



May 20, 2021

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9010 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and other Metro Vancouver-area Mayors on May 14, 2021. The dialogue on the public safety concerns due to the escalation in the Lower Mainland District Gang Conflict (LMDGC) was necessary and important for the wellness of our communities.

As discussed at the meeting, I write today to bring forth two ideas to enhance public safety for your consideration. These suggestions aim to enhance public safety not only during the heightened LMDGC, but also for the longer term as we explore options to curb gang activity and associated violence:

1) Greater Daily and Weekly Coverage of RCMP Air 1 Helicopter

The need for Air 1 to be readily and increasingly available for dispatch to assist in active crime scenes and investigations is crucial. Coverage from noon to 03:00 a.m. seven days a week would be ideal. If Air 1 is readily and increasingly available, police benefit in several ways, including:

- Having a rapid response to crime scenes, including scenes where suspect vehicles are dumped and set on fire to destroy evidence and,
- Assisting with the pursuit of suspects who risk public safety and make our roadways unsafe in their attempt to evade police in their vehicles.

Air support can provide observations and detailed support information to the ground units, serving to assist the interception of the suspects. Put simply, the helicopter's panoramic view is helpful to the police officers on the ground. However, an increase in Air 1's coverage periods and availability for service is required.

...2

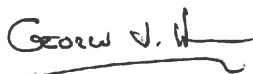
2) Usage of Cars, Especially Rental Cars, for the Sale of Illegal Drugs

The focal point of the LMDGC is the sale of illegal drugs. The preferred method of dealing and delivering drugs is through a delivery service that utilizes cars and in most cases rental vehicles. The use of rental vehicles reduces the risk for gang members dealing drugs; these members are often known as “dial-a-dopers”, working for gangs running “dial-a-dope operation”.

As Mayor, I respectfully request the Provincial government to examine if there is any existing Provincial legislation or the potential to bring forth legislative measures, leading to significant consequences for the vehicle operators in dial-a-dope operations and those rental agencies/vehicle owners renting to those involved in dial-a-dope operations. The Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) legislation implemented by the Provincial government can serve as an example; it significantly reduced impaired driving. I hope that the Provincial government takes a similar approach and explores the opportunity to disrupt the dial-a-dope operations via utilization of procedural offences in the current climate. Consideration to suspend the operator’s license and/or seizure of the vehicle being used in dial-a-dope operation will result in challenges for the gangs to use vehicles, especially rental vehicles, for illegal activity.

Public safety in BC is paramount for the citizens’ well-being. The current LMDGC is a complex situation that cannot be solved by one entity independently. We must all work together to bring safety to our streets; we all need to be part of the solutions focusing on enforcement, education, outreach and prevention. Thank you again for meeting with the Regional Mayors and considering the solutions presented above.

Yours truly,



George V. Harvie
Mayor

cc: Wayne Rideout, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services
Metro Vancouver Mayors
Delta Council
Delta Police Board
Sean McGill, City Manager
Chief Constable Neil Dubord