



TASK FORCE BARRAGE 90-DAY RESULTS ARE CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

Save Our Streets eager to see longer-term efforts to address root causes of street disorder

VANCOUVER, B.C (May 29, 2025) – Save Our Streets (SOS) has often said they will celebrate results rather than announcements. Well, following release of data related to the first three months of Task Force Barrage by the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and City of Vancouver, SOS welcomes and celebrates a 90-day trendline that indicates a drop in reported crimes.

Launched on February 13, Task Force Barrage has seen additional front-line officers deployed to several Vancouver neighbourhoods, where increased police visibility has led to varying degrees of decrease in reported violence and property crime compared to 2024, depending on neighbourhood and crime type. A significant increase in weapons seizures also resulted. It should be noted that the data is for reported crimes and there is anecdotal evidence that many crimes now go unreported.

“We encourage people to report all crimes as the stats impact the allocation of resources,” said Jess Ketchum, Co-founder, SOS. “While, as always, we greatly appreciate the courageous and tireless work of the VPD and its members, policing is just one part of what needs to be a multi-pronged solution to the crime and public safety issues facing communities across B.C. The increased police presence and the decrease in street disorder is certainly welcomed by our members in the Vancouver neighbourhoods targeted by Task Force Barrage, but we also need to look at how this initiative might expand to other communities. The trend line is a testament to the value of greater police attention to these areas. As the VPD noted, the five million budgeted to support the task force is only expected to last for six months. What happens then?”

Ketchum also welcomed the appointment of Steve Rai as Vancouver's 32nd chief constable on May 22. A 35-year veteran of the VPD, Rai had been serving as interim police chief since Adam Palmer's departure in April. “On behalf of all our members, I'd like to congratulate Chief Rai on his appointment,” said Ketchum. “As was noted during our Communities Driving Change Forum in January, modern-day policing has become more complicated with the growing issues of the organized street gangs, illicit drug trade, addictions and mental illnesses and homelessness significantly impacting the work of police forces across the province. Tackling these pervasive, underlying issues isn't just the best way to make meaningful differences in the lives of vulnerable British Columbians, it's also the best way to support the police officers across the province who risk their lives to protect us every day.

About Save Our Streets

Save Our Streets is a coalition of 120-plus community and business organizations representing every corner of British Columbia. SOS members are committed to seeing governments bring order and public safety back to communities across British Columbia. Concerned citizen groups, and B.C. businesses interested in joining or supporting SOS are invited to submit online at SaveOurStreets.ca or contact info@saveourstreets.ca.

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