

# Do Neighbourhood Facebook Groups help prevent crime?

Have you ever wondered if anyone pays attention to warnings to “watch out” for those unrecognizable characters in grainy security images lurking around parked cars late at night? How about the ones that ask, “do you know this person”, referring to a porch pirate cloaked in a hoodie walking off with a recently delivered parcel?

If you have, you’re not the only one, so does Marika’s mother.



Marika Lopez, is an MA Student in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University

Marika Lopez, is an MA Student in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University in the process of completing her master’s thesis on *Vancouver Facebook Neighbourhood Groups, neighbourhood life and property crime.*

Marika became interested in this subject “because of my mom always talking about our Facebook Neighbourhood Group.” These talks

with her mother led to academic discussions with her undergraduate professors and the realization that the area is vastly under researched.

Her research aims to advance the field of digital community crime prevention. “Social media has the potential to build communities, and I want to learn how and in what ways it can

do that.” If her findings show that Facebook Neighbourhood Groups have an impact on property crimes, “it could start a dialogue between the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver City Council, to consider adding these groups to a crime prevention program.” Even if her findings indicate these groups don’t have an impact on property crime, Marika suggests they may initiate conversations among residents and community leaders to strengthen “community connections”.

The gathering of data has just begun and includes 10-15 online interviews with residents who are 19+, living in one of these 12 neighbourhoods: Arbutus Ridge, Central Business District, Grandview-Woodland, Hastings-Sunrise, Kensington Cedar-Cottage, Mount Pleasant, Renfrew-Collingwood, Stanley Park, Strathcona, Victoria-Fraserview, West Point Grey and the West End, and are part of their Facebook Neighbourhood Group.

After the interviews are done, a survey will be developed and distributed online and residents who meet the same criteria as above, will be eligible to participate

More interviewees are required, so if you fit the recruitment criteria, and are interested in being a part of Marika’s research, you can contact her at [marika\\_lopez@sfu.ca](mailto:marika_lopez@sfu.ca)

If you have any questions or concerns about this undertaking, contact Marika’s co-supervisor, Dr. Richard Frank at [richard\\_frank@sfu.ca](mailto:richard_frank@sfu.ca).

Concerns about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, can be addressed to: Director, Research Ethics and Security at [hreb@sfu.ca](mailto:hreb@sfu.ca) or call 778-782-6593.

## Will another 0% property tax increase mean less service and higher fees?

In the lead up to this year’s civic election, *The REVUE* is investigating a few of the policies that candidates, incumbents and aspiring, put out there as solutions to the some of the city’s chronic problems.

It’s not enough to know the issues, we all do, what *The REVUE* will be looking for is solutions. Are they new, feasible and affordable? Will the policies benefit all citizens, just the privileged, or conversely just the marginalized?

**Will ABC’s promise of another 0% property tax increase mean less service and higher fees?**

To launch their campaign for the Vancouver

Civic election this October, the ABC Party led by Mayor Ken Sim have promised a second year of 0% property tax increase.

The City of Vancouver’s 2026 budget of \$2.39 billion which also froze property taxes was achieved by identifying \$120 million in savings and new revenue.

That included a 12% reduction in funding for arts, culture, and community services, a 14% cut in planning, urban design, and sustainability, and about 400 potential layoffs of unionized and non-union staff in general administration.

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**New Sunset Seniors Centre expands programs and support**  
*The opening of Sunset Seniors Centre follows several years of community planning and collaboration.*

### 34 and 29-storey towers proposed for Marine Dr. at Fraser St.

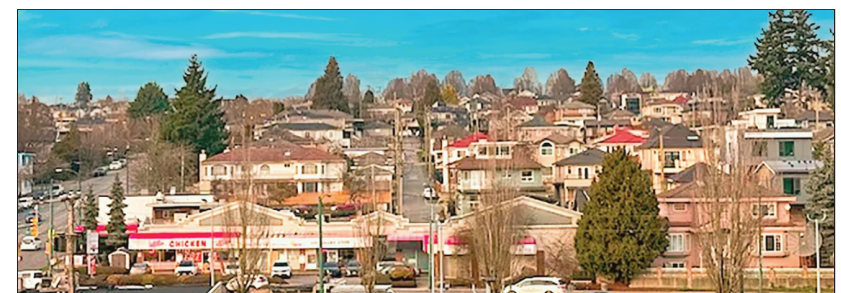
The site currently has a 3-storey rental building with 120 units and could be replaced with a total of 652 units, with 23% of the floor area to be below market rental.



**49-space childcare facility opens in West Fraserlands**  
*Salmon Stone Childcare, a purpose-built, 49-space facility for ages 0 to 5 years, has opened in South Vancouver’s West Fraserlands.*

### Pet bans contribute to displacement and homelessness

*Blanket pet bans have a particularly negative impact on women escaping violence, youth, 2SLGBTQAI+, and seniors.*



**Replace blanket zoning with “neighbourhood-based plans”**  
*What impact might the repeal of “blanket zoning” have on property values, investor confidence, projects set to go or already underway, and the availability of housing in the near future?*

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