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Subject: Crime - City of Port Phillip - 5yo girl assaulted

Date: 20/09/2024 17:14

From: adrian [REDACTED]

Exhibit 1

To: Melissa.Horne@parliament.vic.gov.au, minister.horne@minstaff.vic.gov.au,
jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au

Cc: brett [REDACTED]

This email will be made available to the general public.

Dear Premier Jacinta Allan MP and Minister Melissa Horne MP,

Copied: Inspector Brett Coloe

Dear Premier and Minister, you both have young children. What will it take?

I have not copied this email to the Council's acting CEO Mr Tee, there is little point - for the reasons that you are personally already aware, matters which remain on foot and will be ventilated further.

In the interests of diplomacy, following this email I will write separately to you on a private basis with regard to matters more broadly and issues I have learned over the past 12 months from good people who are deeply intimate with structural issues surrounding law and order, policing and crime more generally in the City of Port Phillip.

Specifics as follows. Further to:

1 - My 60 page submission to yourselves dated 25 July 2024 (to which you have not replied)

2 - My invitation to you dated today to join Port Melbourne locals next month in person

I now attach an article published today in the Herald Sun titled:

"Acland St traders fear 'someone will get killed' as crime and violence continue to escalate"

Regrettably, it seems Bay Street, Port Melbourne this week has overtaken Acland Street with the alleged attempted murder of a local Port Melbourne shopkeeper.

I also attach here a copy of a text message received today from the Mother of the 5yo girl who was assaulted this week in Acland Street. The text message is repeated below.

"Just on Acland Street with Eliza and the poor kid is so scared. Ask to cross the road because there is a naughty man up there"

My heart is so sad for with how frightened she is. She's always looking"

Mother of 5yo girl, Friday 20 September 2024

It turns out the CCTV in Acland Street, maintained by our Council, was not working properly (as advised by the police the following day). As was the case last month with CCTV in Fitzroy Street (early August).

I look forward to your reply to the invitation sent earlier today.

Regards

Adrian King, Resident

Exhibit 2

St Kilda – Prior Online / Video Media Footage – As At June 2024

November 2019 – 7News – St Kilda residents fight back against crime

<https://www.facebook.com/7NEWSMelbourne/videos/st-kilda-residents-fight-back-against-crime/274541010138312/>

December 2020 – 7News – Police crackdown on crime in St Kilda

<https://www.facebook.com/7NEWSMelbourne/videos/st-kilda-crime-crackdown/818722015525400/>

October 2022 – Herald Sun – St Kilda overrun with drugs

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/st-kilda-has-become-overrun-with-crime-and-an-social-behaviour/video/aa1ac2c59d8c8acb735b270da5e7932c>

March 2023 – Herald Sun – Police target drug related crime in St Kilda

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/police-target-drugrelated-crime-in-st-kilda/video/636b3cd0c5c1f8ca5e44d3142c77976d>

July 2023 – Channel 7 (Youtube) – Police crackdown on drugs in St Kilda

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDhtLEP7jgE>

March 2024 – 3AW – Carlisle Street drugs

<https://www.3aw.com.au/melbourne-beauty-salon-owner-describes-confronting-and-dangerous-sight-outside-store/>

March 2024 – Herald Sun – War Zone

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/truecrimeaustralia/police-courts-victoria/st-kildas-mean-streets-abused-walking-your-dog-in-the-day-people-smoking-ice-on-the-corner/news-story/c8a70d1065f50f17076f6f57c6dd67ca>

May 2024 – 3AW – Council fairy lights to tackle crime (Acland Street)

<https://www.3aw.com.au/council-in-melbournes-south-cries-for-not-addressing-safety-concerns-with-new-safety-feature/>

May 2024 – 3AW – Council punishes rates (for empty retail sites....)

https://www.9tok.com/@3aw_melbourne/video/7374949052028325125



Candidate Statement

My wish is for a municipality that is cleaner, greener, safer and prioritises our precious natural advantages such as the Bay and parks. A place we are all proud to call home. Enabled by a Council free of corruption. I believe our Council has a cost of corruption crisis. This crisis erodes the Council's ability to properly serve the community and costs us dearly in financial terms. I see a pressing need to put heart and soul back into our Council. Fundamentally, the Council belongs to the community. As a Councillor I unequivocally represent residents. My role is to hold the Council to account for improved performance including genuine community consultation. My commitment is to act without fear or favour. I will call issues out. I believe in a municipality that actively promotes a greater sense of belonging and community for all by embracing each Ward's uniqueness. I place high value on the community enjoying a basic sense of safety. Fresh approaches to safety are required including more physical presence in the community. I believe my track record of transforming organisations with complex challenges will assist improving Council performance for the benefit of all residents. I combine head and heart.

SABLOK, Sabina

See [Questionnaire response](#)

<http://itsitecoreblobvecP-rd.blob.core.windows.net/P-Ublic-files/Council/Questionnaires/20332.P-df>

Sabina Sablok

sabinasablok@hotmail.com

PO Box 27
Keilor VIC 3036
Tel: 0474 007 700
Email: richard.james@rivica.com.au

Case reference: 002422

10th May 2024

Surveillance Investigation – Drug supply, St Kilda

Ref: 1746 - 002608

Date: Friday, May 10, 2024

Agent: 001

At 14:00hrs, surveillance commenced in the vicinity of the 7-Eleven store 75 Fitzroy St, St Kilda VIC 3182. (hereinafter referred to as 7-Eleven)

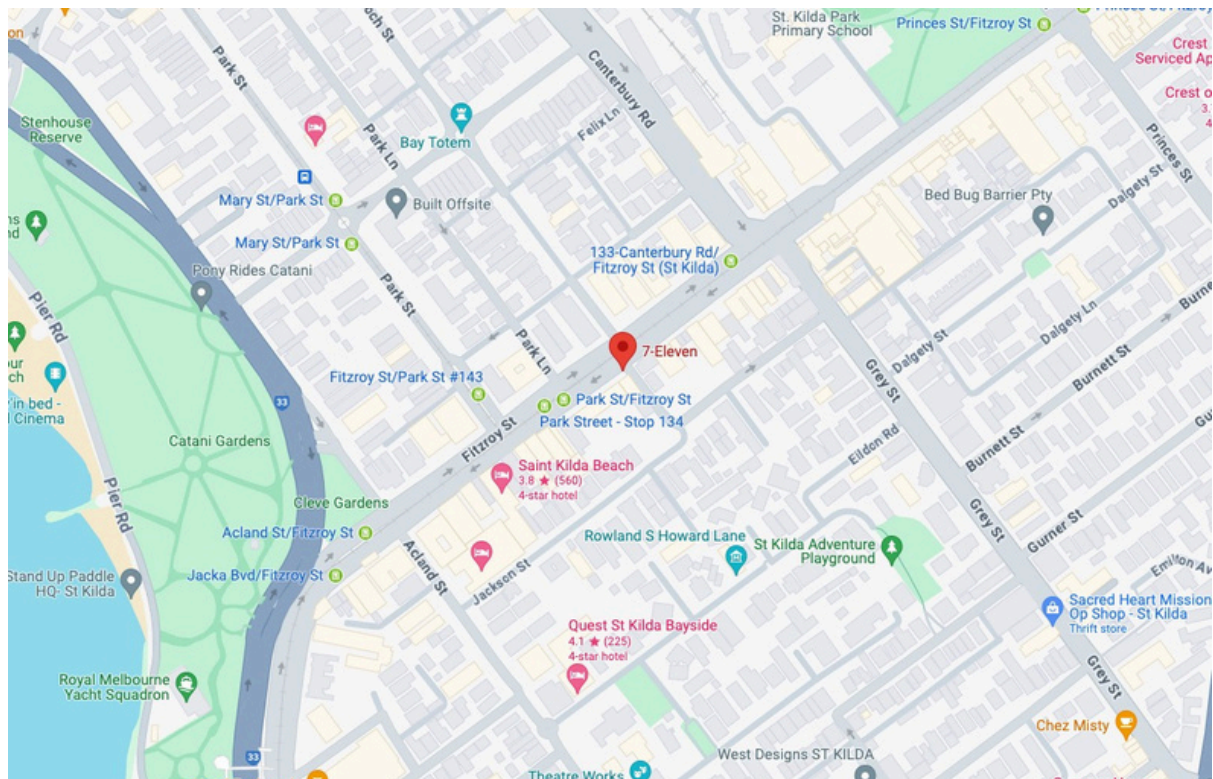


Exhibit 4

A compilation mp4 video has been created titled **1749 002608 Friday, May 10, 2024** and should be viewed along with this report.

