

File No. 04-1000-2025-303

August 25, 2025

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 writing regarding your request of May 20, 2025, under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act***, for:

**Email correspondence to and from the Mayor and Mayor's Office staff with the text "Task Force Barrage" or "Project Barrage". Date range: January 20 to February 13, 2025.**

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed (blacked out) under s.13(1), s.15(1)(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](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00).

Under Part 5 of the Act, 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](mailto: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 (2025-303); 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,

Kevin Tuerlings, FOI Case Manager,

*[Signed by Kevin Tuerlings]*

**Cobi Falconer, MAS, MLIS, CIPP/C**  
**Director, Access to Information & Privacy**

If you have any questions, please email us at [foi@vancouver.ca](mailto:foi@vancouver.ca) and we will respond to you as soon as possible. You may also contact 3-1-1 (604-873-7000) if you require accommodation or do not have access to email.

Encl. (Response Package)

:ma

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



**Zoë Frankcom (she/her)** | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

Best,

Trevor asked that I pass along an embargoed press release on today's announcement. Just a reminder that this information is confidential until the announcement at 1:30pm today.

Hi Clint,

---

**From:** Frankcom, Zoë  
**To:** s.22(1)  
**Cc:** Ford, Trevor  
**Subject:** Embargoed Press Release  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:15:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [EMBARGO Mayor Ken Sim and VPD launch long-term initiative to dismantle organized crime in Vancouver.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2025

**Mayor Ken Sim, VPD unveil long-term crackdown on organized crime in Vancouver**

VANCOUVER, BC – Today, Mayor Ken Sim and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) announced Task Force Barrage, a major, long-term operation to dismantle organized crime networks and target predatory criminals in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) and beyond, ensuring a safer and more livable city for all Vancouver residents.

Building on ongoing police efforts, Task Force Barrage will expand investigations to target organized crime, put more officers on the street, and enhance community partnerships to improve public safety. This long-term, sustained effort aims to disrupt criminal networks, hold offenders accountable, and make Vancouver's streets safer.

"The status quo in the Downtown Eastside isn't working," said Mayor Sim. "Organized crime, drug trafficking, and repeat offenders are preying on the most vulnerable, while everyday Vancouverites continue to see the impacts of crime. We were elected to do things differently, and that's exactly what we're doing."

Task Force Barrage expands tactics like the Integrated Response Teams (IRT), which bring together VPD, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS), bylaw officers, sanitation crews, and engineering teams to tackle illegal activity, retail crime, encampments, and open drug-use. It will also include the continuation of Project Brighthaven, which provided additional police officers in Gastown to support community safety and revitalization efforts in the area.

"We are committed to working collaboratively throughout the entire community to foster positive relationships and address deeply rooted issues that make living in the **Downtown Eastside** often feel unsafe," said VPD Chief Adam Palmer. "We will always have empathy and compassion for people whose life circumstances have brought them here. By and large, I know we have people's support to make this a safer place. Our priority is, and will always be, to focus on violent criminals and drug traffickers who commit crime and victimize others in the community."

Since taking office, Mayor Sim and City Council have fully funded the VPD and VFRS, hired 200 new police officers and 35 mental health workers, introduced the province's first Indigenous Crisis Response Team and secured millions in funding for youth violence prevention. These investments have contributed to a citywide decline in both violent and property crime. But Mayor Sim emphasized that more action is needed.

"Policing alone isn't the answer, but it is part of the solution. A safer Vancouver requires strong partnerships—between the community, law enforcement, mental health workers, and all levels of government," Mayor Sim added. "Vancouver is stepping up, and we encourage senior levels of government to do the same."

A funding request for Task Force Barrage is expected to come to City Council later this year. The City and VPD will provide regular updates as work continues to combat crime and protect Vancouver's most vulnerable residents.

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Kalith Nanayakkara  
Press Secretary, Office of the Mayor  
[Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)

**From:** "Sim, Ken" <Ken.Sim@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Frankcom, Zoe" <Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca>  
**CC:** "Nanayakkara, Kalith" <Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 2/14/2025 1:44:50 PM  
**Subject:** FW: CM: Meeting/25 - Re: Interview Request (Koralee Nickarz)

---

Requesting for comments.

CC

---

**From:** Koralee Nickarz  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 1:40 PM  
**To:** Kreeft, Lindsay  
**Cc:** Sim, Ken ; Wuttunee, Rachel  
**Subject:** CM: Meeting/25 - Re: Interview Request (Koralee Nickarz)

**City of Vancouver Warning - This message is from an external sender**

Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Lindsay,

Thank you for your reply and for forwarding my email to the mayor's office.

In light of yesterday's announcement of 'Task Force Barrage' in the DTES and its pledge to protect the residents of the DTES, I would appreciate learning how specifically the protection of Indigenous women who reside in the DTES will be approached by the task force.

Have a great weekend,

Koralee Nickarz  
604-773-9801

---

**From:** Kreeft, Lindsay <Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 11:37 AM  
**To:** Koralee Nickarz s.22(1)  
**Subject:** RE: Interview Request

Hi Koralee,

Thank you for your questions – I've referred them to the mayor's office who can answer them directly as they're specific to mayor and council. Someone will reach out in response.



