

My Five Priorities for the Public Safety Committee.

Good Afternoon,

As a member at large on the Public Safety Committee, here are my five top priorities:

1. Long Term Monitoring for the impacts on community impacts and safety, which would include when collecting a baseline or baseline monitoring. For example in regards to the HEART and HEARTH projects. That means we interview local residents and business before and after the projects are put into these neighborhoods,
2. Stopping current business from moving or closing due to crime and social disorder, especially from the South end, Downtown area.

Examples include Friends of Haven Thrift Store, Iron Oxide, Superette is up for sale, business around the Newcastle area. Also recent story in the news regarding Nanda Korean fried chicken being broken into 3 times in one month and the owners considering closing or moving, Misty Pines Bakery in the old city was broken into, door smashed in. These hardships are very impactful and we need to keep business's doors open for the walkability and enjoyment of the city. Establish grants for small business who have been impacted (broken windows etc.) akin to the program that the City of Portland Oregon is running to keep business going amid these times.

3. Entice people to use public spaces - Libraries and parks etc. Block parties? Clean ups? Etc is there funding for this? Knob Hill Park for example is rarely ever used by children and I have noticed many more needles last time I was there. .
4. Decentralization of services for those in Active addiction - due to the impacts on the entire south end of Nanaimo.
5. Amplify the effectiveness and power of Neighborhood associations, which work tirelessly and voluntarily for the community.

These are priorities for me because I see how powerless people are feeling in terms of being heard by any level of government and I believe that without good relationship, nothing can be accomplished. I also believe that public spaces need to be welcoming for all residents and especially children. The perception of safety is also essential for people to believe that they are living in a civil society.

Thank you,  
Ruth Taylor