

Prince George Downtown Business Advocacy Group

c/o 1234 -4th Ave. Prince George, B.C. V2L 3J4

To Mayor & Council

Feb, 8th 2024

Re: Meeting with Mayor Yu, Dec 6th 2023 at 1299 3rd Ave.

I would like to thank Mayor Simon Yu for attending the meeting, as well as Councilor Trudy Klassen and Councilor Brian Skakun. As discussed in the meeting, we the small business owners in the downtown business district are now at our limits to the damage and criminal actions we can manage and handle in the downtown core. We have been a collective group for now 6 years, asking the City to address and respect its legal responsibility to businesses and residents of the downtown.

We had a Mayor's committee (Safe, Clean, Inclusive Downtown Committee) under the last Council and the results were nonexistent and ineffective to address the ongoing issues we are facing. Criminal actions have increased, arson, theft and violence against business owners is increasing. Contrary to statistics provided by several bodies, crime is not going down, but in fact increasing on a daily basis. It has come to a point, short of a violent action against a business owner, that calling the police is neither effective or helpful as the individual involved is simply turned back onto the street within an hour of being detained after receiving a promise to appear.

The last committee struck by the former Mayor was ineffective and did nothing to address the crime issues. As policing falls to the City as a taxed responsibility, we need to have the ever growing issues properly addressed. That is why we met to discuss our need to have a working group formed to address the crime, policing and Bylaws options to tackle these issues. Mayor Yu stated that he too is concerned about the downtown crime and would get us a working group, committee and or Mayor's task force to deep dive these issues and find workable, cost effective solutions we could implement for the betterment of the downtown as a whole, for businesses and residents.

As of the date of this writing, we have had no further communications from the Mayor's office in regards to his public commitment to form a group to work on these very real issues. We all want a vibrant downtown, but we don't wear rose colored glasses. Without a proactive approach to address the crime in our downtown, "revitalization" is a pipe dream of paid for reports by non-resident consultants. We are the best consultants, you don't need to pay for, as we are downtown every day and witness the street level activities during the day and at night. We look forward to hearing when the Mayor will announce the formation of a group, tasked with researching and addressing the crime issues of our downtown in a proactive manner.

We await a response from Mayor Yu and Council.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zukowski, Spokes person

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Via E-mail Mayor & Council, City Clerk

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