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Date: 11/3/2020 7:46:01 AM
Subject: Public safety concerns: VPD response

Good morning Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Deputy Chief Chow, I am forwarding the following response to enquiries raised in recent Council meetings by Councillor De Genova and Councillor Fry. The enquiries pertained to efforts undertaken in response to public safety concerns in the downtown core/DTES as well as in the Strathcona neighbourhood specifically.

Best,
Paul

Community Engagement

The VPD has engaged the community actively when we first started to notice an increase criminal activity and street disorder in specific neighbourhoods (i.e. Chinatown, Downtown, Yaletown, Strathcona). This engagement included:

- Informing/educating BIAs on how to prevent/report crime
 - Regular contact (weekly) with BIAs, through Staff Sergeant and Constable, who are in direct contact with all business associations – increase in commercial BNEs
 - Met regularly with neighbourhood groups (e.g., Strata's/property management companies)
- Meeting/engaging with residents (at a grassroots level)
 - Starting May 2020, four zoom meetings (~100 participants each) - purpose of these were to hear and address citizen concerns.
 - Participated in community outreach meeting with community groups, specific to their concerns (i.e. SUCCESS, with over 300 participants)
- Neighbourhood Police Team responsive to community needs.
- Neighbourhood Police Offices (NPOs) have been meeting/engaging regularly with residents and business stakeholders
- Utilizing social media (reactive to inquiries, shared information, and addressed crime concerns/issues for transparency). Utilizing mainstream media (conducted numerous interviews on these crime issues, to provide information and reassure the community on their public safety concerns).

Operational Actions

- Collaborated with a large group of stakeholders (e.g., CoV ACCS, Engineering, Parks, Fire, VCH)
- Reallocated resources to address rising community concerns
 - High presence/visible officers
 - Foot patrols
 - Bike patrols
- Analytics
 - Regular meeting with analysts to track trends and hotspots, this is then passed on in a timely manner to front-line members
 - Weekly Operations Division and Crime Control meetings. Weekly priorities are issued to all members and monthly CompStat meetings address trends
 - Each District analyst reports trends immediately for action by Operations management
- Special Projects
 - There have been a number of police projects conducted over the past five months specifically targeting people or groups who are responsible for the crime increases.
 - These special projects are taking place in neighborhoods where we have seen significant crime increases and are directed at organized crime groups, violent offenders, property offenders and drug traffickers. Multiple suspects have been arrested and charged.
 - There are additional projects we cannot disclose publicly at this point, given that they are covert in nature and/or have charges before the courts.

Specific to the Strathcona encampment:

- Increased resourcing in a 3 block radius of the Strathcona Park encampment
- Embedded crime analysts to monitor all incidents related to Strathcona Park and surrounding area
- Strathcona Liaison Officer - dedicated to crime and disorder related at the Strathcona Park encampment
- Met regularly with the leadership of the Strathcona Residents Association and the Strathcona BIA
- Public messaging – social and mainstream media

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