

File No.: 04-1000-20-2021-380

August 9, 2021

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")**

I am responding to your request dated July 19, 2021 under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, (the Act)***, for:

All of Councillor Jean Swanson's correspondence with the Drug User Liberation Front (DULF) and Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) to an event on July 14, 2021 where she helped distribute heroin, cocaine and meth. Date Range: June 30, 2021 to July 14, 2021.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed, (blacked out), under s.15(1)(l) of the Act. You can read or download this section here: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00.

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (#04-1000-20-2021-380); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

Cobi Falconer, FOI Case Manager, for

[Signature on file]

Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information & Privacy

Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

*If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Or you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604.871.6584.

Encl.

:kt

From: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
To: "Basi, Sarah" <sarah.basi@vancouver.ca>
Date: 7/22/2021 1:56:29 PM
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Media Advisory: DULF and VANDU Safe Supply Demonstration
Attachments: image.png

From: Swanson, Jean
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 6:12 PM
To: Jeremy Kalicum
Subject: Re: [EXT] Media Advisory: DULF and VANDU Safe Supply Demonstration

Thanks Jeremy

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 12, 2021, at 5:49 PM, Jeremy Kalicum <jeremykalicum@gmail.com> wrote:

\u-257 ?**City of Vancouver security warning:** Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

<image.png>

MEDIA ADVISORY
July 12, 2021

**Drug user groups and advocates to hold
public safety rally and distribute safe supply of drugs outside Vancouver Police
Department**

Vancouver City Councillor Jean Swanson, along with members of the Drug User Liberation Front and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, will be bringing their message directly to politicians and handing out a safe supply of drugs to members of the community outside the Vancouver Police Department, along with issuing demands for the immediate implementation of safe supply programs and rejection of the proposed "Vancouver Model" of drug decriminalization submitted to Health Canada in June. Drug user groups and advocates have criticized the potential

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of Mayor Kennedy Stewart's decriminalization proposal, including the plan's lack of consideration of safe supply and the police's outsized role in determining health policy.

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What:

Public safety event distributing a safe supply of drugs and celebration of resilience in p

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Who:

Members of the Drug Users Liberation Front, VANDU, Coalition of Peers Dismantling t

-

Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users
- John Braithwaite

-

Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society
- Marvin Delorme

-

Coalition of Peers Dismantling the
Drug War - Samona Marsh

-

Drug User Liberation Front- Jeremy
Kalicum

-

Tenet Overdose Response Organizers
- Eris Nyx

-

Vancouver City Councilor - Jean Swanson

- ○

-

When:

Wednesday, July 14 at 1:00 PM

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Where:

Event - 238 E Cordova

St, Vancouver, BC | Block Party – E Hastings 300 Block

-

Why:

The public event will demonstrate the *possibility*
and *feasibility*

of a community-led, drug user-centred overdose response in contrast to the proposed
drug supply. British Columbia continues to have the highest rate of overdose death ([32](#)
[per 100,000](#) [[health-infobase.canada.ca](#)]),

which is approximately double the national average. Meaningful change cannot happen
source

of these deaths: the unpredictable drug supply created by prohibition. The public event

Contact

Eris Nyx (DULF)

Jeremy

Kalicum (DULF)

Vince

Tao (VANDU)

604-313-6557

236-334-7200

778-814-8836

Erissassafrasnyx@gmail.com

Jeremykalicum@gmail.com

Vince@vandu.org

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About Drug Users Liberation Front

Formed in response to the ever-mounting

overdose deaths in British Columbia and across Canada, the Drug User Liberation Front looks to provide tangible solutions to this devastating crisis. We are an organized collective of people who use drugs empowered to make change through direct action, courage

and conviction, and fueled by the memories of the countless friends, families, and loved ones whose lives have been taken by an unjust, broken system of laws and policies.

<https://www.dulf.ca/> [dulf.ca]

About the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users

The Vancouver Area Network of Drug

Users (VANDU) was formed in 1998 to bring together groups of people who use drugs. VANDU is committed to increasing the capacity of people who use illicit drugs to live healthy and productive lives. We do this by affirming and strengthening people who use illicit drugs to reduce harms both to themselves and their communities.

<DULF Advisory.pdf>

From: "Swanson, Jean" <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>
To: "Basi, Sarah" <sarah.basi@vancouver.ca>
Date: 7/22/2021 1:56:48 PM
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Re: [EXT] Touching base for DULF Event

From: Swanson, Jean
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Jeremy Kalicum
Subject: Re: [EXT] Re: [EXT] Touching base for DULF Event

Sure. Looking forward to it. I have to leave by 2:15 or so. Hope that's ok.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 12, 2021, at 4:13 PM, Jeremy Kalicum <jeremykalicum@gmail.com> wrote:

\u-257 ? **City of Vancouver security warning:** Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

Hey Jean,

We are just about to send out the media advisory for Wednesday. I am assuming that you will be wanting to say a few words in addition to assisting with the demonstration, correct? If so I'll just pop your name onto the speakers list in the advisory!

Also, we will send you a detailed event plan later today. If you have any questions at all please let me know and I am happy to answer!

Best,

Jeremy Kalicum
P: (236) 334-7200
E: JeremyKalicum@gmail.com

On Jul 5, 2021, at 4:24 PM, Swanson, Jean <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca> wrote:

\u-257 ?

Jeremy, it looks good to me. Thanks for asking. Are you ever organized to be getting out media stuff 9 days before!! Take care. Jean

From: Jeremy Kalicum <jeremykalicum@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 4:09 PM

To: Swanson, Jean <Jean.Swanson@vancouver.ca>

Cc: Eris Nyx <erissassafrasnyx@gmail.com>; Dulf <druguserliberationfront@gmail.com>

Subject: [EXT] Touching base for DULF Event

City of Vancouver security warning: Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

Hey Jean,

I hope you're doing well. As I am sure you're aware, the DULF event is coming up in 9 days; if you're able, would it be okay to jump on a call with you in the next couple of days to connect and make sure we're all still feeling good?

We have two documents currently in drafts that we want to send out for the event that name you specifically. If you don't mind taking a read and letting us know if you have any concerns, suggestions or edits, that would be super helpful. Documents are linked below.

Media Advisory:

s.15(1)(l)

Press Release:

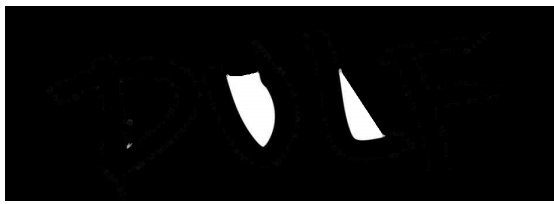
s.15(1)(l)

Best regards,

Jeremy Kalicum

P: (236) 334-7200

E: JeremyKalicum@gmail.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 14, 2021

City Councillor Jean Swanson and drug user advocacy groups distribute a safe supply of heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine at the Vancouver Police Department to protest proposed “Vancouver Model” of drug decriminalization and lack of safe supply.

The City of Vancouver’s disregard for concerns raised by BC’s drug user groups concerning the recently submitted model for decriminalization has prompted a demonstration to highlight the importance of community-led safe supply initiatives.

Vancouver, BC – **City Councillor Jean Swanson**, along with members of the **Drug User Liberation Front** and the **Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)**, distributed free heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine outside the Vancouver Police Department this afternoon. The action demonstrates the life-saving potential of a community-led response to the crisis of prohibition in Canada as a necessary alternative to the City’s “Vancouver Model” of decriminalization. These drugs have been tested via FTIR spectrometry and immunoassay, and are free of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, benzodiazepines, and many other harmful adulterants.

“The crisis is unbearable and it is ridiculous that we have to put ourselves at risk to move forward with a commonsense harm reduction principle.” - Jeremy Kalicum, DULF

The purpose of this action is to raise awareness of the deeply flawed aspects of the Vancouver Model of decriminalization, including disproportionate influence of the Vancouver Police Department, unreasonably low drug thresholds, and lack of provisions for safe supply.

The proposed model risks causing significant harm to people who use drugs, especially those at intersecting marginalized social locations, such as people experiencing homelessness, BIPOC, and those from the LGBTQ2S* community. **We are rejecting Vancouver’s proposed model, for the following reasons:**

- 1. The proposed threshold limits in the Vancouver Model are dangerously low and don’t conform with actual patterns of drug use.**
- 2. The lack of an exemption for community-led compassion clubs for the distribution of safe supply.**
- 3. The exclusion of drug users from meaningful participation in the development of drug policy.**

Canada is accelerating the constantly worsening crisis of prohibition and self-congratulatory half-measures of toxic public policy are unacceptable. This past May, there were [160 illicit drug toxicity deaths](#) in British Columbia, a 21% increase over the number of deaths occurring in May 2020. Nearly six people a day are dying in British Columbia because of failed drug policies that continue to criminalize people who use drugs. Decriminalization without safe supply will fail to reduce this horrific loss of life.

We call on the City of Vancouver and Health Canada to respond to this dire need and live up to their responsibility to safeguard Canadians and end the cycle of preventable death. With profound frustration and unimaginable grief, we share this message: **Step up and address the issues that are killing us or allow us the legal sanctioning to do it ourselves, outside of the constraints of this discriminatory structure.**

Contact

Eris Nyx (DULF)
604-313-6557

Erissassafrasnyx@gmail.com

Jeremy Kalicum (DULF)
236-334-7200

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Vince Tao (VANDU)
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