Warmly,  
Lindsay

---

From: Koralee Nickarz [s.22\(1\)](#)  
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:25 PM  
To: Kreeft, Lindsay <[Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca)>  
Cc: Wuttunee, Rachel <[Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca](mailto:Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca)>  
Subject: Re: Interview Request

Hi Lindsay,

Thank you for your response.

First, in reference to the city's page:

<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-and-girls.aspx>

Specifically to this point:

*...presented a report to Council on July 19, 2022, that evaluated our work so far on implementing the 284 recommendations, and how to better align future policies with the intention of those recommendations. City Council heard directly from Indigenous women about their lived experiences and unanimously accepted the report and its recommendations.*

As this occurred prior to the election of Ken Sim as mayor, and the page has no updates after 2022, **can you please provide updates as to which further recommendations have been put in place by the mayor and the current council since their election?**

Second, according to the same page, the City of Vancouver adopted the [MMIWG2S Response Report](#).

In this report, there are multiple recommendations that would prioritize the health, safety and wellbeing of women in the DTES, including, on page 61, Recommendations for Safe and Affordable Housing for Indigenous Women in the DTES including, and on page 62, Build Social Housing and Transition Homes.

However, on page 64 there is a recommendation to "end the displacement of tent cities" which has occurred since 2022. With these points in mind, can the city please comment on how many of these recommendations have been adopted and, based on what has been adopted, **how Mayor Sim's proposal to end the building of new supportive housing will impact Indigenous women in the DTES?**

Finally, can you please confirm that this statement will come from the city and not the Senior Manager, Urban Indigenous Relations, who is listed as the contact on this page? My concern around this is being responsible in my gathering of information to make sure that when I, a white settler, am asking for information on issues that impact indigenous people, that I communicate with indigenous representatives. If this is not possible, I would appreciate the city acknowledging this.

My deadline is February 21, 2025.

Many thanks for your assistance,

Koralee Nickarz

s.22(1)

---

**From:** Kreeft, Lindsay <[Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:04 AM  
**To:** Koralee Nickarz s.22(1)  
**Cc:** Wuttunee, Rachel <[Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca](mailto:Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Interview Request

Hi Koralee,

I would be happy to help get a statement from the City of Vancouver to help with your story as we are leaving interviews to the organizer for this event. Can you clarify the questions you'd like to ask of the City and your deadline? Much appreciated!

Thank you,  
Lindsay

---

**From:** Koralee Nickarz s.22(1)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:48 AM  
**To:** Kreeft, Lindsay <[Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca)>  
**Cc:** Wuttunee, Rachel <[Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca](mailto:Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Interview Request

Hi Lindsay,

Thank you for your response and for the information.

I am looking for comment from the city regarding the significance of the annual MMIWG2S march and the city's commitment to the safety and well-being of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people, being that Vancouver is a "city of reconciliation" and has now adapted UNDRIP.

I am in communication with the march organizers, but they cannot speak for the city,



of course.

My request was specifically for an interview with Rachel, being that she is the city's Senior Manager for Urban Indigenous Relations. Can you please confirm whether it is possible for me to speak with her?

I will also be reaching out to the mayor's office directly for a comment/statement. I will reach back out to you should I run into any issues with that.

Many thanks,

Koralee Nickarz

s.22(1)

---

From: Kreeft, Lindsay <[Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Kreeft@vancouver.ca)>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:58 AM

To: Koralee Nickarz s.22(1)

Subject: RE: Interview Request

**EXTERNAL: Do not interact, click on links, or download any attachments if the sender is unknown.**

Hi Koralee,

My name is Lindsay, I'm a Senior Communications Specialist at the City of Vancouver, and I'll be responding to your request. At the City, all media inquiries are coordinated through the [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca) inbox.

We just actually recently responded to Philomena Okolo, a reporter you may work with from Langara Voice, referring them to reach out to the organizer, Women's Memorial March Committee. They would be better positioned to provide an interview or response on the Women's Memorial March.

If you have general questions about the Mayor's proposal, I help get a statement for you, but otherwise questions about the specifics of the Mayor's proposal should be directed to the Mayor's Office.

Many thanks,

Lindsay

Lindsay Kreeft (she/her) | Senior Communications Specialist

Civic Engagement and Communications | City of Vancouver

[lindsay.kreeft@vancouver.ca](mailto:lindsay.kreeft@vancouver.ca)

s.15(1)(l)



I am humbly thankful that I live and work on the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples

---

From: Koralee Nickarz s.22(1)  
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 12:15 PM  
To: Wuttunee, Rachel <[Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca](mailto:Rachel.Wuttunee@vancouver.ca)>  
Subject: Interview Request

Hi Rachel,

I hope this message finds you well.

My name is Koralee. I am settler journalist with the Langara Voice. I am writing an editorial proposing that white settler women need to do more to deconstruct the colonial violence and discrimination that Indigenous women continue to experience in Vancouver.

This inspiration for this editorial came out the Mayor's proposal to pause supportive housing as well as the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Memorial March on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Would you be willing to speak to me about this subject? I would be available to speak to you in person or over the phone, depending on your preference, on Wednesday or Thursday of this week or during the week of February 17<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Additionally, if you are attending the MMIWG2 march on the 14<sup>th</sup>, I would appreciate the opportunity to interview you on camera if you are planning to speak to media on that day.

Please let me know any questions that you may have.

Thank you for your time,

Koralee Nickarz

s.22(1)

**From:** [Nanayakkara, Kalith](#)  
**To:** [Nanayakkara, Kalith](#)  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: Mayor Ken Sim and VPD launch long-term initiative to dismantle organized crime in Vancouver  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:38:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2025

### **Mayor Ken Sim and VPD launch long-term initiative to dismantle organized crime in Vancouver**

VANCOUVER, BC – Today, Mayor Ken Sim and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) announced Task Force Barrage, a major, long-term operation to dismantle organized crime networks and target predatory criminals in the Downtown Eastside and beyond, ensuring a safer and more livable city for all Vancouver residents.

Building on ongoing police efforts, Task Force Barrage will expand investigations to target organized crime, put more officers on the street, and enhance community partnerships to improve public safety. This long-term, sustained effort aims to disrupt criminal networks, hold offenders accountable, and make Vancouver's streets safer.

"The status quo in the Downtown Eastside isn't working," said Mayor Sim. "Organized crime, drug trafficking, and repeat offenders are preying on the most vulnerable, while everyday Vancouverites continue to see the impacts of crime. We were elected to do things differently, and that's exactly what we're doing."

Task Force Barrage expands tactics like the Integrated Response Teams (IRT), which bring together VPD, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS), bylaw officers, sanitation crews, and engineering teams to ensure clear sidewalks and community safety for residents, workers, and visitors. It will also include the continuation of Project Brighthaven, which provided additional police officers in Gastown to support revitalization efforts in the area.

"We are committed to working collaboratively throughout the entire community to foster positive relationships and address deeply rooted issues that make living in the Downtown Eastside often feel unsafe," said VPD Chief Adam Palmer. "We will always have empathy and compassion for people whose life circumstances have brought them here. By and large, I know we have people's support to make this a safer place. Our priority is, and will always be, to focus on violent criminals and drug

traffickers who commit crime and victimize others in the community.”

Since taking office, Mayor Sim and City Council have fully funded the VPD and VFRS, hired 200 new police officers and 35 mental health workers, introduced the province’s first Indigenous Crisis Response Team and secured millions in funding for youth violence prevention. These investments have contributed to a citywide decline in both violent and property crime. But Mayor Sim emphasized that more action is needed.

“Policing alone isn’t the answer, but it is part of the solution. A safer Vancouver requires strong partnerships—between the community, law enforcement, mental health workers, and all levels of government,” Mayor Sim added. “The City of Vancouver is stepping up, and we encourage senior levels of government to do the same.”

A funding request for Task Force Barrage is expected to come to City Council later this year. The City and VPD will provide regular updates as work continues to combat crime and protect Vancouver’s most vulnerable residents.

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Kalith Nanayakkara

Press Secretary, Office of the Mayor

[Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)



**From:** "ADDISON, Steve" <Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca>  
**To:** "Frankcom, Zoe" <Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 2/13/2025 9:44:27 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

---

No issues at all. Thanks.

---

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe <Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:50 AM  
**To:** ADDISON, Steve <Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Steve,

Apologies for the double email! I made a slight edit to Chief Palmer's quote to clarify the area he's referring to so it flows in the press release. Let me know if there are any concerns!

Best,  
Zoe

---

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:19 AM  
**To:** ADDISON, Steve <Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Steve,

Good flag – we'll absolutely make that edit.

Thank you!

Best,

**Zoë Frankcom** (she/her) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

---

From: ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>  
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:17 AM  
To: Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>  
Subject: FW: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Zoe,

One addition request related to the press release:

The third graph quotes Mayor as saying s.13(1)  
s.13(1)

s.13(1)

Thanks,  
Steve

---

From: ADDISON, Steve  
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:23 PM  
To: 'Frankcom, Zoe' <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>  
Subject: RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Zoe,

Here is an approved quote from Chief Palmer.

"We are committed to working collaboratively throughout the entire community to foster positive relationships and address deeply rooted issues that make living here often feel unsafe," said VPD Chief Adam Palmer.

"We will always have empathy and compassion for people whose life circumstances have brought them here. By and large, I know we have people's support to make this a safer place. Our priority is, and will always be, to focus on violent criminals and drug traffickers who commit crime and victimize others in the community."

Also – one of the statements in the body of the press release says: s.13(1)  
s.13(1)

SERGEANT STEVE ADDISON

s.15(1)(l)

[steve.addison@vpd.ca](mailto:steve.addison@vpd.ca) | [vpd.ca](http://vpd.ca)

---

From: Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:24 PM

To: ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>

Subject: RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Thanks Steve! Confirming we adopted all of the suggested changes in the Mayor's speech.