All video footage and images have been captured and recorded in line with State evidentiary rules and legislative requirements to maintain the integrity and continuity of evidence if required later.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Richard James
Director

Community slams City of Port Phillip Council over contentious public seating proposal

An inner southeastern council has voted on a controversial public seating plan, which community fears will increase already rife violent crime.

Gemma Scerri Reporter

[Follow](#)

@gemmascerri

2 min read July 17, 2024 - 5:23PM Port Phillip Leader

0 comments



Traders on Fitzroy St have dealt with dangerous and anti-social behaviour surrounding public seating areas, including the notorious “mushroom seats”, a well known spot for vagrants to sleep and congregate – here pictured is a home made bong. Picture: supplied.

An inner-city council voted to put a pause on a contentious public seating proposal after it sparked public outrage among traders, residents and the cops.

Passionate Fitzroy St community members from St Kilda attended the Port Phillip Council meeting on Wednesday night in droves to have their voices heard over a public seating proposal that could see the increase in [already rising crime rates](#).

The community vehemently opposed the council’s proposal to add further public seating along the Fitzroy St retail and residential strip, as CCTV footage reveals the dangerous behaviour already occurring in the area.

The controversial proposal would see new public seating installed along the strip between The Esplanade and Grey St, and further between Grey St and St Kilda Rd.

After getting into the community to speak with traders and residents, Councillor Christina Sirakoff said most people she spoke to “were not supportive of the seating”.

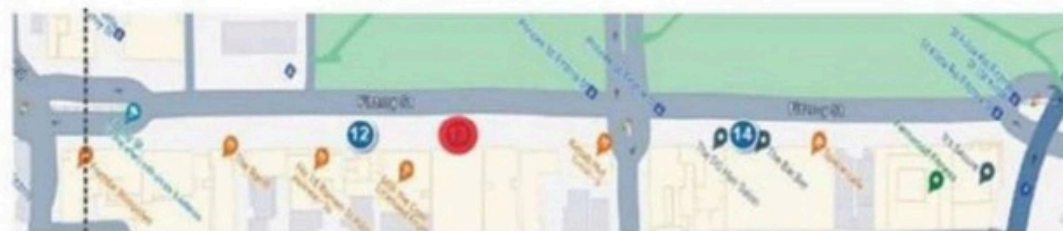
"I think we should listen to the requests of the community, our residents, our traders and our police," she said.

The council voted to put a pause on the proposal in an unanimous vote, after it was clear the motion would not make it through in its current form.

Figure 1: Fitzroy Street West (The Esplanade - Grey Street)



Figure 2: Fitzroy Street East (Grey Street – St Kilda Road)



The City of Port Phillip Council has put forward a strongly opposed proposal to increase public seating along Fitzroy St in St Kilda. Picture: Port Phillip Council July 17, 2024 Agenda.

The pictured proposal was inserted into the July 17 agenda ahead of the Wednesday night meeting, accompanied with a quote of apparent support of local police, who only opposed seating outside specific businesses – 77 Fitzroy St and 121 Fitzroy St.

However, in emails seen by the Herald Sun, two police members have written to the council on separate occasions opposing the entire proposal and further, requesting the removal of pre-existing 'red mushroom seats'.

CCTV footage of the mushroom seats shows images of anti-social behaviour, including loitering, drug paraphernalia and weapons, demonstrating behaviour which traders and residents say is already rife along the street.



CCTV footage captured outside 7-Eleven on Fitzroy St capturing alleged drug dealing, using and general public disturbance. Picture: supplied.

Owner of Care More Bain & Co Pharmacy Charlotte Frajman said in 34 years of owning her business, she has never been more scared than now.

“We lived through the worst of Gatwick House, and not once was I scared,” she said.

“Everyday for the last two years we have lived in terror.”

Ms Frajman and her husband have both been assaulted and threatened by local alleged drug dealers, forcing them to take out intervention orders.

“We call the police at least seven times a day,” she said.

“They might attend once every five calls.”

Similar development along Fitzroy St has previously caused ire with the community when a [public toilet block was proposed](#) outside the St Kilda Park Primary School.

The public toilet proposal was ultimately rejected due to community backlash.

Inner South

Don't miss out on the headlines from Inner South. Followed categories will be added to My News.

Follow



A trader at Fitzroy St in St Kilda found an axe left outside their store, following anti-social behaviour at and around already existing public seating. Picture: supplied.

Middle Park resident Adrian King said the behaviour that will follow the installation of the seats will take up more of the [already overwhelmed police resources](#) in the bayside area.

“I frequent St Kilda daily and there is no healthy St Kilda without a healthy Fitzroy St,” he said.

“St Kilda is the centre of the municipality. Police resources are finite, St Kilda’s problem is Middle Park’s problem, Elwood’s problem, South Melbourne’s problem.”

“The challenge requires a collaborative and sustained approach, with joint ownership of the issue – council, police, other support agencies and the community.”

More Coverage



Elwood physio accused of sexual assault returns to male patients



Frankston support worker busted speeding on meth



Should more seats be added along Fitzroy St?

Leader Inner South

Acland St traders fear 'someone will get killed' as crime and violence continue to escalate

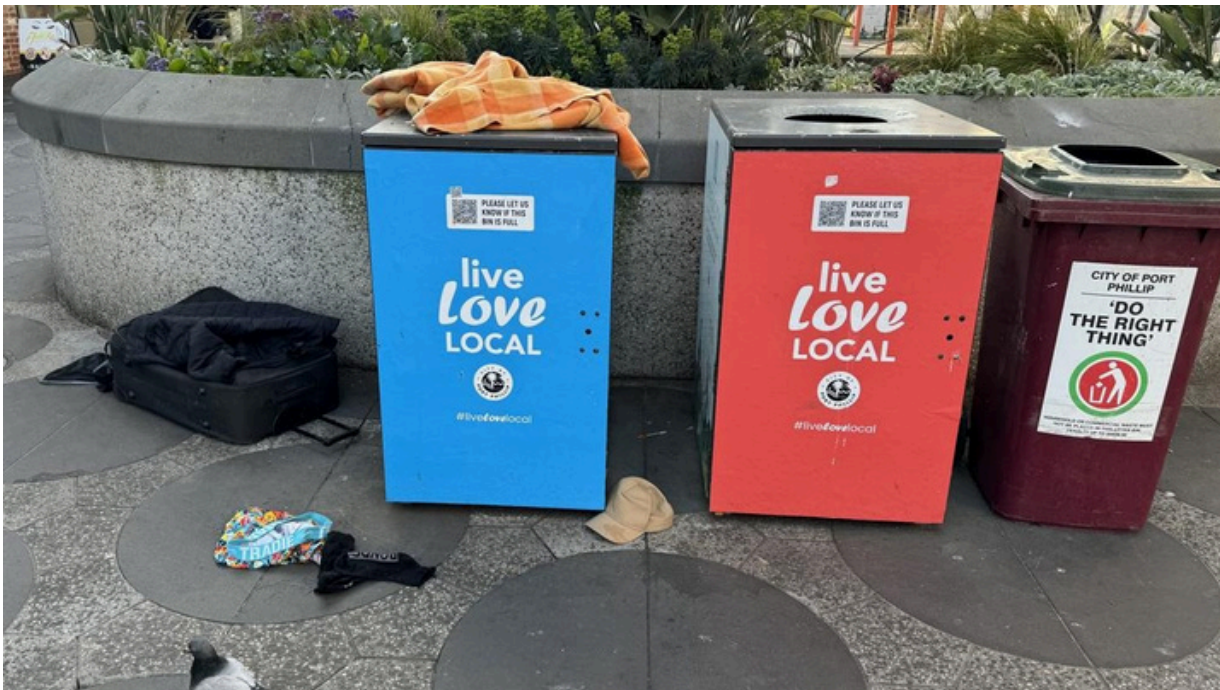
St Kilda traders and locals say crime and violence is the "worst they've ever seen" after a five-year-old was stroked and verbally harassed by a drug-affected man.

