

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ken Sim Statement on Nesters Market Fire in Gastown

VANCOUVER, B.C. – Mayor Ken Sim has issued the following statement after an arson incident at Nesters Market in Gastown:

“I want to thank Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services for their swift response to yesterday’s fire at Nesters Market in Gastown. Because of their professionalism and quick action, no one was injured.

“This incident is deeply concerning. A man is now in custody after allegedly setting a fire inside the store in what police have indicated was an attempted theft. We are told this individual is well-known to VPD. This raises serious questions about repeat offenders and it’s why cities like Vancouver have been calling on senior levels of government to do more. We need stronger action, and we need it now.

“Let me be clear: businesses and residents in our city deserve to feel safe. Incidents like this undermine confidence, threaten livelihoods, and disrupt essential services.

“This is exactly why the City is moving forward with new investments in public safety, including the establishment of a new police District 5 and a modern training academy for the Vancouver Police Department in Woodward’s. These investments are about ensuring our officers have the resources, capacity, and support they need to respond effectively and keep people safe.

“We have been in contact with representatives from Nesters Market, and we appreciate their commitment to the community during this challenging time. They are working hard to reopen as soon as possible, and we thank them for their continued service to the neighbourhood.

“The City will continue to support our partners and advocate for the changes needed to address repeat offenders and improve public safety for all Vancouverites.”

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