



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Official Statement from Mayor Ken Sim on Preliminary Joint Review of Outdoor Special Events Planning and Safety

VANCOUVER, BC – Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim released the following statement in response to the release of the preliminary Joint Review of Outdoor Special Events Planning and Safety:

“April 26th marked one of the darkest moments in Vancouver’s history. The following day, I called for an immediate joint review by the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department to better understand what happened, and to identify how we can strengthen our systems to better protect public safety moving forward.

“The preliminary report released today is the first step. It provides a clear overview of how public events are planned in Vancouver, the preparations that were in place ahead of the Lapu Lapu Day festival, and the safety improvements already underway.

“The Preliminary Report, and information gathered to-date, indicates that proper planning processes were followed, including multiple reviews, site walks, and coordination with first responders. But this tragedy has made one thing clear: we need to go further. We must rethink how we assess risk, how we respond to evolving threats, and how we ensure that people feel safe when gathering in public spaces.

“Since the incident, we have taken action. The City and VPD are developing new tools to better evaluate events, updating a centralized database to track and monitor risks, and deploying new mobile vehicle barriers. We are also working closely with organizers to reassess upcoming events and will review and consider recommendations from the Province’s Commission of Inquiry into our final report this summer.

“The public deserves answers, but more importantly, they deserve to know that real action is being taken to keep people safe.

“That is the work ahead of us, and that is what we are committed to doing.”

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