

From: Jayun // Vancouver van@gotofino.com
Subject: Re: M2 RE: Urgent: Request to Suspend VPD "Project Access" Program – Legal & Accountability Concerns
Date: August 27, 2026 at 1:31 PM
To: Fry, Pete Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca

JV

Well, doing anything on this level without a conversation first may make it difficult to understand where each person is coming from.

Yes, I thought that perhaps city council could do something to invalidate the Project Access program. If not, I thought I would get some helpful input. Once I hear what the other councillor has heard back about their questions, I'll see where next I can go with this. Perhaps the OPCC. It is troublesome to me that the police investigate the police during an OPCC complaint, but we have had good results once we request a review of their findings by a retired judge.

I was looking for support and assistance as to what a citizen can do without spending tens of thousands of dollars in court. I thought that's what city councillors helped with.

Anyway, this didn't work out. It's too bad, but that's the way it goes sometimes.

On Aug 27, 2026, at 1:02 PM, Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Sorry then I misunderstood your request
I ask you to invalidate these overreaching Project Access agreements and protect the civil liberties of the Vancouver residents who live in buildings with an MOU in place with the VPD.
As something more directive than asking a question

Pete Fry (he/him)
Vancouver City Councillor
City Hall I 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
604.873.7246 | Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca
Social Media: <https://linktr.ee/ptfry>

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From: Jayun // Vancouver <van@gotofino.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 12:53 PM
To: Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: M2 RE: Urgent: Request to Suspend VPD "Project Access" Program – Legal & Accountability Concerns

Hi,

I understand that. I guess I was looking for a city councillor to ask questions about the legality of the program. I was looking for someone of repute to put the questions out there to make people aware. No one seems to know about this program, I have asked organizations and people in dtes but even people at Pivot Legal were unaware of Project Access.

I was not asking you to 'tell officers how to do their job' and the rest of what you wrote and I am sorry you took that from my email.

Another of the councillors is now asking questions about the program so at least that gives us one city personnel willing to work with us to help protect tenants and residents around this issue.

On Aug 27, 2026, at 11:20 AM, Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Hi,
Notwithstanding the election quiet period..

In BC under the Police Act, we have very little control over police – as I like to say, we write the cheques but we cannot tell them how to spend it. The Police Act deliberately creates a separation between elected officials and day-to-day policing decisions to protect police independence and prevent political interference. Council's role is broad governance, funding, and priority-setting, not directing police operations. Council does get one member on the Police Board (the Province appoints the rest) – but that liaison to council is Ken Sim, so there is not much accountability (to me).

In short, I can:
Ask questions, share concerns from members of the public via the liaison Ken Sim, and vote on the police budget

I cannot :
Tell officers how to do their job or conduct investigations or deploy resources, and I can not tell them to suspend Project Access or invalidate those agreements (which I understand to be your specific request)

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From: Jayun // Vancouver <van@gotofino.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 10:46 AM
To: Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Re: M2 RE: Urgent: Request to Suspend VPD "Project Access" Program – Legal & Accountability Concerns

Hi Pete,

Thank you for explaining the 'quiet period'. I wondered if anything like that would be in effect.

Regarding your comment about this being an issue around strata: Any building owner can sign an MOU with the VPD for Project Access and I have talked with tenants of rental buildings where this has happened. The owner simply decided to implement this without any notification to tenants. Therefore, I see this as not a strata issue but a city issue. From my, and many others, perspective it is a VPD issue.

You realize that 'to seek legal relief from your strata' means Supreme Court. I know how much that can cost and I am unsure how you can think I, or any building resident who finds themselves caught up by this, could afford that. If the answer is that tenants must seek legal relief then that puts this squarely into a poor people getting penalized situation. How are ordinary people who are tenants/residents in buildings that are strata or SROs or low income supposed to afford to file Supreme Court documents to keep rights that are being stripped from them and given to the VPD. I don't understand why you would not be willing to actively support questioning that.

Are you saying that the city councillors cannot question this or that you cannot? I don't understand how a councillor could not and would not find it important to question if this VPD initiated program is violating citizen rights and, if so, work to protect citizen rights and to suspend and end this program.

Jayun McDowell
138 East Hastings Street
604-345-6667

On Aug 26, 2026, at 10:12 PM, Fry, Pete
<Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca> wrote:

Hi Jayun,

In response to the specifics of your complaint. I must confess, I am surprised to read about the extent of Project Access, and suspension of your privacy rights. I appreciate why you would be unsettled by that!

As a councillor I don't have much direct access to the Police Board, by design Sim and ABC have largely cut me out, and with the proximity of the upcoming election I am further constrained in asking official questions since they refer to this as the "quiet period" and can effectively ignore us. That said, I can ask, but I am not sure I will get much useful information. Your situation reminds me of a police program from a few years back under the Trespass Prevention Act – shops could request a special sticker that on display would be approval for police to move overnight loiterers and campers in business doorways. It was somewhat controversial at the time and went quiet shortly thereafter (this would have been last term).

It seems to me that the issue here, however is a matter of Strata Act law, something I know very little about other than your strata can hold property rights on your behalf and in theory grant access to VPD or others as they see fit, so long as it is legally authorized by the duly elected board and consistent with your strata by-laws. If your strata's legal counsel has explicitly stated that a strata corporation has no authority to waive your legal rights, it unfortunately seems like your remedy is to seek legal relief from your strata.

Pete Fry (he/him)
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From: Jayun // Vancouver <van@gotofino.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:37 PM
To: Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>
Subject: Urgent: Request to Suspend VPD "Project Access" Program – Legal & Accountability Concerns

This email is being resent to just you but originally I sent it to all three councillors.

Hello Councillors Orr, Maloney and Fry,

As a long-term resident of the Sequel building at 138 East Hastings Street, I am writing to formally request the immediate suspension of the VPD Project Access program. Marketed as a safety measure, the stated details of the program show it to be an unaccountable system that forces residents to waive their fundamental legal rights. Our strata's legal counsel has explicitly stated that a strata corporation has no authority to waive such claims on behalf of individual residents.

I have attached the following documents for your review:

- My Letter: An account of how Project Access works and why the current agreements are problematic.
- The P.O.W.E.R. Letter: Critical perspectives on the program's broader community impact and the need for civilian oversight.
- The signed Project Access MOU from the Sequel building at 138 East Hastings Street.

I ask you to invalidate these overreaching Project Access agreements and protect the civil liberties of the Vancouver residents who live in buildings with an MOU in place with the VPD. I look forward to your response on this matter.

Thank you,

Jayun McDowell
Sequel Building -- 138 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC
604-345-6667
van@gotofino.com

