



Staff Report June 2021

Welcoming City Strategy



The City of Victoria is currently creating a *Welcoming City Strategy* that will serve as a roadmap to guide Victoria towards becoming a stronger, more inclusive community where everyone, including newcomers, immigrants and refugees, is accepted, respected and feels like they belong. The Welcoming City Strategy is intended to remove barriers to City services and foster a compassionate and neighbourly community where all residents, including immigrants. Whether you are newcomer to Victoria or a long-time resident, we invite you to share your stories and lived experiences: Do you feel a sense of welcome and belonging? What would make you feel more like you belong here? [Have your say](#) by participating in online engagement activities between now and the end of June.

All Ages and Abilities Cycling Network

The City is now hosting the final round of engagement for cycling route design in James Bay. You can watch the updated corridor video, download and review the revised designs, and provide your feedback by completing our new survey by June 11. You can also register for a virtual Q&A session or share your thoughts in writing via email or mail. The City is seeking final public and stakeholder input on designs and route options only. Click [All Ages and Abilities Cycling Network](#) to participate.



Official Community Plan Update



Official Community Plan Update

The City is engaging the community to update parts of Official Community Plan (OCP) to reflect recently approved plans and policies, and to improve clarity. Watch a short video to learn about the importance of our OCP and the other City-wide plans that are being included in this update. Ask a question or share feedback in this early engagement until June 20. Sign up for project updates and check back later this spring to share feedback on more specific questions. Click here [Official Community Plan Update](#) to participate.



VTAG (Victoria Together Against Graffiti) Returns

The City of Victoria is pleased to announce that this volunteer coordinated effort to remove unsightly graffiti tags on BC Hydro equipment in your neighbourhood has resumed operation. The City and BC Hydro have recently signed off on an annual agreement to allow volunteers to “Own the Block” and remove tags on both power poles and utility boxes owned by BC Hydro. The agreement means that citizens can once again access a free graffiti removal carrying kit, replete with two colour matched paint cans for pressure treated and non-pressure treated poles, a brush, opener, stir stick and set of gloves to remediate tags in their neighbourhood. For more info on how to get connected with VTAG and access your kit, contact gpemberton@victoria.ca.



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The City of Victoria is recruiting for **one citizen appointee** to serve on the Greater Victoria Public Library Board for a two-year term. The Greater Victoria Public Library Board (GVPL Board) provides joint management, maintenance, improvement, operation and control of library branches. The Library has 12

locations in the Greater Victoria Area including a Central Library in the heart of downtown Victoria and the sxʷeɹɪxʷəɹɪ təɹəxʷ James Bay Branch. A citizen appointee must have resided in the City of Victoria for at least six **months** preceding the appointment. [Learn more and apply](#) by midnight on Monday, June 21.

It's Property Tax Time

Property taxes are due July 2, 2021. Payment can be made multiple ways – online banking, mailing or dropping a cheque in the Pandora entrance to City Hall, through your mortgage company, pre-authorized payments and in person. New this year: Home Owner Grant applications are now processed through the Province's online system at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or by phone at 1.888.355.2700. Municipalities no longer accept applications. Visit our [webpage](#) for more information.



Participatory Budgeting 2021- Neighbourhood Spaces

Stay tuned mid-June for an announcement about this year's Participatory Budgeting Process. The community-based Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee will be seeking proposals, which will see \$50,000 invested for projects that

enhance and enrich neighbourhood spaces throughout Victoria. Participatory Budgeting is an innovative, democratic process that gives the entire community the opportunity to participate and decide how to invest a portion of the City budget in projects that matter to the people who live here. Full details about this funding opportunity and the application form will be available mid June. You can learn about Participatory Budgeting [here](#).

What's Up at Council?

	Committee of the Whole (COTW) 9:00 a.m.	(Closed) Council Meeting After COTW meetings as required	Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
June	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , & 24 th	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , & 24 th	10 th & 24 th

Decisions made at Council can be found on our [Council Highlights](#) page. If you are interested in knowing how the councillors voted on anything, you can now see and track Council voting records with the City [Council Meeting Dashboard](#).

Temporary Relocation of Council Meetings

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be held at the Capital Regional District Board room between March 11 and June 15, 2021 to allow for HVAC work to occur at City Hall to improve air quality.

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