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**Subject:** Downtown Safety Discussion

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**From:** Peter de Fauw, DEFAU Network Systems Corp. Redacted  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 28, 2021 1:00 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Leslie <Leslie.Jackson@princegeorge.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Downtown Safety Discussion

Your Worship Mayor Hall and Honorable Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

To be honest we as a business are not downtown by choice, the business licensing issuing department made it clear that they could not allow me to be anywhere else but downtown.

We are an IT Services and Consulting firm. Yet it is what it is, here we are now since 2005 (previously in Carter Light Area) after attempting to be in various other parts of town.

The reason for my email though is to see if I can be successful in pointing out something that has bothered me for a long time.

The nuisance experienced by businesses in the downtown is at heart (besides break ins and outright vandalism) down to people that are hanging out outside the offices, spaced out or impaired in some fashion, making a mess and or being belligerent or maybe incoherent.

In my opinion it is very important to separate the 'old-style' (pre 2015 ish) group of street people (who seem to have always been around and rarely caused any memorable, besides being funny at times, real issues, more irritations), from the current group I mentioned above.

This current group seems to now be a regular and semi permanent part of the downtown.

They seem to move around and so it would seem they need a place, because when you just harass them they just move to the portico next street over or maybe next-door.

That brings me to one of the very real issues; portico's or covered inset- areas in front of a building or even just a step(s) sometimes, are an immediate magnet.

That is where the messes are on Monday Mornings .

Or in some cases like with the, for some reason condoned to be a warehouse but having an abandoned storefront, building here on 140 - 160 Quebec Street, most days of the week including weekends. It has become a regular hang out and bathroom.

We have to walk by and through there every morning and every evening on our way to our car in the parking lot, as parking at our building has been forbidden for some years now (really great that). In hiring employees we have to at times be very persuasive about things being not so bad as some of the ladies feel very uncomfortable walking through the crowd hanging out at 140-160 Quebec, or walking through the mess (not just ladies, probably everyone **including first timers to PG off the train or leaving town by train and having to walk around/through that**, as that is how one gets to and from the VIA Rail station). Not a great first and/or last impression of our City.

The various groups and individuals currently hanging out there would stop going there is if they **couldn't** shelter in places where they shouldn't e.g. by gating up that portico in front of that abandoned looking, used as warehouse, building.

But then they also need a location where they can go to, as without this they will continue to do what they do now, go wherever there is a hint of shelter.

It has been very challenging to run a business downtown, to keep employees, customers and tenants (mine left a month ago due to feeling unsafe they say).

At various times we will have them out front, there are those that appear on another planet, assault people and appear a danger to themselves walking right through traffic, these things make it why no one wants to come here. They are unfriendly, not listening and frankly not fully with it in some cases (require help but probably don't want it, or maybe they don't co-operate when it is offered). I know the reaction is usually that things aren't simple, but some things are, like closing or gating up places.

Long term planning is important and required, but short term actions are what make those longer periods resulting from due process, bearable and manageable.

Very sincerely and very respectfully submitted,

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Peter de Fauw, Senior Systems Analyst and President

**DEFAU Network Systems Corp.**

193 Quebec Street, Prince George, BC, V2L 1W1

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