

Esther Short Neighborhood Association

Newsletter July 2024

Lots to do in August!

At the July 8th Executive meeting, the Board of the Esther Short Neighborhood Association voted to send three resolutions to the general membership for a vote at the August meeting. The summary of the resolutions are below (with full text on following pages):

1: Downtown Parking Policies Review

*A RESOLUTION encouraging the City of Vancouver to give **APPROPRIATE** weight to the parking needs of Esther Short Neighborhood residents, and the guests and visitors of residents, as the City reviews and updates downtown parking policies.*

2: Declared Homeless Emergency

A RESOLUTION acknowledging the progress made in addressing the declared emergency related to homelessness, and encouraging the City of Vancouver to continue to make progress in addressing the ongoing crisis.

3: Noise Related Public Disturbances

A RESOLUTION encouraging the City of Vancouver to address motor vehicle noise related public disturbances, to include, but not limited to street racing related activities, excessive engine revving, and violations of the state muffler laws.

Please attend the August neighborhood meeting to discuss and vote on these neighborhood concerns.

The Board also voted at the July meeting to submit a letter in support of the City of Vancouver's application for a competitive grant from the Federal Transportation Authority. A copy of the letter will be provided for review at the August ESNA meeting.

Elected Board Members
President Marcus Griffith
Vice President Alyssa Wheeler
Secretary Kyle Peterson
Treasurer Jonathan Wheeler
Contact the Board esthershorthneighborhood@gmail.com
City Contacts
Neighborhood Liaison Julie Arenz julie.arenz@cityofvancouver.us
Neighborhood Police Officer Ofc. Lee Gelsinger lee.gelsinger@cityofvancouver.us
Next Meeting Times
Open to All Residents Monday, Aug. 5th, 2024 at 6pm Smith Tower 2nd Floor Community Room 515 Washington Street
*Executive Board Only * Tentatively set for Sept. 9 at 6pm Details to be set in August

Resolution No. 2024-1
Parking

A RESOLUTION encouraging the City of Vancouver to give **APPROPRIATE** weight to the parking needs of Esther Short Neighborhood residents, and the guests and visitors of residents, as the City reviews and updates downtown parking policies.

WHEREAS, the Esther Short Neighborhood is fully contained in the downtown Parking Management Area; and

WHEREAS, impacts of City parking policies, to include parking rates, enforcement hours, and total available parking, have a significant impact on neighborhood residents, including visitors and guests of residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver has already discontinued the downtown residential parking program for residents in Zone 3A for new residents, and existing residents without a parking pass prior to December 2022; and

WHEREAS, residential and commercial buildings continue to be constructed without sufficient off-street parking to meet their reasonably predicted parking needs; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver is actively considering the possibility of charging for on-street parking on evenings and weekends; and

WHEREAS, the accumulative strain of parking is an increasing detriment to the quality of life of neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, the Esther Short Neighborhood Association recognizes the complex parking needs for a thriving downtown neighborhood prohibit a perfect solution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Esther Short Neighborhood Association encourages the City of Vancouver to give **APPROPRIATE** weight to the parking needs of residents, and the guests and visitors of residents, as the City reviews and updates downtown parking policies.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Esther Short Neighborhood Association this ____ day of _____, _____.

Resolution No. 2024-2
Declared Homeless Emergency

A RESOLUTION acknowledging the progress made in addressing the declared emergency related to homelessness, and encouraging the City of Vancouver to continue to make progress in addressing the ongoing crisis.

WHEREAS, the as City Center, the Esther Short Neighborhood experiences a disproportionate level of homelessness related urban stress; and

WHEREAS, persons who are engaging in outside habitation, or other forms of homelessness, within the boundaries of the Esther Short Neighborhood are residents of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-era homeless emergency is an unprecedented challenge in the City's history, resulting in City declaring an official emergency in October, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City has taken numerous and far-reaching steps to address health, safety and environmental impacts associated with homelessness, and has done so under a frequently changing legal landscape; and,

WHEREAS, the efforts of the City of Vancouver, the Homeless Assistance and Resource Team, the Vancouver Housing Authority, the Safe Stay communities and countless non-profits, and other governmental agencies, have made clear, measurable progress in addressing the homeless crisis; and

WHEREAS, homelessness related challenges including abusive camping, litter, public toileting, health and hygiene needs, open drug use, and criminal behavior remain a pressing neighborhood concern; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for all neighborhood residents has been greatly improved by the progress made so far, and will only continue to improve as future progress is made;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Esther Short Neighborhood Association acknowledges the progress made in addressing the declared emergency related to homelessness, and encourages the City of Vancouver to continue to make progress in addressing the ongoing crisis.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Esther Short Neighborhood Association this _____ day of _____, _____.

Resolution No. 2024-3
Motor Vehicle Related Noise Disturbances

A RESOLUTION encouraging the City of Vancouver to address motor vehicle noise related public disturbances, to include, but not limited to street racing related activities, excessive engine revving, and violations of the state muffler laws.

WHEREAS, the Esther Short Neighborhood experiences a high-volume of motor-vehicle traffic in close proximity to residences, restaurants and public parks.

WHEREAS, motor-vehicle related noise disturbances are frequently loud enough to disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of living quarters, restaurants and public parks.

WHEREAS, illegally modified mufflers are frequently loud enough to cause physical pain to bystanders, and are often loud enough to constitute a genuine hearing health risk to residents inside their residence, even with closed doors and closed windows.

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver Municipal Code makes a public disturbance caused by the operation of a motor vehicle a misdemeanor¹; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington², and Washington Administrative Code³, make it illegal to modify a muffler or operate an motor vehicle that makes excessive noise.

WHEREAS, addressing motor-vehicle related noise disturbances would greatly improve the quality of life for residents, and enhance the visitors and customer experience to the City Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Esther Short Neighborhood Association encourages the City of Vancouver to address motor vehicle noise related public disturbances, to include, but not limited to street racing related activities, excessive engine revving, and violations of the state muffler laws.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Esther Short Neighborhood Association this ____ day of _____, _____.

President, Esther Short Neighborhood Association

¹ VMC 7.05.010

¹ RCW 46.37.390, WAC 173-62-030

The City of Vancouver supports the Neighborhood Associations in their effort to share vital information with residents to create a more informed public. However, the information provided, and the opinions and views expressed in the Neighborhood Association newsletter or other documents do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Vancouver, nor does the City determine whether the information published is accurate or appropriate. Printed by the City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods.