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

Date: 4/9/2026 11:07:06 AM

Subject: Memo - Implementation Update: Joint Review of Outdoor Special Event Planning and Safety – Final Report

Attachments: Memo - Implementation Update - Joint Review of Outdoor Special Event Planning and Safety – Final Report (2026-04-09).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A brief summary is provided below:

- This memo reports back on progress toward the Recommendations made in the "[Joint Review of Outdoor Special Event Planning and Safety – Final Report](#)" regarding special event safety and public realm design.
- Efforts are underway with a key focus on updates to the City's Special Events Policy, standardized early-stage safety planning, and development of hostile vehicle mitigation guidelines.
- Learnings from the 2026 event season and pilot projects will be evaluated, with a full report back to Council following the summer

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca.

Thank you,

Sandra

Sandra Singh | Deputy City Manager

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the Ɂməθkʷəy̓əm ([Musqueam](#)), Skwxwú7mesh ([Squamish](#)) and səlilwətaʔt / səlilwitulh ([Tsleil-Waututh](#)) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Chris Freek, Director of Civic Engagement & Communications
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administrative Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Implementation Update: Joint Review of Outdoor Special Event Planning and Safety – Final Report

RTS #: N/A

PURPOSE

This memo reports back on progress toward the Recommendations made in the “[Joint Review of Outdoor Special Event Planning and Safety – Final Report](#)” regarding special event safety and public realm design in the aftermath of the tragic mass victimization incident (MVI) on April 26, 2025.

BACKGROUND

As a result of the MVI, the City of Vancouver (COV) and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) launched a joint review of the COV-permitted outdoor special event planning process and safety protocols. The joint review consists of two reports: (1) the Preliminary Report, released on May 16, 2025, and (2) the Final Report, released on August 27, 2025. The Final Report provides eight recommendations related to special event safety and public realm design.

The work on implementing these recommendations is happening concurrently with the work to support the City's hosting of seven games of the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ and focussed efforts to ensure as many special event permits as feasible are approved and enabled over the spring and summer special events season. These concurrent streams have stretched the capacity of the City's Special Events Office team. However, it is important to confirm that throughout the

work on FWC26 and the regular permitting activities, planning for public safety for these special events remains the team's highest priority.

DISCUSSION

Progress Updates on Final Report Recommendations

- 1. Update the COV Special Event Policy (ADMIN 031) to reinforce public safety as a core objective and clarify operational supports.**

Status: Underway

Updates will be presented to Council for consideration once the broader work to respond to this report is complete and potential policy implications have been assessed. Staff tentatively anticipate this to be Q4 2027.

- 2. Standardize early safety planning and integrated access control protocols to guide the entry and exit of attendees, vendors, and others.**

Status: Initiated

Staff are focusing on development of resources for event organizers/permit applicants, as well as on the Stadium District.

Staff anticipate that new resources may include:

- Provisional reference guidelines for vehicular movements within/around event spaces;
- Best practices for Site Plans and Productions Schedules submitted as part of the CoV event permitting process.

- 3. Develop guidelines on the use of hostile vehicle mitigation measures for outdoor special event planning.**

Status: Underway

Target completion Q2 2027, with select components being piloted for the 2026 event season. Elements being piloted include:

- Furthering event risk assessment tools, developing response approaches, and balancing cost implications; and
- Developing a more structured approach to identifying suitable City venues as pre-designated event spaces (including plazas, gathering spaces, parks, and street locations).

- 4. Explore expanding training, equipment, infrastructure, and tools for event organizers and staff.**

Status: Underway

Advancement of this action is dependent on progress of Recommendation 3. Some components to be rolled out in summer 2026, include:

- Select locations to include semi permanent infrastructure that includes hostile vehicle mitigation measures to be in place throughout the summer.

- Staff hosted information sessions for event organisers producing events in summer 2026 to provide further information on event permitting requirements including HVM considerations. Full implementation is targeted for the 2027 event season.

5. Advocate provincially and federally for standardized event safety legislation and resources, and for the development of a provincial incident response management guide.

Status: Early initiation

Background work is underway. City staff are liaising regularly with other Canadian cities to ensure sharing of best practices and incorporating learnings from other frameworks. Initial plan is to develop COV guidelines, seek Council endorsement of the guidelines and to advocate for provincial adoption of them.

6. Develop a Vancouver-specific framework for delivery of permanent hostile vehicle mitigation measures in the public realm.

Status: Underway

Drawing from external frameworks and starting with event-related planning and clear articulation of risk mitigation principles.

Investigating purpose-built infrastructure around popular event locations to act as hostile vehicle mitigation.

7. Assess new capital projects in the public realm through the hostile vehicle mitigation framework.

Status: Not started

Work on this action will proceed once the framework from Recommendation 6 is established

8. Propose capital funding allocation for the introduction of hostile vehicle mitigation into existing public spaces in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan, with consideration for ongoing operating costs related to hostile vehicle mitigation for events.

Status: Underway

Proposed budget for embedding public safety measures into the hardscaping for plazas, gathering spaces and event support will be included in the proposed draft 2027-2030 Capital Plan for Council's consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to advance the work to implement these actions over the course of the year. As well, the 2026 event season will provide staff with the opportunity to apply learnings from enhanced safety measures deployed in 2025, and to evaluate the events safety enhancements developed and applied in 2026. Following the conclusion of the summer event season, staff will report back to Council providing updates on the approaches implemented over the summer.

And as noted, Council will also see recommendations in the upcoming draft 2027-2030 Capital Plan.

FINAL REMARKS

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions about this update.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services

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