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The Honourable Mike Farnworth Minister
of Public Safety and Solicitor General

January 13, 2020

Dear Minister Farnworth,

We are writing to again request additional RCMP resources for the University Endowment Lands. **Specifically, we request that the growing daytime population of non-resident students at UBC be taken into account when determining policing staff requirements.** This letter follows one written to you by residents of the UEL in July 2019 and a follow-up letter from the UEL Community Advisory Council sent on October 20, 2019.

To reiterate, in July of last year there were a series of very serious home invasions and robberies. In one case, it took the local RCMP fully two hours to respond in part because they had been occupied with a loud student house party. In another case, it appears a drone was being used to survey a property for a possible future break-in. The local RCMP detachment Commander has described the UEL as a “target rich” environment, with criminals apparently aware that policing resources are stretched thin. The Commander has acknowledged that his detachment is understaffed.

In addition, the Parent Advisory Council at Norma Rose Point Elementary School is concerned about the local RCMP’s ability to enforce the Motor Vehicle Act. The school has requested increased support to manage traffic at peak times around the school day, but have been told the local detachment is stretched and cannot provide this support. More traffic, unchecked speeders and distracted drivers have created an unsettling environment on the campus roads leading to the school. Caregivers are hesitant to let children walk or cycle to school unaccompanied by adults as they are constantly at risk due to careless drivers on campus. Drivers operate with a high disregard for traffic rules and road markings and there is a sense of permissiveness that has been engendered by the lack of consistent traffic enforcement. Among the many dangerous infractions observed: drivers are passing along solid yellow lines, failing to stop for pedestrians at crosswalks, speeding, and running red lights. Safe parking practices are not enforced and put pedestrians at risk. An increase in RCMP staffing levels may help support traffic enforcement and increase safety on campus roads that NRP students and their families use to get to school from the surrounding neighbourhoods.

At University Hill Elementary school, there has been a recent increase in crime. There were three break-ins on the school grounds in the period from September to December, 2019. One incident was a break-in into the school, a second was a break-in to a car parked briefly in front of the school in the late afternoon, and the third resulted in four skylights being stolen from the roof of the school. These incidents have increased anxiety and safety concerns among staff and

parents.

The local RCMP has requested more resources, but have not seen additional allocations despite the rising demands from the growing UBC student population. At a recent UEL meeting, the Commander highlighted time-consuming demands for the policing of Wreck Beach and the increasing time spent responding to student mental health emergency calls on campus.

In your October 11, 2019 letter to the residents of the UEL, you indicate that “*the provincial government has made significant financial investments in the BC Provincial Police Service over the past several years. I am aware, however, that front-line police resource levels at provincial jurisdictional detachments such as the University RCMP Detachment have not increased as a result of these investments*”. We ask that you address the clear shortfall in policing services in the greater UEL community by taking into account the growing demands on the RCMP from the non-resident UBC student population.

We look forward to seeing progress on this issue.

Regards,

UEL Community Advisory Council
pp. Claire Huxtable

Cc: Jonn Braman, Manager, University Endowment Lands

The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Stg Chuck Lan, University RCMP Detachment Commander
The Honourable David Eby, M.L.A. Vancouver Point Grey
Richard Watson, Chair, University Neighbourhood Association
Ian Cannon, Principal, Norma Rose Point School
Trevor Wrich, Principal, University Hill Elementary School