I've also attached our rough draft press release for your awareness with the placeholder for Chief Palmer's quote. Please let me know if you have any flags about language.

Best,

**Zoë Frankcom** (she/her) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

---

From: ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:17 AM

To: Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>

Subject: RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Zoe,

Thanks for letting us take a look at this. Some very minor suggestions in track changes.

We'll share the Chief's speaking notes as soon as we can. In short, we now calling this Task Force Barrage. I expect Chief will highlight three key strategies:

- More officers on the street
- More complex and comprehensive investigations to target criminal networks
- Enhanced community partnerships to improve public safety



I will send an approved quote once I have it.

Steve

---

From: Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:15 AM  
To: ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>; VISINTIN, Tania <[Tania.VISINTIN@vpd.ca](mailto:Tania.VISINTIN@vpd.ca)>  
Subject: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Steve and Tania,

I've attached a copy of the Mayor's speaking remarks for tomorrow – Ken may still make some edits, but please let us know if you have any major flags on content!

Cheers,

**Zoë Frankcom** (*she/her*) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

**From:** "ADDISON, Steve" <Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca>  
**To:** "Frankcom, Zoe" <Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 2/12/2025 11:17:16 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks  
**Attachments:** VPD Presser Speaking Remarks - v2.docx

---

Hi Zoe,

Thanks for letting us take a look at this. Some very minor suggestions in track changes.

We'll share the Chief's speaking notes as soon as we can. In short, we now calling this Task Force Barrage. I expect Chief will highlight three key strategies:

- More officers on the street
- More complex and comprehensive investigations to target criminal networks
- Enhanced community partnerships to improve public safety

I will send an approved quote once I have it.

Steve

---

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe <Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:15 AM  
**To:** ADDISON, Steve <Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca>; VISINTIN, Tania <Tania.VISINTIN@vpd.ca>  
**Subject:** Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Steve and Tania,

I've attached a copy of the Mayor's speaking remarks for tomorrow – Ken may still make some edits, but please let us know if you have any major flags on content!

