in Vancouver involve an [intersectional feminist anti-racist lens](#);
- Assistance in communicating to these industries that sexual violence prevention training is currently free due to a grant from the [Province of British Columbia Crime Prevention Granting Stream](#);
- Be accountable to previous targets related to the safety of women and marginalized genders as previously established in the [Health City Strategy](#), [Women's Equity Strategy](#), as well as in the underlying principles of Vancouver's participation in the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces project.

We are always happy to discuss any of the above with you at any time. Thank you for your time.

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Stacey Forrester
Education Director,
Co-Founder Good Night Out Vancouver

goodnightoutvancouver.com

Instagram: [goodnightout_vancouver](#)

Twitter: [goodnightoutVAN](#)

Facebook: [Good Night Out Vancouver](#)

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