

Hello,

Thanks for your interest in our Community Drop In! Here is a list of topics that members of the public who dropped in requested we discuss. Please also see actions to follow up on, information received back in response to your queries. The next **Drop In is Tuesday August 7th** from 11:30-1:00pm in my office at City Hall.

Thanks for participating in your community,

Lisa

Agenda - Community Drop In July 24 2018

1. Tech and event
2. 224 Superior Street
3. 71/75 Montreal Street
4. Event – music
5. Urban growth and grocery stores
6. Crossing at Simcoe and Dallas

Items for Mayor to Follow Up On

1. Introduce Matthew to Arts and Culture Staff
2. Introduce Larry to Caitlyn at Sierra Club
3. Make motion for reconsideration of 224 Superior Street
4. Follow up with staff re: crossing at Simcoe and Dallas

Items Mayor has Followed Up On

Q: Ask Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Stanwick for his thoughts on decriminalization.

A: Lisa, I was fortunate to participate in the breakout group session on decriminalization at the special meeting on opioids and the crisis organized by BCCDC. This gathering represented a cross section of society from professions considered leaders in their field to lived experience individuals. I suggest that this would be a step in the right direction to ease the drug overdose crisis in that it could allow for access to pharmacologically mainstream medications and reduce exposure to the currently contaminated illegal drug supply. It could also play a huge role in reducing the stigma from being dependent on opioids and reduce the number of people dying in their own residences. The problem was that there are numerous models of decriminalization and the group really did not achieve focus on what would be best for our province and country. I did try to emphasize that if we were going to be approaching policy makers we needed to provide an unambiguous ask. The matter was further derailed by some parties demanding full legalization of these substances rather than pursuing a stepwise approach that has worked in the progression of healthy public policy from beachhead to victory in terms of objectives.

I am convinced from what has been accomplished in other jurisdictions we need to explore this approach. The dilemma is that in places like Portugal not only was fentanyl contamination not an issue but there was a substantial treatment infrastructure in place to address the needs of persons suffering from dependency. This is a complex issue that deserves a proper airing.

This statement provides a reasonable backgrounder on the subject

<https://www.cpha.ca/decriminalization-personal-use-psychoactive-substances>

Q: During the many events in James Bay which result in road closures it is very difficult to get in and out of the neighbourhood. What can the city do to help with this?

A: Events involving road closure are reviewed by the Special Event Technical Committee (SETC) pre and post event with the goal of minimizing impacts on residents and businesses. City transportation planners, VicPD, Fire, BC Transit are all represented on the Technical Committee and all weigh in on event specific mitigation strategies. The committee is very aware of the unique challenges relating to access and egress from James Bay. Permission to close Douglas and Government St access is not given often and never without Victoria Transit, City Transportation and VicPD operational oversight and advanced planning. Event organizers, and these SETC partner agencies, work together to determine the most reasonable approach to providing advanced warning through on street signage, postal code notification mail drops, door to door flyer delivery, email notification to businesses and broad notification / advertising through online and traditional media sources.

Q. Why are so many events held in James Bay?

A. This really depends on what one would consider a special event. Relatively speaking, James Bay has a similar number of events as Fernwood and Fairfield and far fewer than Downtown. If one considers the Legislature grounds and Ogden Point as James Bay event venues, then these would constitute a significant portion of James Bay's tally. Neither of these properties are owned or managed by the City. Ogden Point event activity is permitted through the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and the Legislature grounds are permitted through the Province.

The City of Victoria is a busy Capital with more event related obligations and requests than neighbouring municipalities, and as a result, shoulders much of the burden and benefit of increased event activity. Events and festivals are vital aspect of community life. Events of provincial and or national significance often take place in the downtown and the Legislature. Certainly the closer one lives to the centre of the core, the more often event related impacts will be felt. City staff work diligently to balance public safety, public access and community interests, and very often limit or deny access event organizers seeking to impact public space.