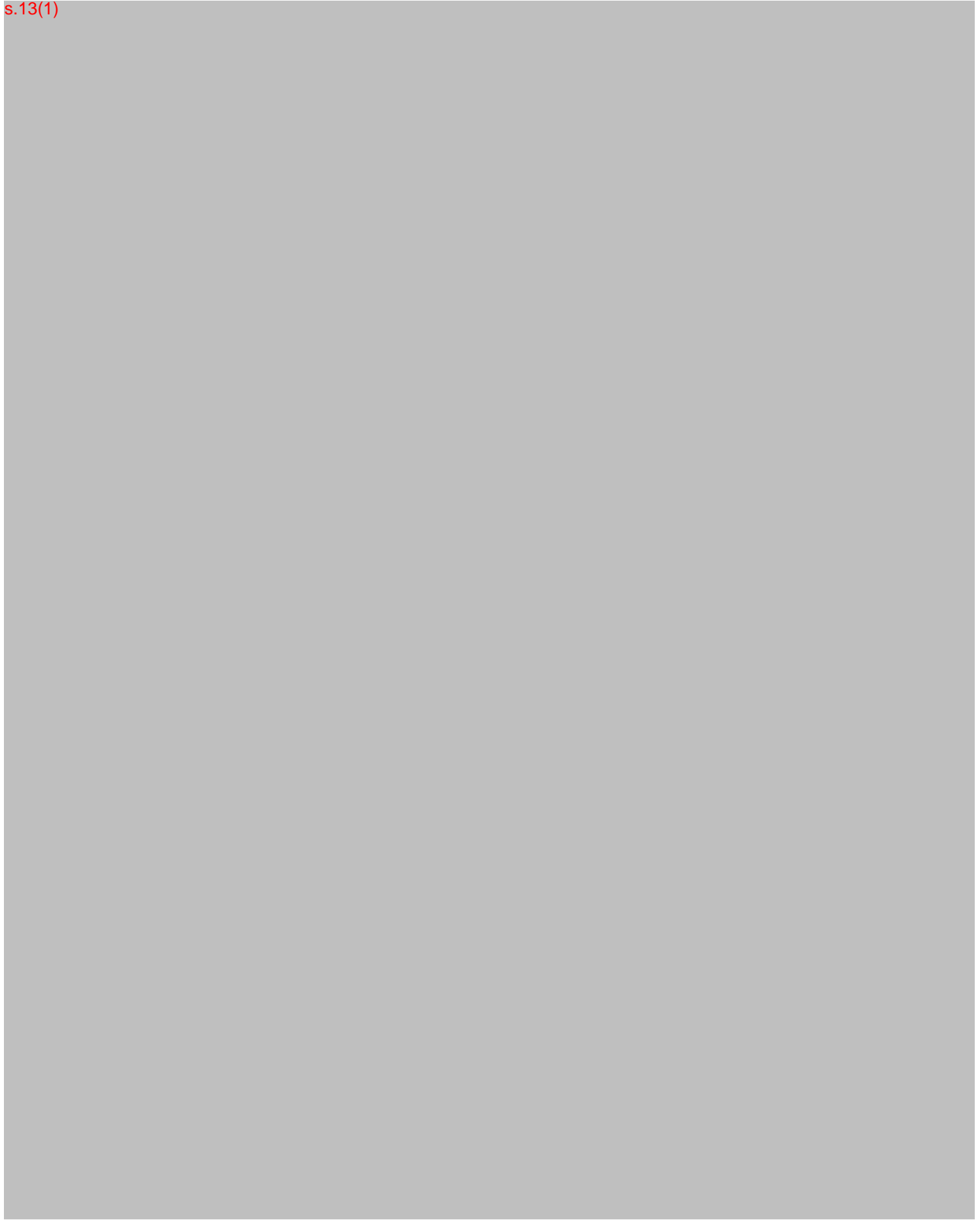
Cheers,

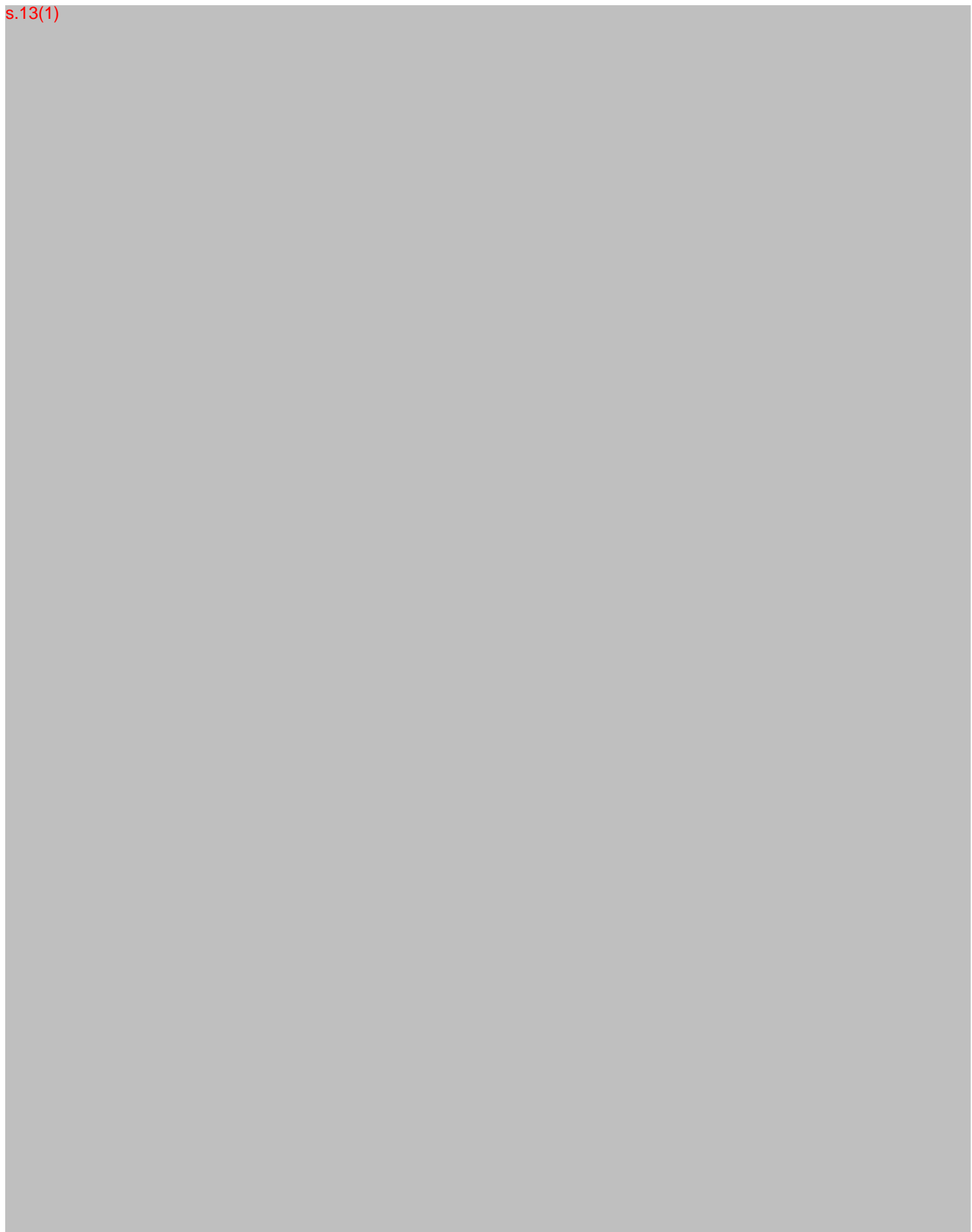
**Zoë Frankcom** (*she/her*) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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







s.13(1)



**From:** Frankcom, Zoe  
**To:** ADDISON, Steve  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:50:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[DRAFT PRESS RELEASE FEB13 DRAFT \(1\).docx](#)

---

Hi Steve,

Apologies for the double email! I made a slight edit to Chief Palmer's quote to clarify the area he's referring to so it flows in the press release. Let me know if there are any concerns!

