From: "Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 6/11/2026 6:18:12 PM
Subject: Dragon Boat

Dear Mayor and Council,

We understand that some of you have been receiving communications from Dominic Lai, Director at the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society, with concerns about his upcoming event this coming weekend. This email provides you an overview of the current situation, which you can use as key messages in any communications you have concerning this. All information in this email is public.

- In early June, the Federal Minister of Transportation signed an interim Order with respect to False Creek to create an Exclusion Zone limiting boat access east of the Cambie Bridge during the FIFA World Cup. At that time, Transport Canada engaged with key stakeholders who could be impacted, including the Dragon Boat Society.

- While the Order was issued by Transport Canada, VPD is one of six agencies responsible for enforcing it. Since the Order was signed, Transport Canada, VPD and City staff have had ongoing discussions with Dragon Boat organisers regarding their planned activities during the tournament. VPD has reviewed their planned activities -- which include a kids paddling camp and accessible paddling – and shared with the organisers that all of the activities could proceed as planned. To date, no activity planned by Dragon Boat has been limited by the Order.

- In order for the Dragon Boat event participants to be compliant with the Order, their boats must leave their docks near Science World and transit directly outside of False Creek's east basin, and then hold their activities anywhere west of the Cambie Bridge. Once their activities are over, they must then transit in a direct line through the east basin back to their docks. This has been explained to Mr Lai on several occasions, and it is staff's impression that he understands this to be the case.

- Quite recently, Dragon Boat organisers asked the VPD to endorse a set of maps and other public-facing documents they had developed. Because of the regulatory framework within which they are operating, the VPD has declined this request. This does not change any of the above, and Mr Lai has been assured by Deputy Chief Constable that all of his organisation's planned activities can proceed as long as they are consistent with the Order.

Given the above, we suggest that if you are approached by Mr Lai or any other representatives of the Dragon Boat Society concerning the Order, you refer these inquiries to Deputy Chief Don Chapman.

Thanks,

Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territories of the the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations