

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"
Date: 4/27/2025 12:56:20 PM
Subject: Lapu Lapu Festival incident: key messages as of April 27 @ 12:45 pm

Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up to my previous messages pertaining to last night's tragic mass casualty event at the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party and in regard to sharing information with the media and public.

A press conference led by Mayor Sim will be held at 2 pm today in the City Hall media studio. The press conference will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/6fcYeonlf24?feature=share>.

The City has stood up the webpage [Vancouver.ca/lapulapu](https://vancouver.ca/lapulapu) as a source of truth for the latest information, with banners across Vancouver.ca.

Given the significant media interest in this horrific incident, misinformation is circulating. We ask for your assistance in keeping public information accurate and not ahead of the VPD's investigatory work. We request that you use the following key messages in speaking with media at this time.

"Do-not-swim" lanes

- Inquiries related to the nature of the incident, the perpetrator or casualties should be handled by the VPD and not speculated upon until facts are confirmed. For your awareness:
 - The VPD has confirmed 11 fatalities with a number of additional individuals injured.
 - The VPD has confirmed that VPD has a history of contact with the suspect related to mental health issues.
 - The VPD are confident that this was not an act of terrorism.

Overarching

- The City of Vancouver extends its deepest condolences and unwavering support to the Filipino community and to all those impacted by this tragic incident. Our thoughts are with the victims, their loved ones, and everyone affected during this difficult time.
- All Canadian flags displayed on flagpoles with halyards on City of Vancouver and Park Board buildings will be flown at half-mast from now until further notice, in honour of the victims of the Lapu Lapu Festival incident.
- Please visit vancouver.ca/lapulapu for the latest information

Event Planning

- As with all events permitted by the City of Vancouver, the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party organizers worked closely with the City and VPD and other partners on a risk assessment and safety plan for their event.
- FEST (Festival Expediting Staff Team) Committee, which includes the City of Vancouver, VPD, VFRS, and other partners created the safety plan for this event.
 - There was also a traffic management plan in place which included some localized road closures and parking restrictions to allow for emergency access and event use.
 - Heavy vehicle barriers were not deployed at this event, as the risk assessment conducted by the FEST Committee determined they were unnecessary given the event's size, location, and the fact that activities were held on school grounds rather than streets.
- Per the VPD, 3,200 events and protests are assessed for safety and risk annually (2,200 public events, 1,000 protests). There is a standardized process for this work.

Community Supports

- A 24-hour assistance centre has been established at the Douglas Park Community Centre, 801 West 22nd Avenue. Vancouver Police officers and Victim Services professionals have been deployed to help anyone who has not been able to contact a loved who was at the Lapu Lapu Festival. If you are not able to attend in person, please call **604-717-3321**.
- For those looking for support, a 24-hour assistance centre has been established at the Douglas Park Community Centre, 801 West 22nd Avenue. Vancouver Police officers and Victim Services professionals have been deployed to help anyone who has not been able to contact a loved who was at the Lapu Lapu Festival. If you are not able to attend in person, please call 604-717-3321. For all City of Vancouver staff and your families, immediate mental health support is available from **Homewood Health**, the City's Employee and Family Assistance provider. Homewood staff provide confidential, professional services and are available 24 hours per day at **1-800-663-1142**.
- The Province also offers 24/7 supports including a crisis line and victim support line:
- [310 Mental Health Line](#) - Provides a toll-free number connecting callers to a BC crisis line. Offers emotional support, information on appropriate referral options, and a wide range of support relating to mental health concerns. Phone: **310-6789**
- [VictimLinkBC](#) - VictimLinkBC is a toll-free, confidential, multilingual service available across B.C. and the Yukon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be accessed by calling or texting **1-800-563-0808** or sending an email to 211-VictimLinkBC@uwbc.ca. It provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence, including victims of human trafficking exploited for labour or sexual services.
- To donate blood, please contact [Canadian Blood Services](#) - **1-888-236-6283**

Community fundraising and donations

- *If asked about community/online fundraisers:* Since the City is not directly involved in these efforts and cannot verify their authenticity, we are unable to share specific details. We

- understand that some of these initiatives are being organized online, and we encourage you to exercise caution and conduct your own research when considering participation.
- *If asked about donations to the City or VEMA:* Thank you for your concern and willingness to help. We are unable to receive donations, including for items such as food or clothing.

If you have questions about the foregoing, please reach out to me directly. As the situation evolves in a way that would merit an update to these key messages, we will provide you with an update.

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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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.