



VICTORIA CITY POLICE UNION

11 May 2021

Lisa Helps
#1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps,

The Victoria City Police Union (VCPU) is reaching out to all Municipal Councillors whose term remains in effect until October 15, 2022. The purpose of this letter is to seek your commitment and support for public safety and policing within the City of Victoria.

These are extraordinary times for the officers working on the front lines. As you well know, these members remain committed to proactively seeking solutions and collaborating with our community partners to address the city's pressing issues of homelessness, mental health and addiction. Our members are steadfast in their resolve to make our community a safe place to live, work and visit, even when faced with the challenges of increased violent crime severity, skyrocketing caseloads and a decline in funding.

Victoria bears the dubious distinction of having one of the highest violent crime severity indexes and officer caseloads in the province. Police budget reductions have created challenges in acquiring additional resources to address these issues. I highlight these concerns because it is difficult for our membership to accept what appears to be a general lack of support from the city for the important role that the police play in creating a sense of safety in the community. The prevalence of stress-related injuries is the inevitable result of the mounting pressures our membership experience in their work. Vocal support for policing by our community leaders can make a significant difference in alleviating these pressures and lifting the morale of our members.

I am certain that a collaborative commitment to find the solutions and resources to make our community feel safe again is a wise investment for all those who live, work and visit our city and our region. Today, I am asking for your support to prioritize community safety and policing within the city. I encourage you to demonstrate your intentions on social media, your website and at the Council table. Your input can greatly impact our joint efforts in enhancing public safety.

On behalf of the workers in the Victoria City Police Union.

Lenny Hollingsworth, President