

File No.: 04-1000-20-2023-535

October 30, 2023

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 of August 30, 2023 under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** for:

Record of email communications in the possession of City Councillor Brian Montague containing the word "gang." Date range: April 1, 2023 to August 29, 2023.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed (blacked out) under s.13(1), s.15(1)(c) & (l), and s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download these sections 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 (#04-1000-20-2023-535); 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,

[Signed by Cobi Falconer]

Cobi Falconer, MAS, MLIS, CIPP/C
Director, Access to Information & Privacy
cobi.falconer@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. Alternatively, you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604-871-6584.

Encl. (Response package)

:pm

From: [Montague, Brian](#)
To: [Bradbury, Wanda](#)
Subject: FW: Update: DTES market
Date: October 17, 2023 3:58:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Montague, Brian

Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2023 8:10 PM

To: Bligh, Rebecca <Rebecca.Bligh@vancouver.ca>; Dominato, Lisa <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>; Kirby-Yung, Sarah <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>; Klassen, Mike <Mike.Klassen@vancouver.ca>; Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meiszner@vancouver.ca>; Zhou, Lenny <Lenny.Zhou@vancouver.ca>

Cc: Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>; Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>; Doherty, Conor <Conor.Doherty@vancouver.ca>; O'Connor, Patrick <Patrick.O'Connor@vancouver.ca>

Subject: FW: Update: DTES market

s.13(1)



Councillor Brian Montague

City of Vancouver

453 W. 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5L 4Y8

brian.montague@vancouver.ca

Assistant

Wanda Bradbury

e: wanda.bradbury@vancouver.ca

t: 604.871.6711

From: Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:04 PM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL s.15(1)(l)

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL s.15(1)(l); Singh, Sandra <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Update: DTES market

Good evening Mayor and Council,

Please find below and update from Sandra Singh, General Manager of ACCS regarding the work to identify alternatives to street vending after the market closes:

- Staff continue to explore indoor vacant storefronts and vacant lots in the DTES for daily vending, however thus far there has been no willingness to lease space to the City for this purpose.
- Staff are now also looking to identify space to allow pop-up markets on the weekend – one day for women's only vending and one day for elders only vending.
- Staff are also in discussions with the Chinatown BIA about the need for a vending site for Chinese-Canadian elders, ideally somewhere in Chinatown if feasible.
- Staff are also in discussions with several DTES community groups around low threshold vending, including different models such as donation-based thrift stores, etc. However, the current lack of storefront availability remains a limiting factor.

While there are various ideas being explored, there are currently no confirmed solution as of yet for the end of August. Staff will keep Council apprised of progress exploring the options above and any other that may arise.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
604.873.7666



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

From: [Montague, Brian](#)
To: [Bradbury, Wanda](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] RE: [EXT] Making My Neighbourhood Safer - 215 West 2nd Avenue
Date: October 17, 2023 3:59:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Letter to Peter Meiszner.pdf](#)

From: Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meisznier@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 10:14 AM
To: s.22(1)
Cc: Montague, Brian <Brian.Montague@vancouver.ca>
Subject: RE: [EXT] RE: [EXT] Making My Neighbourhood Safer - 215 West 2nd Avenue

Hi s.22(1)

Thanks for the additional details. I am copying my colleague and fellow councillor Brian Montague for his thoughts on the attached letter – as you may know, he worked as a VPD officer for many years.

Peter

Councillor Peter Meiszner (he/him)

City of Vancouver

453 W. 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5L 4Y8

e. peter.meisznier@vancouver.ca

Twitter: [@PeterMeiszner](#)

Links: [Linktree](#): [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)

Assistant

Maria Rojas (she/her)

City of Vancouver | Mayor & Council Support

604-871-6710 | maria.rojas@vancouver.ca

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

From: s.22(1)
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 5:45 AM
To: Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meisznier@vancouver.ca>
Subject: [EXT] RE: [EXT] Making My Neighbourhood Safer - 215 West 2nd Avenue

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.

