

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Support public safety and the Vancouver Police Department

We are writing on behalf of Vancouver citizens, workers, homeowners, seniors, students, and business owners.

We are Vancouver!

On December 1, 2020, Vancouver City Council will decide on the City of Vancouver's 2021 budget. According to a recent staff report, the recommendation is to DECREASE the Vancouver Police Department overall budget by \$3 million.

Right now, residents and businesses are dealing with the opioid crisis, issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, homeless encampments in parks and on streets, and increasing crime. A recent survey showed that 78% of citizens are concerned about crime in Vancouver and 61% responded that crime is worse than a year ago. There are serious public safety issues in our city that need to be addressed. Crime in Vancouver is 49% higher than the national average!

Further, recent statistics reported by the Vancouver Police show that:

- Violent crime is up in 16 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods,
- Serious assaults are up in 19 of Vancouver's 24 neighbourhoods,
- Murders have increased by 56%, and
- Anti-Asian hate crime has increased 878%.

These public safety issues cannot be ignored. Funding for the Vancouver Police Department needs to be increased, not cut! Safety and health are critical for everyone in this city, including the vulnerable living on the street and in parks.

We have a police department that we can be proud of. We have seen police officers in Vancouver do their difficult jobs with compassion and empathy. Every day, they deal with extraordinarily difficult human situations on behalf of Vancouver residents and businesses.

We urge you to write to the Mayor and Council to defend public safety or sign up to speak to Council as they deliberate the budget. Determining how our tax dollars are spent is an important decision that Council will make.

We must DEFEND our police, not defund them.

Please contact STEPUP to learn more or write to the Mayor and Council at speaker.request@vancouver.ca

Signed StepUP (Society To Encourage Political Understanding & Participation (STEPUP)).

STEPUP is a volunteer funded, non-partisan, not-for-profit BC society.

<https://www.stepupnow.ca>

← Tweet



Howard Chow @DeputyChow · 17h

Violent crimes have increased in concerning categories. It's up in 16 of Vancouver's 24 neighborhoods and serious assaults are up in 19 of 24 neighborhoods. #FullPicture

VIOLENT CRIME

- Murders +56%
- Seized firearms +23%
- Serious Assaults +14%
- Offensive weapons +9%
- Domestic Violence +5%
- Hate crime +116%
- Anti-Asian hate crime +878%

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