

Councillors

R. Bruce Banman
Les Barkman
Sandy Blue
Kelly Chahal



CITY OF ABBOTSFORD

Mayor, Henry Braun

Councillors

Brenda Falk
Dave Loewen
Patricia Ross
Ross Siemens

April 18, 2019

File: 0530-03

Via Post and Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Honourable John Horgan,
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 STN Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan:

Re: City of Abbotsford, Resolution: Criminal Justice Reform in British Columbia

On behalf of Abbotsford City Council, I am requesting your favourable consideration and resolutions of support for Criminal Justice Reform in BC to enhance efforts to address the Lower Mainland Gang Conflict.

At the April 15, 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

Resolution: Criminal Justice Reform in British Columbia

WHEREAS British Columbia currently has the highest threshold/charge approval standard in Canada in proceeding with charges and criminal prosecution of gangsters while communities across British Columbia's lower mainland have concurrently seen a year over year rise in gang-related homicide and violence;

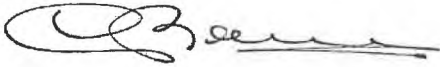
AND WHEREAS ongoing court delays favour the rights of the accused over the rights of victims and/or the community;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada committed \$328-million over 5 years beginning in 2018, and \$100-million annually thereafter to tackle the increase in gun related violence and gang activity in Canada as well as \$43 million annually in the National Crime Prevention Strategy to develop cost-effective ways to prevent crime among at-risk populations and vulnerable communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor's Caucus/UBCM request that, in support of addressing the ongoing gang violence across the lower mainland of BC, the Province of BC and BC's Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety immediately begin working with the Government of Canada to take steps to explore initiatives to address issues within the British Columbia justice system including BC's restrictive charge approval standards, the ongoing high volume of court delays as well as measures to address community safety in support of the rights of all Canadians to live in safe communities.

We look forward to your support on this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Braun', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Henry Braun
Mayor

- c. Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Hon. David Eby, Attorney General
- Hon. Darryl Plecas, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, MLA Abbotsford South
- Simon Gibson, MLA, Abbotsford-Mission
- Mike de Jong, MLA Abbotsford West
- Council members
- Peter Sparanese, City Manager
- Mike Serr, Chief Constable, Abbotsford Police Department
- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention
- British Columbia Municipalities and Regional Districts
- Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
- British Columbia Association of Police Boards