Best,

Zoe

---

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:19 AM  
**To:** ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Steve,

Good flag – we'll absolutely make that edit.

Thank you!

Best,

**Zoe Frankcom** (*she/her*) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

---

**From:** ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:17 AM  
**To:** Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Zoe,

One addition request related to the press release:

The third graph quotes Mayor as saying s.13(1)

s.13(1)

s.13(1)

Thanks,  
Steve

---

**From:** ADDISON, Steve  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:23 PM  
**To:** 'Frankcom, Zoe' <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Zoe,

Here is an approved quote from Chief Palmer.

“We are committed to working collaboratively throughout the entire community to foster positive relationships and address deeply rooted issues that make living here often feel unsafe,” said VPD Chief Adam Palmer.

“We will always have empathy and compassion for people whose life circumstances have brought them here. By and large, I know we have people’s support to make this a safer place. Our priority is, and will always be, to focus on violent criminals and drug traffickers who commit crime and victimize others in the community.”

Also – one of the statements in the body of the press release says: “*Since taking office, Mayor Sim and City Council have fully funded the VPD and VFRS, **hired 175 new police officers** and 35 mental health workers...*” It should read: “***hired 200 new police officers***”. The **175** number is out of date.

SERGEANT STEVE ADDISON  
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

s.15(1)(l)

[steve.addison@vpd.ca](mailto:steve.addison@vpd.ca) | [vpd.ca](http://vpd.ca)



Steve

I will send an approved quote once I have it.

- Enhanced community partnerships to improve public safety  
- More complex and comprehensive investigations to target criminal networks  
- More officers on the street  
Barrage. I expect Chief will highlight three key strategies:  
We'll share the Chief's speaking notes as soon as we can. In short, we now calling this Task Force  
Thanks for letting us take a look at this. Some very minor suggestions in track changes.

Hi Zoe,

**From:** ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:17 AM  
**To:** Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

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



**Zoe Frankcom (she/her)** | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver

Best,

Thanks Steve! Confirming we adopted all of the suggested changes in the Mayor's speech.  
I've also attached our rough draft press release for your awareness with the placeholder for Chief  
Palmer's quote. Please let me know if you have any flags about language.

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:24 PM  
**To:** ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Mayor's Speaking Remarks

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe <[Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca](mailto:Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:15 AM

**To:** ADDISON, Steve <[Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca](mailto:Steve.ADDISON@vpd.ca)>; VISINTIN, Tania <[Tania.VISINTIN@vpd.ca](mailto:Tania.VISINTIN@vpd.ca)>

**Subject:** Mayor's Speaking Remarks

Hi Steve and Tania,

I've attached a copy of the Mayor's speaking remarks for tomorrow – Ken may still make some edits, but please let us know if you have any major flags on content!

Cheers,

**Zoë Frankcom** (*she/her*) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

s.13(1)



**Media Contact:**

Kalith Nanayakkara  
Press Secretary, Office of the Mayor  
[Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)

**From:** [Nanayakkara, Kalith](#)  
**To:** [Megan Devlin](#)  
**Cc:** [Frankcom, Zoe](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Media availability today  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:26:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [Mayor Ken Sim and VPD launch long-term initiative to dismantle organized crime in Vancouver \(1\).pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

Hi Megan,

Please disregard the previously circulated embargoed release. Attached is the revised version with a correction.

Thank you,  
Kalith

**Kalith Nanayakkara** (*he/him*) | Press Secretary  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

---

**From:** Nanayakkara, Kalith  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:19 PM  
**To:** Megan Devlin <megan@dailyhive.com>  
**Cc:** Frankcom, Zoe <Zoe.Frankcom@vancouver.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Media availability today

Hi Megan,

Please find attached the embargoed copy of the release for your reference only ahead of today's 1:30 PM press conference.

As a reminder, this release is under embargo until after the press conference concludes.

Please let me know if you need anything else.  
Kalith

**Kalith Nanayakkara** (*he/him*) | Press Secretary  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

**From:** Megan Devlin <[megan@dailyhive.com](mailto:megan@dailyhive.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:58 AM  
**To:** Nanayakkara, Kalith <[Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media availability today

**City of Vancouver Warning - This message is from an external sender**

Do not click on links or open attachments unless you were expecting the email and know the content is safe.

[Report Suspicious](#)



Thanks so much Kalith.

Would you mind providing details on embargo ahead of the release?

Happy to respect that the info is not to be made public until this afternoon.

On Thu, Feb 13, 2025 at 9:46 AM Nanayakkara, Kalith <[Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)> wrote:

Good morning Megan,

I'm sorry to hear that—hoping they feel better soon! We'll be sending a press release with all the details as soon as the presser wraps up!

I'll see if we can get you any details prior to that but definitely keep an eye out for the release.

