

Subject: [Fwd: Three Questions for VPD: Policy re VPD Forcing People to Sleep on Streets]

Date: Mon, 25 Apr 2005 13:59:46 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Three Questions for VPD: Policy re VPD Forcing People to Sleep on Streets

Date: Mon, 25 Apr 2005 08:54:35 -0700 (PDT)

From: elix@vcn.bc.ca

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

CC: jamie_graham@city.vancouver.bc.ca, streetcrime@bcjusticereview.org, bctvnews@shaw.ca, EXTREME_PUNISHMENT_FOR_POLITICAL_PURPOSE@yahoo.com, bplatts@shaw.ca, fonvca@fonvca.org, Mayor and Council - DNV <council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managemcomm@dnv.org>, James Ridge <james_ridge@dnv.org>

Dear Clr. Crist:

Thank you for a well thought out and well presented reply. Would you please consider continuing with and extending your political leadership on this issue? The only criticism I have of your interaction with Chief Cstl. Graham is that it was too limited. Do you have the time and inclination to deal with other aspects of homelessness and public administration? If so, perhaps we can discuss part of it online and we could then start building up an ad hoc email list.

So far the political treatment of this issue is summed up in one word: SUPERFICIAL. Somebody shouts "Cutbacks!" and then one side says "More!" while the other side says "Less!". It is Gulliver's "Big-endians" vs. "Little-endians" revisited. Budgets in public administration have always waxed and waned. Even if funding is inadequate, the problem is almost always more complex than What does it do for our parks to shout "Cutbacks!" and then say "More!" and "Less!"?

I expect that BC Justice Review and its Street Crime Group will be interested in this development as well so they are added first to the list. "Street people" are a source of crime but the street is used consciously, purposefully by public administrators for various reasons. The issue which you raised had to do with "breaching" (I wonder how many others, like me had not heard that term before?). According to the BCTV News report, Chief Cstl. Graham says breaching is not being used by his administration. Cstl. Steel said that at least it has been used in the past. How else might the street be used by public administrators from police to social workers?

> Dear EE:

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> I will not pursue this matter other than as part of the regular agenda
> issues coming before Council.

Homelessness is an ongoing concern of DNV is it not? Can it become a regular agenda issue? Could DNV lead GVRD in putting forward a better understanding of the issues before World Urban Forum next year? If GVRD can come up with a first rate "diagnosis" and "remedy" for the problem of homelessness here, then the thousands of delegates may be able to adapt it to the situations in their countries.

In all cases, it goes without saying that the "prescription" must be adapted to the budget. I read in World Almanac that countries like India and China have average annual incomes of only a few hundred dollars. Yet the average