Gemma Scerri Reporter

Follow

@gemmascerri 4 min read September 20, 2024 - 1:50PM Port Phillip Leader

13 comments



Used needles, clothing and other trash are strewn throughout Acland St daily

Fearful St Kilda residents say they are in the middle of a crime surge after the sickening assault of a young girl on a busy street.

On Monday, a five-year-old girl was stroked on the face and verbally harassed by a drug-affected man on Acland St

Witnesses to the incident said police attended and moved the man away from the area — however the man was not charged

The girl's outraged father said the incident had left his daughter terrified.

"Now she's scared to jump on the trampoline in our yard, she's afraid he can see her," he said.

"The police told me the man has mental health issues, but what about the mental health of my daughter?"

The Herald Sun spoke to traders who say they “live in fear” as drug-fuelled crime makes part of the suburb a no-go zone.



Used and dirty syringes are a common feature in the public spaces at Acland St, according to locals and traders. Picture: supplied.

The girl’s father, who wished to remain anonymous, said he had contacted the council “weeks ago” regarding the escalation of anti-social behaviour.

“There has been CCTV installed in the area, but it does nothing – the tram drivers aren’t even safe to use the toilets at the end of the tramline,” he said.

“The cameras barely cover anything – they only film a limited view of Barkly St and they haven’t been maintained. How can police do anything with unclear footage?”

A Victoria Police spokesperson said the investigation into the incident was ongoing, and encouraged any witnesses or CCTV footage to be directed to Crimestoppers.

Acland St retail worker Ben said he didn’t believe CCTV had any affect on anti-social behaviour.

“These people just don’t care,” he said.

“The CCTV installation hasn’t decreased the incidents of fights or drug-abuse on the street.”

Ben said he had called the police “at least six times” in the last fortnight.

“I live on Fitzroy St and walk to work everyday and anti-social behaviour is everywhere,” he said

“Needles are all over the ground, sometimes people are even holding weapons, knives or scissors usually, it’s really unsafe.”

Cellarbrations manager Mathew said it was only a matter of time before someone was killed.



Eve Healthy Bites and Tea cafe was targeted on Tuesday night by a woman previously booted out for trying to shoplift.

“Whether it’s a business owner or one of these people causing trouble, someone is going to get killed unless something changes,” he said.

“Even when we call the police nobody comes.”

On Tuesday night, kiosk cafe Eve Healthy Bites and Tea – inside the Acland Court Shopping Centre – was the latest target of violence.

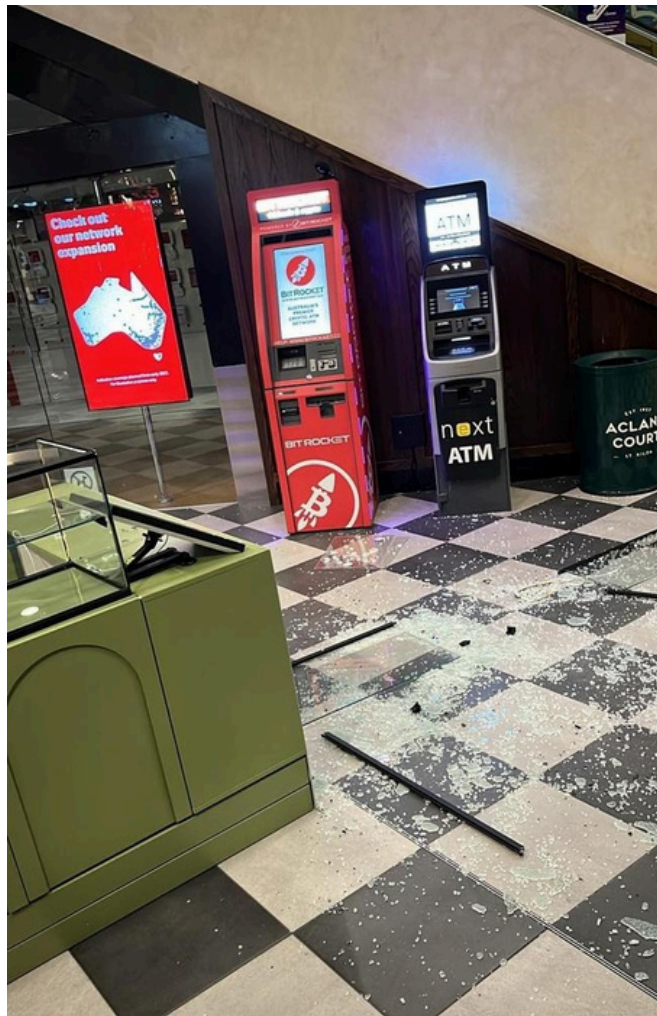
A shoplifter who had been ejected from the bottle took their anger out on a glass display, smashing a window leaving shards of broken glass across the floor.

Mathew said such incidents were becoming a nightly occurrence.

Inner South

Don't miss out on the headlines from Inner South. Followed categories will be added to My News.

Follow



Violent attacks on public spaces and people are becoming a common occurrence for the Acland St community.

“My staff walk to work in their uniforms and get abused outside,” he said.

“If I had a daughter I would be telling her to be inside by 7.30pm. It’s terrifying.”

He said he was concerned about the level of crime and violence as summer approaches.

“We’ve seen more theft and crime this winter than we normally see in summer,” he said.

“As the weather gets warmer it’s only going to get worse.”

These concerns come after Fitzroy St traders and residents fought with the City of Port Phillip Council over a proposal to install public seating along the troubled strip.

In July, [community members turned out in droves](#) to oppose the plan, as CCTV showed multiple incidents of loitering, drug use and people carrying weapons.



A CCTV image on Fitzroy St in July.

Port Phillip police have since conducted a four-week operation along Fitzroy St, targeting anti-social behaviour and street-level drug dealing.

A spokesperson from Victoria Police said the operation resulted in multiple arrests and charges being laid with the majority of charges relating to alleged drug trafficking, car thefts, weapons possession and burglary.

Of the arrests, 10 people have been ordered to appear at Melbourne Magistrates' Court on various dates throughout October.

"The latest crime data shows overall crime in Fitzroy St to be down 60 per cent from 2015 levels," the spokesperson said.



A trader at Fitzroy St in St Kilda found an axe left outside their store.

St Kilda police Seargent Peter Brezing said despite the drop in crime, police weren't "resting on their laurels".

"We know that drug-related offending is of concern to residents and retailers, and this crime type continues to be a focus for local police," he said.

"We want the community to know we are listening to their concerns and that we're doing something about it through these dedicated local operations."

Sergeant Brezing said police were "always working together with the community to improve the safety in the area".

All traders on Acland St agreed that heightened police presence was one solution that had worked in reducing criminal activity.

"I personally think the cops should have a permanent beat down Acland St," Mathew said.

"I don't think it will happen but it definitely would help."

City of Port Phillip council has been a heavy spender on security in the past, with a council report showing the annual spend on security went from \$1.25m in 2018 to \$2m the following year.

