



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

February 9, 2022

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Stanley Park Nine O’Clock Gun – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Nine O’Clock Gun in Stanley Park, and to advise that the regular firing schedule will once again be temporarily paused due to supply issues.

In October 2021, staff [notified the Board](#) that the firing of the Nine O’Clock Gun was temporarily suspended as a large tree damaged the shed where staff prepare the cannon charges and the building was deemed unsafe. Interim repairs to the building were completed in late November and the regular firing schedule resumed. However, staff are now experiencing significant issues in securing a consistent supply of the black powder (BP) required to continue firing the gun.

There is currently a shortage of BP in North America and Europe due to supply chain issues and limited manufacturing sources for the specific type of cannon powder required (which is no longer commonly used). The Park Board’s previous supplier closed last fall and the new supplier has run out of BP. Staff have connected with several other suppliers, with little success to date, but will continue to search for a reliable source as well as explore alternate solutions. At this time, staff have enough BP supply to fire the gun until Thursday, February 10, 2022.

A communications plan has been developed to inform the public. Further Board updates will be provided once staff have identified potential options for moving forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Donnie Rosa', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

ag/gp/jm/is/clc

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
Park Operations
Park Development
PB Communications