

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 12/18/2024 2:57:33 PM

Subject: Jim Deva Plaza - Megaphone feature

Attachments: Jim Deva Plaza- Megaphone .pdf

Good evening Mayor and Council,

In follow up to questions related to the Megaphone feature in Jim Deva Plaza, I am forwarding the attached update for your information.

In brief, staff are looking into how we can support WEBIA with the effective stewardship of the plaza. Per Option 1 as outlined in the attached material, we will be exploring with WEBIA a full-range of design modifications that could discourage the use of the Megaphone in a manner that results in damage to feature and/or disturbances in the plaza.

We will provide further updates once we have confirmed a path forward. In the meantime, please let me or Lon know if you have any additional questions.

Best,
Paul

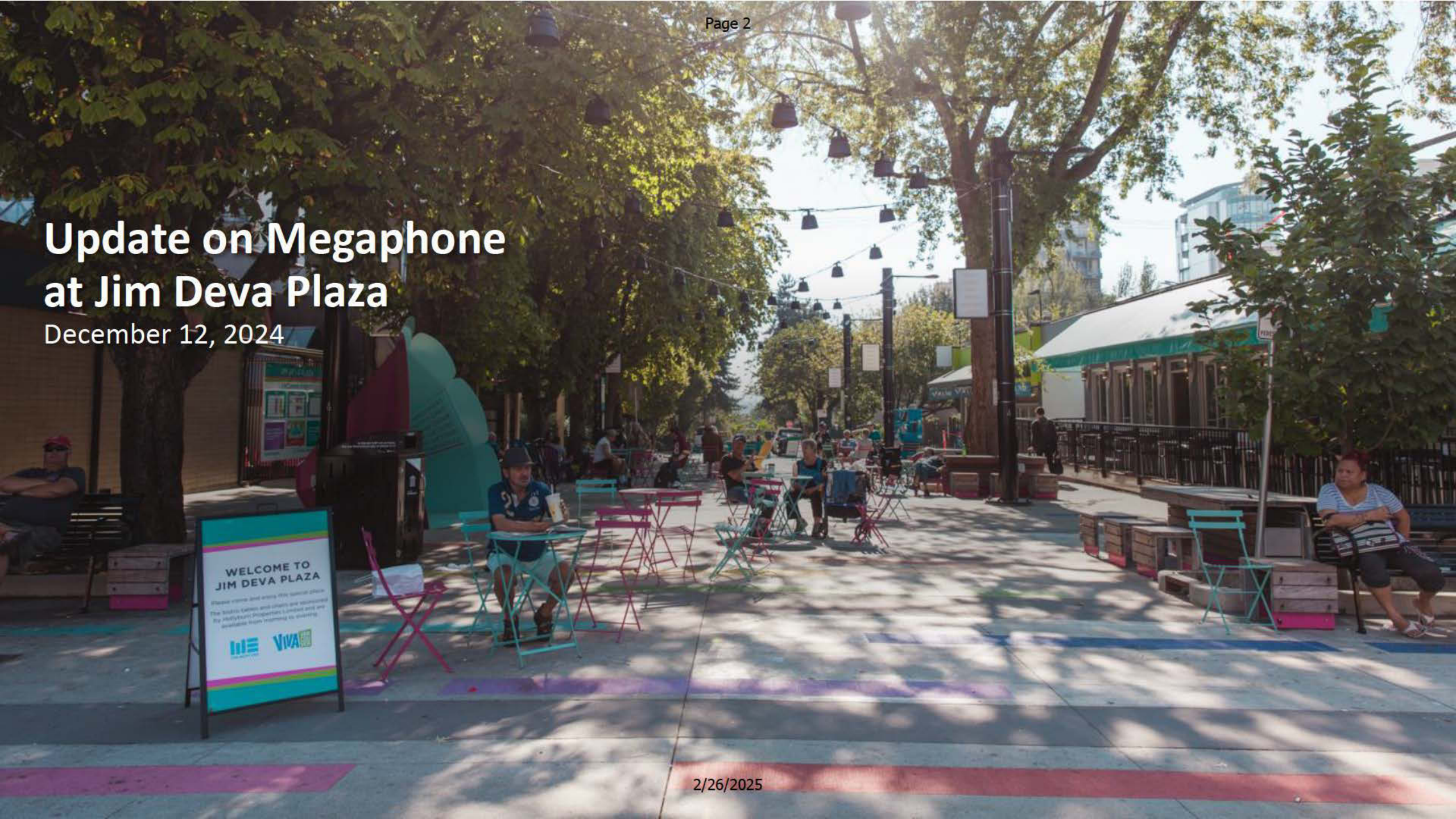
Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



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

Update on Megaphone at Jim Deva Plaza

December 12, 2024



Jim Deva Plaza

General challenges

- Social needs pre-date plaza, but perceived increase in recent years
- Davie Village to be included in Neighbourhood Liaison Table for Downtown
- Social needs in plaza
 - Unhoused people
 - People using substances
 - Regular group of locals use plaza for daily drinking
- Noise / disturbances from plaza
 - Top VDP call for the plaza
 - Some residents impacted by summer events in plaza
 - Occasional noise from unhoused folks playing music / partying in summer
 - New billiard hall in plaza has illegal after hours bar, anti-LGBTQ crowd has led to night disturbances

Jim Deva Plaza

Megaphone

Symbol of expression for LGBTQ community:

- Design feature for plaza developed through community consultation (WE Plan in 2013)
- Honours Jim Deva's legacy of activism and a part of "outdoor museum" concept for area
- Continued community interest in megaphone seen during removal for restoration

Focal point for the challenges in the plaza:

- Sometimes used by unhoused people as a shelter or washroom, especially during the winter
- Noise from busking in Megaphone can disturb some residents in building



Jim Deva Plaza

Response to challenges

- WEBIA is core plaza partner
 - Significant effort required to keep plaza a welcoming place
 - Receive more funding than other plazas
 - Requests for more financial support from City, desire full-time attendant
- Limited tools to address challenges:
 - Plaza closed from 2am-6am, VPD can enforce
 - Signage
 - Programming
 - Piloted enhanced peer-support
 - Past efforts to involve more community organizations with ACCS
 - Initial exploration of placement or angle of Megaphone without changing current use as stage



Jim Deva Plaza

Options for Megaphone

Removal without process likely to cause significant community concern because of symbolism of feature

Option 1 - Explore with WEBIA full-range of design changes to discourage uses that cause damage to the structure and/or disturbances in the plaza, including options that would impact day-to-day use as a stage. For example:

- Lighting
- Interior element
- Install at an angle
- Doors/ability to close it off

Option 2 - Remove and engage on replacement design feature with symbolism for LGBTQ+ community. Considerations include:

- Budget
- Staff resources for process and community engagement
- Complex community messaging about need for new design feature
- Opportunity to integrate with Davie Village project