The documents do not detail where the extra security has been allocated and acting chief executive Brian Tee denied the employment of permanent private security guards.



“We do occasionally hire security guards if we believe they may be needed, such as if a “hot topic” is being discussed at a council meeting,” he said.

One resident said they had “never seen anyone from council having lunch down at Acland St or Fitzroy St”.

“It’s no wonder why with all this activity going on. I’d love to know what the security spend has gone towards.”

Mr Tee said the council “empathised with traders who are experiencing crime and anti-social behaviour”, but said it was a police issue.

“Only the police have the training, equipment and legislative powers to deal with crime,” he said.

“We are advocating for ongoing joint patrols with our local law officers, including in Acland St and Fitzroy St and increased police resources to respond to calls.”

CTC Port Melbourne tobacconist 'recovering well' in hospital after stabbing

A man accused of stabbing a 64-year-old Port Melbourne tobacconist allegedly launched his vicious attack on her after she refused to hand over packs of smokes.



Regan Hodge

[Follow](#)

@ReganHodge2

less than 2 min read September 19, 2024 - 5:33PM



A tobacco shop worker was stabbed in Port Melbourne on Tuesday. Picture: 3AW

A man accused of stabbing a Port Melbourne tobacconist tried to murder his victim, police allege.

The woman, 64, was rushed to hospital with serious injuries after she was allegedly stabbed inside the CTC Port Melbourne store on Bay St on Tuesday.

The man reportedly demanded that she hand over packs of smokes before he allegedly launched his vicious attack about 9.40am.

Local detectives arrested the 48-year-old Port Melbourne man at a home on Pickles St on Wednesday morning.

He was on Thursday charged with attempted murder.

He was remanded to appear at Melbourne Magistrates' Court on December 11.

The victim's son on Thursday said his mother was recovering in hospital.

Police & Courts

Don't miss out on the headlines from Police & Courts. Followed categories will be added to My News.

[Follow](#)

Exhibit 6.1

“Thank you for your support, flowers and cards. The overwhelming support from the community in these last few days is greatly appreciated by Mum and our family,” he said.

“She is recovering well and thankful for all the well wishes from the community.”

Port Melbourne locals said she has been working in the smoke shop for decades and is much loved by those residents.

Police recruitment crisis putting officers and community 'at risk'

By **Ellen Coulter** and **Emily Ackew**

7.30Police

Wed 17 May 2023



► Watch 7m

Many Australian police forces are experiencing increased attrition rates and significant vacancies. (*Ellen Coulter, Emily Ackew*)

abc.net.au/news/police-recruitment-crisis...



Share article ➔

The organisation representing police unions across the country says officers and the community will be at risk if a recruitment crisis isn't addressed soon.

"We're in a crisis situation at this point in time," said Ian Leavers, president of the Queensland Police Union and the Police Federation of Australia.

"It is a real challenge, not only recruiting but in the retention of police across Australia.

Key points:

Low unemployment rates, the stress of the work and public perceptions of police have been identified as reasons people aren't joining and staying in the police

"We are putting the police officers who are left at risk. And we are putting the community at risk."

Victoria Police currently has 800 positions available
Queensland and WA are looking overseas to recruit officers

His comments come as many states and territories are facing increased attrition rates and significant vacancies.

Western Australia currently has 59 vacancies, South Australia currently has 217 vacancies, and Victoria has 800.

WA and Victoria are also trying to recruit hundreds more police promised by their state governments.

New South Wales and Queensland Police did not provide figures on police vacancies, but Queensland is trying to boost its numbers by another 1,450 officers.

Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll said her state's police officer attrition rate had gone from 2.8 per cent in 2016-17 to 5.6 per cent.



Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll says there have been hundreds of applications from overseas. (ABC News: Curtis Rodda)

"Talking to my other colleagues around the country, we're all experiencing challenges in terms of recruiting," she said.

"In the current labour market, there are many opportunities for people, so we see many more people taking those opportunities where in the past, they probably wouldn't have."

Recruitment challenges

Mr Leavers agreed the low unemployment rate was making recruitment difficult, but said there were other factors at play, including public perceptions of police in some states since they had to enforce COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

"As police, we just have to do as we're told and enforce the legislation and do what is required for community safety," he said.

"But as a result of that, there was a significant toll upon police and how police were perceived."



Police Federation of Australia president Ian Leavers says recruitment and retention of police officers is a "real challenge". (ABC News: Curtis Rodda)

Commissioner Carroll said public perception of police during COVID had varied from state to state.

"We did not experience, like a lot of other states or countries, that view of policing through COVID, where I know in some jurisdictions ... there was quite an adverse reaction to police because of their role in COVID."

Police departments are also competing with the Australian Defence Force for recruits.

Mr Leavers believes the stress and trauma that comes with policing may be driving officers away.

"Often by the time [police officers] exit the organisation, they are not as physically fit, and they are psychologically damaged," he said.

"And that is a real problem we have in policing."

Culture and mental health

Former NSW Police sergeant Pia Schindler said she was not surprised officers were leaving in droves.

"I think a lot of the young ones that are joining and leaving then pretty much straightaway are kind of going, 'This job wasn't what the brochure said it was going to be,'" she told 7.30.

"Then you also have those people that are my vintage, that have almost 20 years' service, that are going, 'I've served in this job for so long; my family life is struggling, my personal life is struggling'."



Former sergeant Pia Schindler is helping support other officers suffering from PTSD. (ABC News: Tom Hancock)

Ms Schindler was medically discharged in 2019 for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and believes she could still be serving if she had sought help earlier on.

"I recall one incident that I went to that was horrifying and I bit my tongue so bad, it was bleeding ... purely because I didn't want to show emotion," she said.

"That culture, surrounded by your peers, I didn't want to show them that I was upset by that and I don't understand, looking back now, why that's the case."

Ms Schindler and her friend, former police officer Alana Singleton, created a charity to address mental illness in the police force as well as other emergency services.

"We don't want anyone to feel alone throughout the PTSD journey," Ms Schindler said.

They hope it will provide the needed support and skills for others to identify PTSD earlier, allowing them to stay in the job.

All states and territories acknowledged PTSD was an issue facing police and said they were boosting mental health support.

Mr Leavers said shortages were impacting those police officers still serving.

"The police that are left behind — it is fatigue, it is burnout," he said.

"What we are seeing is, at times, police may very well take shortcuts knowing they have another domestic violence incident they have to attend to, there may be a motor vehicle crash or other public safety issues that they have to attend to.

"So they're trying to cut corners so they can try and be everything to everyone."

Recruitment strategies



Tasmania Police recruit Lauren Hay is set to graduate in September. (ABC News: Jordan Young)

Queensland and WA are looking overseas to fill the gaps, with recruitment campaigns targeting qualified officers in countries with similar policing models and legislation, such as the UK and Canada, and a promise of fast-tracked training and pathways to permanent residency.

WA has received more than 1,100 applications and Commissioner Carroll said Queensland had received more than 300.

"Within moments of making that announcement — and we haven't done any advertising at all in those countries — we had hundreds and hundreds of people applying or asking about it," she said.

"I think it will really increase the pipeline into the future."

Queensland has a legislated police retirement age of 60, but Commissioner Carroll said recent legislative changes allowed retired officers to come back as special constables without taking a hit to their superannuation.

"We've had 60 people already apply to come back that have left in the last 12 months or so, but we know that number will increase exponentially over the next few weeks."

South Australia Police is targeting community football games in what they say is a way to diversify the pool of applicants, appealing to people that wouldn't have traditionally signed up.

They are also relaxing dress code rules on visible tattoos and have removed gender restrictions on long hair.



Lauren Hay says she's looking forward to a career with the police. (ABC News: Jordan Young)

Despite losing seven police officers per month to resignation or retirement in 2022, compared with two per month in 2018, Tasmania Police has seen its largest recruitment intake to date and does not have a police shortage.