Further to my previous email of June 28th please see the attached letter.

s.22(1)

From: [Meiszner, Peter](#)
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 6:53 PM

To: s.22(1)

Subject: RE: [EXT] Making My Neighbourhood Safer

Hi s.22(1)

Thanks for the email. There are active conversations with the provincial government regarding concerns around consumption of drugs in public spaces such as parks and playgrounds.

I am aware of the challenges around MFA – as well as Yaletown OPS. I am closely involved in working to address the challenges with the public realm outside the Yaletown OPS; admittedly I am not as involved with MFA. Wondering if you've connected with BC Housing regarding the challenges there? Feel free to send more details on the challenges there if you like.

Thanks,
Peter

Councillor Peter Meiszner (he/him)

City of Vancouver

453 W. 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5L 4Y8

e. peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca

Twitter: [@PeterMeiszner](https://twitter.com/PeterMeiszner) [twitter.com]

Links: [linktree](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) [linktr.ee]

Assistant

Maria Rojas (she/her)

City of Vancouver | Mayor & Council Support

604-871-6710 | maria.rojas@vancouver.ca

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

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 1:40 PM

To: Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meiszner@vancouver.ca>

Subject: [EXT] Making My Neighbourhood Safer

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.

Dear Councillor Meiszner,

Please consider two bylaw changes:

- (1) Ban the sale and possession of spray paint to minors.
- (2) Ban the use and display of illegal drugs in all public places.

In addition we have a very serious problem building s.22(1) 215 West 2nd Avenue, the Marguerite Ford Apartments poorly run by RainCity Housing. Just as the Yaletown OPS also run by RainCity is a total failure so is MFA.

We have endured this problem building for 10 years. It is time for RainCity Housing to be replaced as operator.

Regards,

s.22(1)

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s.22(1)

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This message is intended for the use of the individual or entity named above, and may contain information that is confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify me immediately and delete all copies of this message from all computers. Any dissemination or copying of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited.

s.22(1)

Tel: s.22(1) **Fax:** s.22(1) **Email:** s.22(1)

June 29th, 2023

Councillor Peter Meiszner

City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5L 4Y8

Re: Marguerite Ford Apartments – 215 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver BC

A lot of troubling news about BC Housing recently. Mismanagement, corruption, conflicts of interest, deaths at supportive housing buildings etc.

I'm sure you are aware that a very controversial supportive housing building was approved in Kitsilano. Despite well founded objections of the community BC Housing and the City of Vancouver rammed it through.

The residents near 7th and Arbutus pointed with good reason to the problems at an early project at 2nd and Cook near the Olympic Village, that being the Marguerite Ford Apartments (MFA).

s.22(1) MFA
opened in 2013. It was a disaster from day one and is still a disaster.

I attached two photos that encapsulate the problems at MFA. The first taken in the front of the building shows VPD responding to an assault in the building. The second taken in the back of the building shows how the operator, RainCity Housing deals with their used needles.

The building as operated by RainCity Housing is not safe for the residents or neighbourhood. In short they are incompetent and negligent and should be replaced.

Complaints to the City and BC Housing have no result. These two entities are engaged in denial and cover-up of the problems at MFA.

Please ask your staff to pull media reports about MFA and RainCity Housing (who also operates the OPS site in Yaletown which is another disaster). Further I suggest VPD be contacted about the problems at 215 West 2nd Avenue.

My knowledge of MFA comes from personal observation, media reports, discussion with VPD and residents of the building.

A few highlights of the history:

s.22(1) until it was discovered.

s.22(1) and RainCity staff intimidated him into not complaining.

s.22(1) RainCity staff ignored them s.22(1)

s.22(1)
s.22(1) The explanation I received was that the staff were too busy dealing with overdoses.

A Director of RainCity Housing, when I brought my concerns about problems in the neighbourhood that include fighting, thefts, public urination, drug use, etc. responded that she was not concerned about what the residents do outside the building.

There is a constant stream of police, fire, ambulance and restoration vehicles responding to assaults, fires, overdoses and floods.

Previously drug dealers would deliver to the addicts living there, now drug dealers have moved in. The building is a wide open drug market. There is no attempt at recovery. In addition a gang of thieves operates out of it.