Thank you,  
Kalith

**Kalith Nanayakkara** (*he/him*) | Press Secretary  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

**From:** Megan Devlin <[megan@dailyhive.com](mailto:megan@dailyhive.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:16 AM  
**To:** Nanayakkara, Kalith <[Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** Media availability today

Hi there,

Unfortunately we have some folks out sick today and won't be able to attend the announcement in-person with Ken Sim and Adam Palmer.

Curious if you could send us details on what the announcement entails?

Thanks so much

--

**Megan Devlin**  
Associate Editor  
[dailyhive.com](https://dailyhive.com) [[dailyhive.com](https://dailyhive.com)]

E [megan@dailyhive.com](mailto:megan@dailyhive.com)  
P 647 936 6567



--

**Megan Devlin**  
Associate Editor  
[dailyhive.com](https://dailyhive.com) [[dailyhive.com](https://dailyhive.com)]

E [megan@dailyhive.com](mailto:megan@dailyhive.com)  
P 647 936 6567





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2025

**Mayor Ken Sim and VPD launch long-term initiative to dismantle organized crime in Vancouver**

VANCOUVER, BC – Today, Mayor Ken Sim and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) announced Task Force Barrage, a major, long-term operation to dismantle organized crime networks and target predatory criminals in the Downtown Eastside and beyond, ensuring a safer and more livable city for all Vancouver residents.

Building on ongoing police efforts, Task Force Barrage will expand investigations to target organized crime, put more officers on the street, and enhance community partnerships to improve public safety. This long-term, sustained effort aims to disrupt criminal networks, hold offenders accountable, and make Vancouver's streets safer.

"The status quo in the Downtown Eastside isn't working," said Mayor Sim. "Organized crime, drug trafficking, and repeat offenders are preying on the most vulnerable, while everyday Vancouverites continue to see the impacts of crime. We were elected to do things differently, and that's exactly what we're doing."

Task Force Barrage expands tactics like the Integrated Response Teams (IRT), which bring together VPD, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS), bylaw officers, sanitation crews, and engineering teams to ensure clear sidewalks and community safety for residents, workers, and visitors. It will also include the continuation of Project Brighthaven, which provided additional police officers in Gastown to support revitalization efforts in the area.

"We are committed to working collaboratively throughout the entire community to foster positive relationships and address deeply rooted issues that make living in the Downtown Eastside often feel unsafe," said VPD Chief Adam Palmer. "We will always have empathy and compassion for people whose life circumstances have brought them here. By and large, I know we have people's support to make this a safer place. Our priority is, and will always be, to focus on violent criminals and drug traffickers who commit crime and victimize others in the community."

Since taking office, Mayor Sim and City Council have fully funded the VPD and VFRS, hired 200 new police officers and 35 mental health workers, introduced the province's first Indigenous Crisis Response Team and secured millions in funding for youth violence prevention. These investments have contributed to a citywide decline in both violent and property crime. But Mayor Sim emphasized that more action is needed.

"Policing alone isn't the answer, but it is part of the solution. A safer Vancouver requires strong partnerships—between the community, law enforcement, mental health workers, and all levels of government," Mayor Sim added. "The City of Vancouver is stepping up, and we encourage senior levels of government to do the same."

A funding request for Task Force Barrage is expected to come to City Council later this year. The City and VPD will provide regular updates as work continues to combat crime and protect Vancouver's most vulnerable residents.

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Kalith Nanayakkara  
Press Secretary, Office of the Mayor  
[Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)

**From:** [Frankcom, Zoe](#)  
**To:** [Sim, K](#)  
**Cc:** [Nanayakkara, Kalith](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Safety Presser - Remarks  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 1:26:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[VPD Presser Speaking Remarks - v4.docx](#)

---

Hi Ken,

Apologies for the additional revision – the VPD is now calling this operation **Task Force Barrage**. I've updated this in your notes to reflect this change.

Best,

**Zoë Frankcom** (*she/her*) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

---

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:23 AM  
**To:** Sim, K s.15(1)(l)  
**Cc:** Nanayakkara, Kalith <Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Safety Presser - Remarks

Hi Ken,

Please see the updated version of the speech attached.

Best,

**Zoë Frankcom** (*she/her*) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

---

**From:** Frankcom, Zoe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 6:44 PM  
**To:** Sim, K [s.15\(1\)\(i\)](#)  
**Cc:** Nanayakkara, Kalith <[Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca](mailto:Kalith.Nanayakkara@vancouver.ca)>  
**Subject:** Public Safety Presser - Remarks

Hi Ken,

Attached are speaking remarks for Thursday. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

**Zoë Frankcom** (*she/her*) | Director of Communications  
Office of the Mayor | City of Vancouver



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

## **VPD Presser – Mayor Sim Speaking Notes**

Good morning everyone, and thank you for being here today at Vancouver City Hall.

**\*KEN TO GIVE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT\***

From day one, our mission has been clear: do things differently. We were elected to try different approaches, change the status quo, and to make Vancouver a safer, more vibrant, and more livable city for everyone - including our most vulnerable residents.