Lauren Hay is one of 77 new police recruits set to graduate in September.

"I really enjoy the idea of the diversity of a career in policing," she told 7.30.

"The unlimited opportunities [are] really enticing. You don't know what you're going to get every day, it makes work a lot more exciting."

Ms Hay says her eyes are open to the risks of trauma and PTSD, but she's still looking forward to her career ahead.

"Coming into a policing career, personally I do know that is a risk," she said.

"But it's something that Tasmania Police has identified and something that they are combating as well.

"Personally, I think it's a long-term career for myself."

Attraction and retention

The Police Federation of Australia said while recruitment strategies were important, more needed to be done federally to make policing more attractive.

Mr Leavers suggested taxation benefits, waiving of further education debts and incentives for working in remote areas could be used to attract and retain police.

"We've just got to think outside the square," he said.

The federation is calling for a national summit of police commissioners and federal ministers on the issue.

A spokesman for federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said the government had established the Police Ministers Council for coordination on matters of interest across jurisdictions.

Mass departures and recruitment issues a major challenge for Victoria Police command

Victoria Police is struggling to attract new recruits while a stream of members is walking out on the job. Here's why.

Jon Kaila and [Mark Buttler](#)

4 min read January 6, 2023 - 6:00AM

[251 comments](#)



HERALDSUN.COM.AU 01:41

Victoria Police facing a 'severe staffing shortfall'

Sky News host Peta Credlin says according to secret documents, Victoria police are suffering from severe staff shortfall, with an extra 1500 frontline officers needed over the next four years.

Victoria Police is fighting for numbers with almost one in nine officers leaving since 2019 and the force [struggling for recruits](#).

It can be revealed 1912 sworn members out of a 16,700-strong workforce retired or resigned in the three-and-a-half years to July.

Although overall officer numbers have increased in that period, the departures and recruitment issues are a [major challenge for command](#).

The Herald Sun has been told many of those who left did so as a result of enforcing [draconian Covid rules](#), such as children not being allowed on playgrounds.



Police officers patrolling a Melbourne playground during lockdown. Picture: Getty

While the vast majority are rank and file members, 530 are of sergeant level and above, showing the force has lost thousands of years of experience.

Sixty per cent had reached retirement age or finished because of ill health.

The alarming departures are combined with “very few recruits” training at the academy and a [dire number of applications to join Victoria Police.](#)

Senior police are aware Covid rules left many officers feeling “wondering what they were doing”.

Victoria Police has just launched a recruitment drive to try to gain 2400 members in the next two years, following an attrition rate rise from 3.6 per cent last year to 4.7 per cent this year.

At some stations, managers have emailed all staff pleading with them to “speak to their peers and encourage them to transfer” to their station.

“We are starting to feel the pinch with staffing,” a memo for the Whitehorse, Monash, Boroondara and Manningham areas reads.

“After Monday’s gazette the number of unmatched vacancies is about 34 positions across the division. With very few recruits in the Academy the only way to address this issue is for every ED1 member to speak to their peers and encourage them to transfer into ED1.”



Victoria Police recently launched a recruitment drive. Picture: Getty Images

But officers told the Herald Sun it was a “solution” that only “robbed Peter to pay Paul”.

The Herald Sun is also aware of some policing departments having to reduce hours due to “unprecedented” staff shortages.

“Covid took a massive toll on the force – we were not only dragged from pillar to post, manning state and regional borders to being thrust at protest after protest, but then we were expected to stop toddlers playing on slides and grannies sitting on benches in the park,” one senior constable, who left last year, said.

“So many of us just became disillusioned with the job. It’s not what we came into policing for and we felt let down by our superiors, who were just toeing these ridiculous government edicts.”

Many officers are believed to have transferred to other state police forces, with Queensland being a popular choice.

Police & Courts

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Some Victoria Police departments are facing 'unprecedented' staff shortages. Picture: Luis Enrique Ascui

The figures the Herald Sun has obtained are up to July last year. But one senior officer said they expected the situation to get worse, as many of those thinking of retiring or resigning had held on during the pandemic and lockdowns.

Another officer said the 41 who left the force due to vaccine mandates should be urgently brought back.

"Surely now is the time, when we are bleeding officers and struggling to recruit them at the front door, that we should be inviting these members back," they said.

"We have lost a lot of seniority and experience from the ranks."

Police Association secretary Wayne Gatt said the union was working with the force and identifying areas where improvements could be made to streamline the recruitment process.

"We acknowledge attrition is not working in our favour and that recruiting at the moment is difficult," he said.

"We believe that Covid has played a part in increased attrition rates and we're not surprised. Our members worked tirelessly through that period and the work was, and remains, exhausting."



Police Association secretary Wayne Gatt says 'recruiting at the moment is difficult'. Picture: Andrew Henshaw

Sergeant Gatt said the largest number of resignations was in the 30 to 39 year age group, meaning members were leaving earlier in their careers than previously.

“Placing an emphasis on attracting new recruits to policing is something that needs to happen constantly, but it’s more important now than it ever has been, given the rapid changes we’ve seen in the working world over the last three years,” he said.

“This is something that Victoria Police, TPAV and the Victorian government will have to prioritise during our enterprise bargaining negotiations, due to commence next year.”

Victoria Police said the increased attrition levels came in a period of historically low unemployment which was driving an extremely competitive job market.

A spokesman said the level of departures appeared to have stabilised in the past three months.

“Police reaching retirement age, many who’d delayed this decision during the pandemic, drove the recent increase in member departures,” the spokesman said.



More Victoria Police officers are walking away from the job. Picture: Luis Enrique Ascui

“We make every effort to ensure our members know they are valued, are boosting mental health and wellbeing support to reduce the impact of psychological harm related to work and reviewing our rostering practices to better understand the needs of our workforce and the community.”

He said the force was intent on building the workforce, with a new recruitment campaign recently launching to add 502 police and 50 protective services officers over the next two years.

“As part of this effort we are streamlining the recruitment process, with a trial starting in January to explore options in exam testing so applicants can complete it online anywhere, any time,” the spokesman said.

Applicants who just missed selection or withdrew from the recruitment process would be contacted “to provide appropriate support for success.”

[True Crime Australia](#) [Police & Courts Victoria](#)

EXCLUSIVE

Review concludes police investigation was 'deeply flawed', 'unfounded' and 'contrary to the available evidence'

A bombshell review by a former police assistant commissioner says Daniel and Catherine Andrews' crash with a teenage cyclist was covered up "to avoid implicating a political figure".

**Michael Warner** Exclusive[Follow](#)

6 min read September 17, 2024 - 5:00AM



HERALDSUN.COM.AU 00:42

Re-enactment of Daniel and Catherine Andrews' crash with cyclist Ryan Meuleman

The reenactment is based on a bombshell review by former police assistant commissioner Dr Raymond Shuey that found the Andrews' family SUV was "travelling at speed" and on the wrong side of the road.

A bombshell review of the [Daniel and Catherine Andrews car crash](#) has found Victoria Police engaged in "an overt cover-up to avoid implicating a political figure in a life-threatening" incident.

The explosive 36-page assessment by a former police assistant commissioner asserts that the Andrews' family SUV was "travelling at speed" and on the wrong side of the road when it [struck teenage cyclist Ryan Meuleman](#) in a Blairgowrie side street on January 7, 2013.

The former premier and his wife have always insisted that they came to a "complete stop" and "turned right from a stationary position" just "moments" before being ["I-boned" by the bike](#).

Daniel Andrews and Catherine Andrews crash with Ryan Meuleman in Blairgowrie labelled a ‘cover-up’ *Herald Sun*
But the expert review, conducted by the state’s former Assistant Commissioner for Traffic and Operations Dr Raymond Shuey, concludes the police investigation which supported the Andrews’ version of events was “deeply flawed”, “unfounded” and “contrary to the available evidence”.