Minimal staffing, no on site supports, staff lacking training to deal with residents with severe drug addictions and or mental illness. Not to mention the proportion of residents that are chronic offenders.

There is no curfew so residents wander around at all hours of the night screaming and fighting and doing drugs in addition to vandalism and break-ins. Damage to our landscaping, trespassing and graffiti are a constant occurrence.

In short the peaceful quiet enjoyment of our property has been ruined.

There has to be a public inquiry into the operation of this and other supportive housing. I requested that two different City of Vancouver Chief License Inspectors review the operating permit of MFA, both declined citing there were no problems at the building.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From:

To:

Date: 10/17/2023 4:28:25 PM

Subject: FW: 2023 Cannabis Day Events - CONFIDENTIAL

From: Montague, Brian <Brian.Montague@vancouver.ca>

Sent: October 17, 2023 3:59 PM

To: Bradbury, Wanda <Wanda.Bradbury@vancouver.ca>

Subject: FW: 2023 Cannabis Day Events - CONFIDENTIAL

Sensitivity: Confidential

From: Montague, Brian

Sent: Saturday, July 1, 2023 10:22 AM

To: Levitt, Karen <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>; Direct to Mayor and Council - DL s.15(1)(l)

Cc: City Leadership Team - DL s.15(1)(l); Jackson, Steve <Steve.Jackson@vancouver.ca>

Subject: RE: 2023 Cannabis Day Events - CONFIDENTIAL

Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks for this information Karen. It is important for each and every event to be on a fair and level playing field with all others and that they are lawful. The rules are there for a reason and need to be followed and enforced equally. There are processes in place to have safe and fun events, and there should be measures in place, and implemented, for those who choose to circumvent them.

Glad to see the Park Board and VPD paying attention to these issues.

Brian

Councillor Brian Montague

City of Vancouver

453 W. 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5L 4Y8

brian.montague@vancouver.ca

Assistant

Wanda Bradbury

e: wanda.bradbury@vancouver.ca

t: 604.871.6711

From: Levitt, Karen <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 4:37 PM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL s.15(1)(l)

Cc: City Leadership Team - DL s.15(1)(l); Jackson, Steve <Steve.Jackson@vancouver.ca>

Subject: 2023 Cannabis Day Events - CONFIDENTIAL

Sensitivity: Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mayor and Council, below is a memo from the Acting GM, Board of Parks and Recreation to the Park Board Commissioners with an update on the status of two anticipated unpermitted unsanctioned Cannabis Day events,

for your information.

s.13(1)

Thanks,

Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager (she/her)
karen.levitt@vancouver.ca **telephone** (604) 873-7251

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m/Musqueam, S wxwú7mesh/Squamish and s lilw ta /Tseil-Waututh na ons

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to update you on the unpermitted and unsanctioned Cannabis Day events planned for Thornton Park and possibly Sunset Beach Park on July 1, 2023. Unlike the annual 420 initiative which is positioned as a charter rights protest, Cannabis Day events are largely markets focused on the illegal sale and distribution of cannabis products. The Vancouver Police Department has clearly communicated to Cannabis Day event organizers that there will be consideration to enforce applicable laws, including laws governing the sale and possession of cannabis. Selling cannabis at any time requires sellers to be in compliance with the law, including the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act (CCA). VPD members will be present at all events and will be speaking with Cannabis Day vendors to advise of enforcement that will be taken for any violation of the CCA. The goal of the VPD will be to work collaboratively with event organizers and participants to ensure that these events occur in a peaceful and law abiding manner.

Park Board staff have attempted to contact the organizers of these Cannabis Day events but have not received any response. Accordingly, staff are working collaboratively with other supporting agencies, including the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Police Department, and the Provincial Community Safety Unit (responsible for provincial enforcement of the CCA), to protect park spaces and ensure the safety of park users and the general public. The responses to these unsanctioned events will be site specific and as follows:

s.15(1)(c)

s.15(1)(c)



If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Regards,



Steve Jackson (*he/him*)
General Manager (Acting) Board of Parks and Recreation

/os/vt

Copy to: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications Team
PB Business Development Team