

WHEREAS the increasing number of individuals creating disorder on streets (property crime/ robberies, aggressive panhandlers/squeegee persons, graffiti and litter) is having a negative effect on the quality of life of citizens and visitors;

AND WHEREAS the existing legislative tools are inadequate to effectively deal with those issues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the provincial government enact a “Safe Streets Act” similar to the legislation already in existence in Ontario to allow police and communities to more effectively deal with aggressive behaviour and to ensure that the penalties and laws are consistent throughout the province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the provincial government amend the Trespass Act to provide useful statutory authority or enforcement action for businesses and private property owners in urban settings.

BACKGROUND:

Existing legislation and bylaws in the Province of British Columbia is proving to be inadequate for dealing with squeegee people, aggressive panhandlers and other nuisance individuals. Provincial legislation, modeled on the Ontario Safe Streets Act (copy attached), would ensure all communities have the same laws and penalties and nuisance individuals would not be able to escape enforcement by moving to another community.