Ryan Meuleman was a teenager when he was struck in a Blairgowrie side street in 2013. Picture: Jake Nowakowski

“The version as provided by Catherine and Daniel Andrews is considered improbable and implausible,” Dr Shuey asserts.

“The truth is still outstanding. It is most probable that the vehicle undertook a sweep turn at speed, cutting the corner and still on the incorrect side of the roadway in Ridley Street, 27 metres from Melbourne Road when the collision occurred.”

“The propagation of a lie” and “a striking deception”, the report finds, began when the driver’s name was recorded as “Catherine Louise Kesik” – Mrs Andrews’ maiden name – in a Traffic Incident System report submitted by police in the hours after the crash.



Daniel Andrews and Catherine Andrews crash with Ryan Meuleman in Blairgowrie labelled a 'cover-up' [Herald Sun](#)

Dr Raymond Shuey says 'the version as provided by Catherine and Daniel Andrews is considered improbable and implausible'. Picture: AAP

"This is contrary to the name of Andrews as recorded by police as contemporaneous notes on the form 502, the investigation notes, TAC reports, statements and all other recordings provided," it says.

"Kesik then becomes the name under which the crash is indexed and retrievable. This irregularity would be a 'standout' for supervisors, insurance, legal reviewers ...

"It is my opinion that this deception is part of a course of conduct and a component of an overt cover-up to avoid implicating a political figure in a life-threatening crash. Failure by supervisors and reviewers to identify this or seek explanation is inexcusable."

Dr Shuey's review, commissioned by Mr Meuleman's lawyers as part of [ongoing Supreme Court damages proceedings into the crash](#), concludes that "the investigation ... does not demonstrate competent professional practice for Victoria Police."

"The investigators' failure to follow even a rudimentary examination of the evidence is demonstrated in the hasty and illogical conclusion," it asserts.



Dr Raymond Shuey's review was commissioned by Mr Meuleman's lawyers as part of ongoing Supreme Court damages proceedings. Picture: Rebecca Michael

"The (police) report lacks critical information including measurements, photographs and professional interview techniques. Instead, the investigator has drawn a baseless and unsupported conclusion that fails to account for the available evidence.

"This negligent approach not only undermines the integrity of the investigation but also jeopardises the pursuit of justice and accurate accountability in this case.

"Further, it demonstrates a high level of incompetence or alternatively a deliberate attempt to simplify the crash to rudimentary reporting requirements."

The Shuey review, based on an analysis of FOI documents, witness statements and his own reconstruction of [the incident](#), also questions the veracity of "collusive" and "unusual prepared sworn statements" given by the Andrews' in the weeks after the smash and leaves open the possibility that the former premier – not his wife – was behind the wheel.

Daniel Andrews and Catherine Andrews crash with Ryan Meuleman in Blairgowrie labelled a 'cover-up' ^{Herald Sun}

"The contents of the statements do not match the gravity of the incident ... and should not have been accepted by any supervisor, review or audit," Dr Shuey says.

Police & Courts

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The Shuey review leaves open the possibility that the former premier – not his wife – was behind the wheel.
Picture: David Crosling

"The statements from both Daniel and Catherine Andrews that their vehicle stopped at Melbourne Rd are not consistent with impact consequences, nor the report by (witness) Brad Morgan of the squeal of tyres prior to impact ...

"The effective vehicle stopping distance of 19.2m following impact is indicative of a speed of 45km/h prior to impact."

A police summary of the crash was also omitted from the TIS report provided to Ryan's lawyers at the time.

"This appears to have been deliberate," Dr Shuey says.

As an expert in TAC representations, Slater & Gordon should have noted its absence, the review adds.

And while it was a duty of police to provide Mr Meuleman's family with details of the driver, they repeatedly refused in a move the review says was "designed to conceal the identity of those involved".

Ryan's father, Peter Meuleman, on Monday called on Victoria Police to immediately reopen the investigation "into the crash that almost killed my son".

"Why would police pretend this case is closed when there is so much evidence they haven't gathered?" he said.

Dr Shuey was a 41-year Victoria Police member with a PHD in international road safety, a long-time president of the International Safety Foundation and a Member of the Order of Australia last year.

He died last month after a health battle linked to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, just days after completing his report, with Chief Commissioner Shane Patton among those attending his funeral.

Daniel Andrews and Catherine Andrews crash with Ryan Meuleman in Blairgowrie labelled a 'cover-up' *Herald Sun*

The Meuleman family is suing major law firm Slater & Gordon, which acted for the injured cyclist in the aftermath of the crash, accusing them of failing to conduct “a full and proper investigation into the circumstances” of the accident and breaching their duty of care and obligations to him when negotiating his \$80,000 Transport Accident Commission compensation payout.

Slater & Gordon denies the claims and says it will defend the proceedings.

A trial is scheduled for May next year.

Review finds ‘inexcusable’ breaches

An officer from the Rye police station “jumped the call” to take charge of the Daniel and Catherine Andrews car crash scene – two minutes after it had been allocated to another unit in closer proximity, a bombshell review has revealed.

The senior constable stated that she “was closer” to the Blairgowrie street where teenage bike rider Ryan Meuleman was struck, “but was actually at Rye police station doing urgent correspondence, then taking six and a half minutes to leave”, the review by the state’s former assistant commissioner for traffic and operations Dr Raymond Shuey found.

“This raises critical questions as to why ‘the senior constable’ (name redacted) wanted to take over the call and cancel a unit already en route. What external communications via telephone or radio with ‘the senior constable’ occurred in the time from the crash to being en route?”



There are questions over whether a senior constable from Rye police station ‘jumped the call’. Picture: Andrew Henshaw

Daniel Andrews and Catherine Andrews crash with Ryan Meuleman in Blairgowrie labelled a 'cover-up' Herald Sun

The review identifies more than a dozen "inexcusable" breaches of standard operating procedures that were committed in the original police probe, including a failure to validate who was behind the wheel when Ryan Meuleman was struck in January 2013.

It also questions why experienced highway patrol officers or the Major Collision Unit were not called "as required by policy, custom and practice" and why Victoria Police hierarchy was kept in the dark about "a public, political figure involved in a serious incident".

It chronicles how police had been "deceptive and misleading" and "perpetuated a lie" by "falsely" reporting that a breath test had been conducted – and was negative – before changing documents to say that a test had not been given because Mrs Andrews "did not smell of intoxicating liquor".

The review outlines a "course of conduct and pattern of behaviour" by police raising serious questions about the integrity of the inquiry, including:

- IMMEDIATE acceptance of the Andrews' version of events "when the vehicle damage, ambulance report and cyclist catapult clearly indicates vehicle speed";
- SPENDING just 35 minutes at the crash scene "without thorough examination";
- HASTILY closing the investigation at 6.21pm on the day of the crash; and
- FAILING to isolate the crash site with crime-scene tape or conduct door knocks.

The review also condemned police for stating that the SUV was "drivable" when it was "clearly unroadworthy" and questioned who allowed Mr Andrews to drive it away with a smashed windscreen.

"If police, it is a dereliction of duty, if Daniel Andrews, it is the removal of evidence and in any event dangerous/careless driving at a minimum," it says.

Another "glaring omission" was the fact "no action was taken or contemplated" against the driver because Mr Andrews' son Noah was not wearing a seatbelt, it says.

The failure by police "to validate the driver" of "a government vehicle involved in a serious crash" was another "serious omission", it concludes.

"Witness Jane Crittenden states she viewed Catherine Andrews in the passenger seat after the crash," it asserts.

The position of the driver's seat was also not checked.

"In my opinion, this investigative failure is a deliberate omission. It ... leaves the question of who was driving unresolved and in dispute," the review says.

Dr Shuey said police also failed to ask Mrs Andrews why she was driving and if she was familiar with the vehicle's handling.

