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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 9/6/2022 7:47:36 AM
Subject: Crime trends report - August 2022

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Per Council's request to the Vancouver Police Department, please see attached a report provided by the VPD summarizing crime trends and specific incidents of note over the period July-August 2022.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



JULY - AUGUST 2022

Crime trends and issues of note

- **Hastings Street Encampment Zone (HSEZ):** Crime and disorder issues dramatically increased over the summer months in the HSEZ. Violent offences increased within the HSEZ and surrounding DTES, most notably assaults with weapons causing injury have increased +52% when compared to the same period the previous year (July 1 – August 31). There has also been an increase in assaults on police officers and violence perpetrated by predatory individuals and directed at the most vulnerable.
- **Random Unprovoked Stranger Assaults:** The VPD continues to see serious violent attacks that are unprovoked in nature, many of which involve weapons including knives and bear spray. Since July 1st there have been 95 bear spray incidents in the city, with several linked to youth related violence. Our analysis indicates that there are more than four unprovoked stranger assaults in Vancouver every day.
- **Anti-Asian Hate Crime and Graffiti in Chinatown:** From 2019 to 2021, there was a 296% increase in graffiti in Chinatown – Includes defaced murals and statues, and racist graffiti on businesses. Recent high profile hate-motivated assaults have only highlighted this problem and the VPD is actively pursuing initiatives to address both anti-Asian hate crime and graffiti issues around Chinatown.
- **Major Events:** 2022 marked the return of major public gatherings following a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Between July and August, the VPD deployed members on over 2500 dedicated shifts to staff extraordinary policing demands including major events such as Canada Day, the Celebration of Light, and Pride. The VPD has assigned additional callout personnel during the month of August at the request of the Vancouver Park Board to assist with growing disorder issues at Third Beach.

Recent notable incidents

Granville Street machete attack. On August 6, VPD officers were called after a man set his Granville St rooming house suite on fire and subsequently attacked and stabbed four people with a machete. When officers arrived, they were confronted by the suspect still armed with the machete. Shots were fired by police and the suspect was injured. The suspect was arrested and taken to hospital for serious but not life-threatening injuries. Four victims of the machete attack were also admitted in hospital for serious, life-altering injuries. The VPD Major Crime Section and Independent Investigations Office of B.C. are investigating.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/07/vpd-arrests-suspect-after-four-injured-in-granville-street-machete-attack/>

Woman set on fire in DTES. On July 25 a woman was set on fire while sitting on a sidewalk in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. "This was a shocking attack that targeted a vulnerable member of our community," says Constable Tania Visintin. The victim, a woman in her 50s, was sitting on the west side of Dunlevy near Powell. A stranger came up to her, poured a flammable substance on her head, and lit it on fire. The woman immediately ran to a nearby business to get help. She was taken to hospital for serious burn injuries. The suspect fled the area before police were called. The VPD Major Crime Section is investigating.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/07/27/vpd-investigates-after-woman-set-on-fire/>

89-year-old assaulted in Chinatown. On August 13, an 89-year-old victim was walking near Main and Keefer Street when a woman approached and knocked him to the ground, inflicting scrapes and cuts. VPD increased patrols in Chinatown, in response to community concerns about rising violence, hate incidents, graffiti, and street disorder. Officers were patrolling the area at the time of the attack, and quickly responded to help the injured senior and arrest the suspect. Investigators believe the assault was unprovoked.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/14/vpd-makes-quick-arrest-after-89-year-old-assaulted-in-chinatown/>

Assault of Chinatown security guard. On August 12, a beloved 64-year old Chinatown security guard – a community fixture in Chinatown for years – was assaulted by a stranger while making his rounds near East Pender. Bystanders intervened to stop the assault and called 911. The attacker fled but VPD officers later located and arrested the suspect in Gastown, who is now charged with assault.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/13/suspect-charged-in-assault-of-beloved-chinatown-security-guard/>





VISIT [VPD.CA](https://vpd.ca) FOR ONLINE CRIME REPORTS
Non-Emergency ? Call (604) 717-3321