Public safety is at the heart of any vibrant and successful city. It's not just about responding to emergencies - it's about building a city where people can walk the streets without fear, businesses thrive, and communities have the chance to succeed.

That's why we've made public safety our top priority. But here's the truth: achieving it doesn't happen by chance. It requires decisive action, putting egos aside, and strategic investment. And that's exactly what we're delivering on.

We've hired 175 new police officers and 35 new mental health workers. We've secured millions of dollars for youth violence prevention. And we continue to fully fund both the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, something not done by past administrations.

And we're seeing the impact – violent crime and property crime are down across the board.

That's real progress. But let's be honest – That isn't always the public's feeling, especially around the Downtown Eastside.

For years, hundreds of millions of dollars have been poured into the Downtown Eastside—a small, four-square-kilometre area—without delivering meaningful, lasting change. And the people who live and work there know it too. The status quo is a broken system.

That's why we're taking a different approach.

First, we're addressing the hyper-concentration of services and supportive housing in the Downtown Eastside. The current situation has not only blocked local businesses from thriving but has created conditions that degrade the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable community members while also attracting violent, predatory criminals.

We need to create a better balance of mixed-income housing options, businesses, and services—so people can live, work, and access support without being trapped in a cycle of poverty and crime.

Second, and as you all know, I'm bringing forward a motion at the end of the month to pause net-new supportive housing across Vancouver. Our city has only 25% of the region's overall population, yet we have over 77% of the region's supportive housing units, over 67% of the

region's operating shelter spaces, and 50% of the region's social housing. It's an unsustainable situation.

And too many of our existing supportive housing SROs are in shocking condition - broken elevators, garbage everywhere, open drug use, infestations, and unsanitary living spaces. How can we expect people to rebuild their lives in buildings that are literally falling apart around them?

We need other communities to step up, while we focus on renewing our aging housing stock and replacing temporary modular housing with permanent solutions. By focusing on renewal and revitalization, we're ensuring that the people who live here get the support they deserve in a place that's built to help them succeed.

Right now, the City of Vancouver is spending around \$50 million a year—on just four square kilometers. And that doesn't even include policing costs. We're also covering \$6.5 million a year for mental health workers—which, last I checked, is not a municipal responsibility. We're doing this not because we can, but because it's necessary. Let's be real—this comes at a huge cost to Vancouver taxpayers. Vancouverites are generous, compassionate people, but we're at a breaking point. We can't keep pouring money into a system that isn't delivering real results and keeps our most vulnerable stuck in a cycle of poverty, addiction, and crime.

That's why today, we're taking another major step: cracking down on criminal networks and predatory criminals who prey on our city's most vulnerable residents.

We all see what's happening in our streets. Repeat offenders. Organized shoplifting rings. Drug traffickers taking advantage of people struggling with addiction. Criminals who profit off human suffering while our most vulnerable pay the price. These types of people are all the same...they are predators. And they are violent.

The reality is this - people experiencing homelessness and deep poverty are 19 times more likely – that's right, 19 times more likely - to be victims of crime. And those with mental health and substance use disorders? 23 times more likely.

This isn't just a public safety issue—it's a humanitarian crisis. And the situation in the Downtown Eastside has reached a tipping point.

Today we take the first step towards ending this cycle of violence.

After weeks of work by the Mayor's Office and the VPD, and building on existing police actions around organized crime, I fully support Task Force Barrage—a large, concentrated effort by the VPD to dismantle organized crime operations in the Downtown Eastside and, by effect, the entire city. I expect the funding request for this will come to Council and I will be encouraging my colleagues to support it.

This will not be, and cannot be, a short-term operation. This will be a long-term, sustained effort to disrupt criminal networks, hold offenders accountable, and make our streets safer. This



includes expanding our Integrated Response Teams—bringing together police, fire, bylaw officers, sanitation crews, and city engineering teams—to tackle illegal activity, retail crime, encampments, and general public disorder like open-air drug use.

Furthermore, Task Force Barrage will also continue the funding of Project Brighthaven in Gastown, as provincial funding has dried up. There will be a whole host of other actions under Task Force Barrage that I will let Chief Adam Palmer and Inspector Gary Haer, the project commander, speak to.

-----BREATH-----

I want to be absolutely clear: policing alone isn't the answer. Nor is there any single silver bullet.

We know that a safer city also requires partnerships with senior levels of government and investments in mental health, addiction and recovery support, and dignified housing. That's why we continue to push for real solutions, like mandatory care for those experiencing severe mental health and addiction crises, expanded crisis response teams, and stronger partnerships between law enforcement and mental health workers. And we will continue to demand others to step up.

Make no mistake about it, this is about protecting everyone - families, small business owners, workers, and our most vulnerable residents - who call the Downtown Eastside *home*. We're committed to creating a Vancouver where everyone has the safe environment they need to not just survive, but thrive.

We know this won't happen overnight. It's going to take commitment, collaboration, and courage. But let me be clear: this is a fight worth fighting. And we are all in.

I'll now turn it over to Chief Palmer, who will share more details on how the VPD will deploy these resources.

Thank you.