



May 1, 2020

Ref: 252706

Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

**Re: Policing at the University Endowment Lands**

I am writing to further bring to your attention some community concerns regarding policing resources in the University Endowment Lands (UEL).

As you know, the unincorporated areas covered by the UEL and the University of British Columbia (UBC) on the Point Grey Peninsula are policed by the RCMP Provincial Police Service. The UEL is unique in British Columbia as being a provincially-administered area that is highly urban, comprised primarily of private residential properties and a smaller multi-family and commercial area, apart from the large tract of land that comprises Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

As the immediate neighbour of UBC, the UEL faces pressures from both resident and transient student populations, as well as the rapid development of UBC. Additionally, the UEL is itself changing with the addition of the Ielam development. Once complete, this development will add nearly 2,500 residents to the UEL's current population of roughly 3,000. As well, the UEL's single family neighbourhoods are experiencing redevelopment and demographic changes, including more properties owned by persons not primarily resident in the UEL.

The Community Advisory Council (CAC), in its role of providing advice to the UEL Manager, has noted various concerns that it sees as stemming from or exacerbated by insufficient policing resources on the Peninsula – including the challenge of noisy, disruptive student parties that may get out of control, and vacant properties of absentee owners being a potential target of trespassers and vandalism. While the first priority for police resources is clearly matters that put public safety at imminent risk, matters as noted by the CAC can create a sense of community unease and vulnerability if left unaddressed over time.

I fully understand that police operations are under the internal management and control of the RCMP, and that local detachment requests for increases to police resources are prioritized and considered by BC RCMP Headquarters in the context of the larger needs of the Provincial Police Service. At the same time, I felt it important to share with you the CAC's support for the request for more policing resources in the UEL area, and the UEL Administration's interest in continued good communication with the local detachment to ensure appropriate sharing of information and cooperative efforts where feasible.

I would also hope that, as part of the review of the local detachment's request, the community may also benefit in getting verified data around complaints and attempted and actual illegal activities, as well as population and resource comparisons, to help further inform understanding of the current policing situation. Please let me know the best way to ensure these two needs of continued good communication of information as well as getting verified data around complaints and attempted and actual illegal activities can be received.

I am aware that the CAC has brought its concerns directly to your attention in 2019 and earlier this year. I very much appreciate you keeping me and the Honourable David Eby, MLA, Vancouver-Point Grey, informed, as appropriate, of any progress on the request for additional policing resources. I trust that the CAC will also be apprised once it is known that a decision has been made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Selina Robinson  
Minister

pc: Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training  
Honourable David Eby, MLA, Vancouver-Point Grey  
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division,  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services,  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Jonn Braman, Manager, University Endowment Lands  
Claire Huxtable, UEL Community Advisory Council