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME REPORT

Youth violence, random Pride-Week assault. On August 27, seeking public help, VPD released video of a violent and unprovoked assault, believed to be a hate crime. On July 31, a 42-year-old man celebrating Pride Week events was jumped by three males, knocked to the ground, and repeatedly punched and kicked as two women watched. With the public's assistance, several youth suspects have been identified. The investigation is on-going.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/27/vpd-seeks-witnesses-to-pride-week-assault/>

Man charged after assaulting three strangers. On August 30, VPD arrested a man in his 50's after he assaulted three women near the Vancouver Public Library. A woman walking in the 300 West Georgia Street was approached by a stranger who had his penis exposed. The woman had to walk into traffic to get away from him as she called 9-1-1. She watched the male accost a second woman, who fled after the suspect grabbed her leg. The suspect then followed and charged after a third woman, who sought refuge from the suspect in the office tower. Officers quickly responded and arrested the suspect who has been charged with various offences.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/30/man-charged-after-assaulting-three-strangers/>

West Side stranger assaults. On August 18, a series of violent stranger assaults occurred in the Fairview neighbourhood. The first attack happened near the False Creek seawall, where a 70-year-old man was tackled to the ground, then punched and kicked. About 45 minutes later, a 33-year-old woman walking her dog near West 11th Avenue was punched in the face. Approximately two hours later, a 23-year-old woman was stabbed while walking near West Broadway and Alder Street. VPD Major Crime investigators gathered additional evidence linking a suspect to all three attacks. A 21-year-old Vancouver man is charged with two counts of assault, two counts of aggravated assault and one count of break and enter.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/19/vpd-investigates-trio-of-west-side-stranger-assaults/>

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/25/vpd-investigation-leads-to-charges-in-fairview-attacks/>

Encampment seizure of firearms. Four men are facing multiple charges after VPD seized guns from inside the Hastings Street encampment. On August 21, VPD officers received information that guns and drugs were being stored inside a tent near East Hastings and Carrall Street. With assistance from VPD's Emergency Response Team, the officers arrested four men and seized two guns, including a loaded shotgun from inside a tent. Investigators believe the weapons were being used to intimidate other people in the encampment. One man is from Burnaby and two men are from Surrey.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/08/22/vpd-makes-arrests-as-guns-infiltrate-tent-city/>

Gang violence. In July, VPD's Organized Crime Section, targeting drug sales and distributions of a high-level organized crime group linked to the Lower Mainland gang conflict, executed search warrants in New Westminster and Port Moody. Over \$8 million in drugs, including 10 kilograms of fentanyl, 22 kilograms of cocaine, and 41 kilograms of methamphetamine was seized, along with \$172,000 in cash and two vehicles. This was a collaborative effort between the VPD, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit BC, and the Lower Mainland Integrated Emergency Response Team. The investigation remains ongoing.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/07/27/vpd-project-targets-gang-activity/>

Yaletown homicide. On July 11, a 29-year-old victim was stabbed while walking near Smithe and Homer. Investigators found no evidence the victim and accused knew each other and believed they were strangers. VPD identified a suspect near the crime scene. After collecting additional evidence, the BC Prosecution Service approved one count of second-degree murder against the suspect, who was arrested the following week without incident near Main and Hastings.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/07/19/vancouver-police-investigation-leads-to-charges-in-yaletown-homicide/>

VPD investigation leads to charges in 2021 fatal downtown Vancouver collision. Charges against a 30-year old man have been approved following a comprehensive investigation by the VPD's Collision Investigation Unit into a fatal collision in the intersection of Smithe and Hornby streets that took the life of a 23-month-old child on July 6, 2021.

<https://vpd.ca/news/2022/07/14/vpd-investigation-leads-to-charges-in-2021-fatal-downtown-vancouver-collision/>

For the most recent crime statistics, please refer to these resources:

[Crime Statistics - Vancouver Police Department \(vpd.ca\)](#); or

Latest Public Safety Indicator (PSI) Reports: [2021 Year-End](#) | [2022 Q1](#) | [2022 Q2](#)

