

VIA EMAIL Ref. 673495

January 10, 2025

Her Worship Megan Knight Mayor of the City of White Rock City Hall 15322 Buena Vista Avenue White Rock BC V4B 1Y6

Email: CMagnus@whiterockcity.ca; mknight@whiterockcity.ca

Dear Mayor Knight:

Thank you for your letter of November 27, 2024, in which you request my ministry's assistance to support your efforts to address significant public safety challenges your community is facing.

First, I would like to acknowledge the heartbreaking tragic incidents that you shared and how much of an impact they have on communities.

Our government is committed to improving public safety. That is why on November 20, 2022, we announced the new Safer Communities Action Plan to help keep British Columbians safe. The action plan builds on work already underway by the Province to help break the cycle of repeat offending and build safe and healthy communities, including complex-care housing, new and expanded community transition teams to better support people who are leaving correctional facilities, and funding to support work by the BC First Nations Justice Council to develop better, culturally appropriate supports for Indigenous people in the legal system. You can find the Action Plan here: https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/safer-communities.

I appreciate the City's proactiveness in identifying measures to help address safety issues. Unfortunately, at this time, there are no sources of funding available through the ministry that would match your request. I understand the financial impact these important enhanced security measures have and encourage you to explore other funding opportunities.

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While security cameras are not eligible for funding, you may be considering other projects that would be eligible for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Civil Forfeiture Grant Program (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants) which provides one-time funding to support community-based projects using the proceeds of the civil forfeiture process. Funds are allocated through streams determined on an annual basis and based on alignment with ministry priority areas. The call for applications and program guidelines are announced in the fall.

Once the call for applications is announced we encourage those interested to review the program guidelines to determine if their organization and project may be eligible for funding. If you would like to be added to the ministry's distribution list to receive notification about future Civil Forfeiture Grant Program calls for applications, please send an email to cfogrants@gov.bc.ca. Information about initiatives which have been funded can be found at the program website linked above.

I appreciate being made aware of your concerns and commend you for being proactive in addressing these issues.

Sincerely,

Garry Begg

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General