Andrew Bolt: Deeply concerning group think in Victoria, the state of law and disorder

With claims of a police cover-up involving Dan Andrews, it's clear that things are far too clubby in Victoria between Labor, the police and elements of the judiciary — and the group-think under an authoritarian government is deeply concerning.



Andrew Bolt

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3 min read September 18, 2024 - 4:43PM

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Bombshell finding in...

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SHARE

Something stinks in Victoria, and claims of a police cover-up of a car accident involving former Labor premier Daniel Andrews just adds to the stench.

Yes, it's been too clubby between Labor, the police and – in my opinion – elements of the judiciary.

This goes beyond the latest evidence – the [bombshell report by Ray Shuey](#), a former police assistant commissioner for traffic, who has cast more doubt on Andrews' claims about that accident in 2013, when his wife, who he says was driving, hit 15-year-old cyclist Ryan Meuleman and put him in hospital.

But let's start with that.

Andrews publicly claimed the accident was the boy's fault, saying his wife had just turned into a small beachside street when Meuleman came down a path from the right "travelling at speed and hit our car at a perfect right angle very heavily".

To underline it: "I want to make it clear – the cyclist hit our vehicle".

Police bought it, almost instantly. Within hours they closed the case without even breath-testing Andrews or his wife.

But the evidence, gradually uncovered by the [Herald Sun's Michael Warner](#), seems to contradict Andrews' story.



Why did Andrews' wife give her maiden name to police, keeping the Andrews name out of it? Picture: Jake Nowakowski

First, pictures of the damage to his car show a smashed windscreen. It seems the cyclist hadn't T-boned the car, but been T-boned himself.

That now seems the conclusion of the late Ray Shuey, who was asked by the Meuleman family to investigate the accident as they prepared legal action against their son's former lawyers, a Labor-linked law firm which had advised Ryan not to sue Andrews and his wife but settle for \$80,000 from the Transport Accident Commission.

Shuey said other things didn't add up. Why did Andrews' wife give her maiden name to police, keeping the Andrews name out of it? Why was the police investigation so hasty?

Shuey suggested the accident was most likely caused by a fast-moving car cutting the corner, smashing into Ryan on the wrong side of street just 27m from the intersection, and not stopping for another 19m.

Andrew Bolt

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The late Ray Shuey was asked by the Meuleman family to investigate the accident.

Shuey's suspicions of an "overt cover-up to avoid implicating a political figure" have now been backed for former chief commissioner Kel Glare, who said he agreed with "every word".

Glare said the botched police investigation couldn't be explained by laziness or incompetence, given "every step that was required by the Victoria Police in their instructions was ignored, not followed".

He was astonished that a police car racing to the accident was told to stand down by an officer who was actually further away, and who took six-and-a-half minutes before they got into their own car.

"There was a concerted effort to ensure there was no accountability for the collision," Glare told me.

In response, Andrews dismissed the claims as "appalling conspiracy theories", and insisted "we did nothing wrong".

But as I said, this is just one example of what strikes me as an unhealthy Club Victoria.

On Tuesday, the Labor government appointed its latest judge, [promoting Director of Public Prosecutions Kerri Judd](#).

Excuse me?



Kerri Judd last year rejected the request of former High Court judge Geoffrey Nettle to prosecute police who'd unlawfully had a lawyer, Nicola Gobbo, snitch on her own clients.

It was Judd who last year rejected the request of former High Court judge Geoffrey Nettle to prosecute police who'd unlawfully had a lawyer, Nicola Gobbo, snitch on her own clients.

More astonishingly, it was Judd who prosecuted the clearly innocent Cardinal George Pell, even appearing before the High Court to insist it dismiss Pell's appeal against his conviction for supposedly abusing two teenage boys at once in an open sacristy straight after Mass, even though one of the boys denied any assault.

Pell was so obviously innocent that the High Court judges, after embarrassing Judd, ruled [seven to nil to free him](#). As I'd demonstrated, neither Pell nor his accuser could have been at the scene of the crime at the only time the room wasn't busy.

Yet Andrews, a vicious and public Pell critic, wouldn't accept his courts had jailed – and kept jailed – an innocent man for more than 400 days. He tweeted: "To these brave victim-survivors – we see you. We hear you."

And here is Judd, now a judge herself.

Judd isn't the only official behind the Pell miscarriage of justice who's since been promoted by Labor. Shane Patton, who oversaw the police investigation, was later made chief commissioner, even though all 26 charges against Pell failed.

The charges were such nonsense that I wonder about the brains or agenda of police who believed them. Pell was even accused of raping a screaming boy in a crowded cinema, somehow without anyone noticing.

Exhibit 10

I'm not claiming there's a conspiracy of the powerful in Victoria. But it seems to me there's a go-along culture or group-think under an authoritarian Labor government, and that is deeply concerning.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: SMITHETT, Cameron
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 11:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]; adrian <ki[REDACTED]>
Cc: PORT PHILLIP-LAC-OIC <PORTPHILLIP-LAC-OIC@police.vic.gov.au>; ST KILDA STATION-UNI-OIC <ST.KILDASTATION-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au>; SUPER-SOUTHERN-D1-OIC <SUPER-SOUTHERN-D1-OIC@police.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Fitzroy Street, St Kilda public seating proposal

Good Afternoon [REDACTED] and Adrian,

Thank you both for your emails expressing concern about the seating in Fitzroy Street. We are still of the same position about the removal of the seating on Fitzroy Street. We do not support the installation of any additional seating on Fitzroy Street.

Inspector Coloe meets regularly with the CEO of the City of Port Phillip and will meet with him in relation to this issue..

Adrian, I note you've signed your email as a resident. Are either of you business owners on Fitzroy Street? If so – which business/es?

Thanks

Cameron Smithe | Senior Sergeant

St Kilda Uniform | Southern Metro Division 1 | Victoria Police

email: cameron.smithett@police.vic.gov.au | web address www.police.vic.gov.au

phone: 8533 0438

address: 92 Chapel Street, St Kilda 3182

On 04/07/2024 18:29, SMITHETT, Cameron wrote:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Exhibit 12

Hi all,

Thanks for taking the time to come in. I've updated Inspector Coloe of our discussion last night.

As discussed, I can confirm that Victoria Police are not supportive of the proposed additional seating installation along Fitzroy Street. We are of the opinion that the proposal would result in additional public order and amenity concerns. Inspector Coloe has provided this feedback to the City of Port Phillip executive already.

I can also confirm that as recently as yesterday, we have again requested the removal of the red "mushroom seats" as soon as practicable.

I know you wished for police to be present in chambers during the public hearing, but both I and Inspector Coloe consider that this would not be appropriate. Inspector Coloe will continue to meet with the executive, and will provide his view to the elected officials, but not in the public forum.

Thanks

Cameron Smithe | Senior Sergeant

St Kilda Uniform | Southern Metro Division 1 | Victoria Police

email: cameron.smithe@police.vic.gov.au | **web address:** www.police.vic.gov.au

phone: 8533 0438

address: 92 Chapel Street, St Kilda 3182

On 23/07/2024 08:56, SMITHETT, Cameron wrote:

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Exhibit 13

Good Morning Adrian,

I've spoken with Inspector Coloe this morning, and he has asked me to share with you an excerpt from his written correspondence with council. I understand that this was also published in the recent council motion and is on the public record. This messaging is also what I intended to be conveyed during our conversation and subsequent emails.

As discussed, Victoria Police is supportive of public seating to cater for the diverse needs of our community in public spaces.

I must stress however that I oppose on behalf of Victoria Police, the installation of new seating infrastructure specifically outside 77 Fitzroy Street and 121/123 Fitzroy Street St Kilda.

The existing seating outside 77 Fitzroy Street (commonly referred to as 'mushrooms seats') is viewed by Victoria Police as highly problematic in the context of existing social and public order challenges at that location.

