



## Late Night .... Great Night Downtown Task Force Reports Findings

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — After several months of consultation with stakeholders and users of downtown, the Victoria Downtown Late Night Task Force is recommending strategies to deal with late night downtown issues.

“All great cities have great downtowns with vibrant late night economies,” notes Mayor Fortin. “We heard loud and clear that’s what’s wanted for Victoria, an exciting downtown but one that is safe and treated with a sense of respect.”

The issues addressed by the task force include excessive intoxication and the associated vandalism, fighting and aggressive behaviour, crowded streets after bar closing time, noise, public urination, and a lack of coordinated late night transportation.

The Downtown Late Night Task Force consists of Mayor Dean Fortin, Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe, and Chief Constable Jamie Graham of the Victoria Police Department.

The task force members interviewed downtown business owners and workers, transportation providers, and security personnel. The task force also sought input from late night downtown users including students and youth. The experience and approach of other cities around the world were also considered.

The task force recommends six coordinated strategies to address the issues:

- diversification of activities available at night in downtown, such as food carts and festivals that are not alcohol-related, bringing more people downtown who will contribute positively to the lively atmosphere
- additional late night enforcement from police with dedicated downtown responsibility
- more substantial training and compliance from licenced liquor establishments
- launching of public awareness campaigns to promote a positive image of downtown
- establishment of a coordinated downtown late night transportation plan utilizing three late night central taxi stands and late night bus service on a trial basis
- establishment of a “late night-great night” coordination committee, in partnership with the Downtown Victoria Business Association.

The Task Force will present the findings and a request support from Victoria City Council on Thursday. Some of the recommendations, including increased policing and the late night taxi stands can be implemented within the next three weeks.

Mayor Fortin added, “the most important thing learned by the task force was that the solutions lay not in closing off late night activities in our downtown, but in further opening the doors – making the heart of our City more welcoming and exciting.”

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### For More Information:

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