On that basis I respectfully request that council removes the existing seating as a matter of priority and delays until a further review the replacement of same.

Regards

Cameron Smithe | Senior Sergeant

St Kilda Uniform | Southern Metro Division 1 | Victoria Police

email: cameron.smithe@police.vic.gov.au | **web address:** www.police.vic.gov.au

phone: 8533 0438

address: 92 Chapel Street, St Kilda 3182

MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 17 JULY 2024



14.1 Notice of Motion for Fitzroy Street Seating

I, Councillor Andrew Bond, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 July 2024 :

That Council:-

1. Requests officers to install 10 public seats on Fitzroy Street, St Kilda at the below locations:
 - Site 1: 3-5 Fitzroy St, Cleve Gardens – 2 x chairs
 - Site 5: 43 Fitzroy St, Chemist Warehouse 2 x chairs
 - Site 7.5: 77 Fitzroy St, CareMore Pharmacy – 1 x chair plus bike hoops to be added. The existing mushroom stools will be removed from this site
 - Site 11A: 107 Fitzroy St, Tom's Liquor – 1 x chair
 - Site 11: 123 Fitzroy St, The Hive Coworking space -1 x chair
 - Site 13: 161 Fitzroy St, Anytime Fitness -3 x chairs
2. Notes that all sites will be contingent on no underground services being identified below.
3. Install barriers consisting of small metal hoops around Fitzroy Street Garden Beds to ensure the maintenance and vibrancy of greenery planted.

Supporting Information

- As an outcome of a street audit on Fitzroy Street in November 2023, Officers consulted stakeholders about replacing public furniture on Fitzroy Street that was not fit for purpose. This included the 'mushroom stools' located outside the chemist near Jackson St, which are not DDA compliant, and the bench on the corner of Fitzroy and Grey St which had been obstructed with planters for some time.
- Engagement occurred with LakeWard Councillors and the plan was also tested with the wider Council at a briefing.
- Council's Older Persons Advisory Group (OPAC) has strongly advocated for greater public seating on Fitzroy St.
- Local Police were consulted and requested that officers undertake a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis to inform the type of chairs purchased. This was carried out accordingly, with the Fitzroy Street Business Association (FSBA) committee invited to participate.
- Based on the CPTED, the chairs procured were similar to those used by neighbouring councils – DDA compliant stainless steel single chairs with arm rests. It was agreed that these would appear in clusters of 2-3 along the street.
- Requisite seats have been ordered with an expected delivery date in July/August 2024.

Trader consultation

Officers presented the proposal for new seating at two separate Fitzroy Street Business Association (FSBA) meetings. Options for seating were discussed, including versions with seating outside the CareMore Pharmacy and without. The Traders present at those meetings were supportive of both proposals, noting that their priority was to see seats installed in the precinct, rather than focusing on specific locations. Council advised all Fitzroy Street traders on our email database of the proposal and

MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 17 JULY 2024



invited them to provide feedback. Several attempts were also made to contact specific traders impacted by the proposal. Negative feedback received from one trader was considered within the final proposal.

Community consultation

The proposal has received social media commentary. Council has received correspondence from one community member opposing the placement of chairs outside 121 Fitzroy Street (which is near the corner of Grey Street). This has been taken into consideration by separating the two seats proposed with the large planter box already in situ. There has been consultation with the Pride Centre (located next door) and they are supportive of the bike hoop placement.

Police consultation

Council has engaged senior staff at St Kilda Police on this issue on several occasions. On Wednesday 3 July, Council received formal advice regarding this proposal, which has been distributed to all Councillors in full. The key item of note is:

Victoria Police is supportive of public seating to cater for the diverse needs of our community in public spaces. (However) I oppose on behalf of Victoria Police, the installation of new seating infrastructure specifically outside 77 Fitzroy Street and 121/123 Fitzroy Street St Kilda.

In consideration of this advice, council is proposing to limit seating in the location to one seat (plus bike hoops). Similarly, the proposal for seating at 121 Fitzroy St, has been reduced to one seat.

Proposed seating locations

Figure 1: Fitzroy Street West (The Esplanade -Grey Street)



Figure 2: Fitzroy Street East (Grey Street – St Kilda Road)

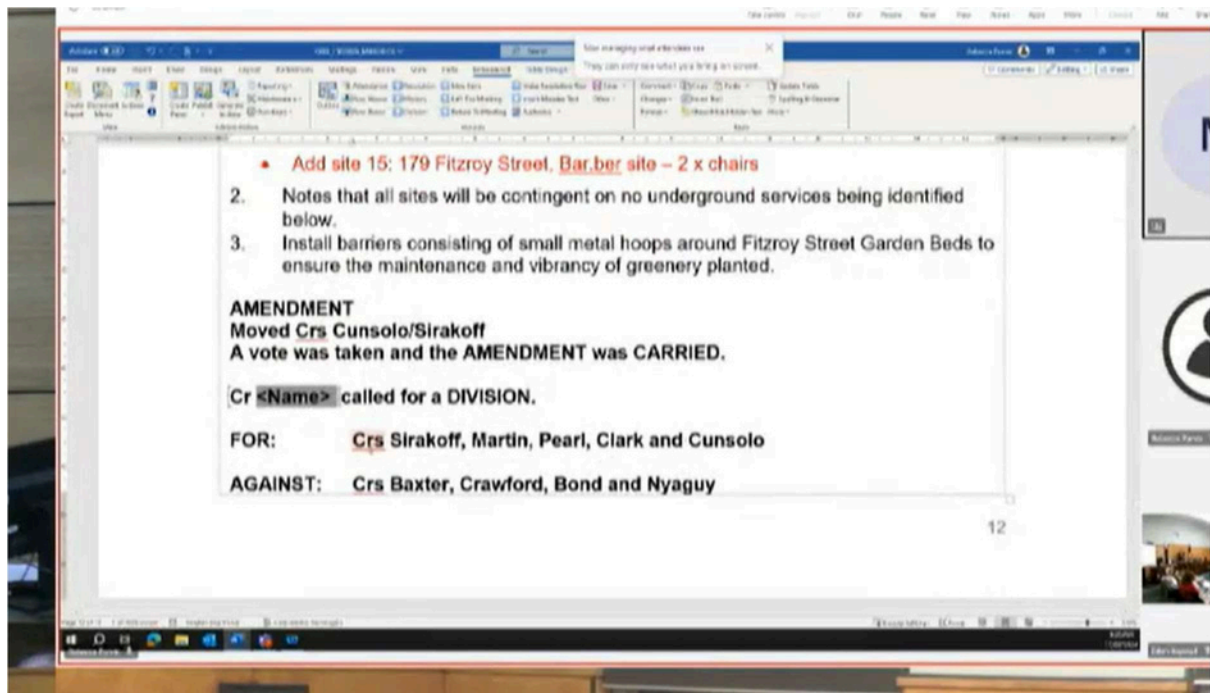


Proposed seating concept

Figure 3: Concept for seating to be installed



Exhibit 15



Our Ref: SJM:BL:243212

16 July 2024

The City of Port Phillip
Private Bag 3
St Kilda VIC 3182

By email only: Christina.Sirakoff@portphillip.vic.gov.au; Tim.Baxter@portphillip.vic.gov.au
Louise.Crawford@portphillip.vic.gov.au; Heather.Cunsolo@portphillip.vic.gov.au
Peter.Martin@portphillip.vic.gov.au; Marcus.Pearl@portphillip.vic.gov.au
Andrew.Bond@portphillip.vic.gov.au; Rhonda.Clark@Portphillip.vic.gov.au
ROBBIE.NYAGUY@portphillip.vic.gov.au; bdensem@australianunity.com.au
Chris.Carrott@portphillip.vic.gov.au; Lauren.Bialkower@portphillip.vic.gov.au
CC: david@yoshikohair.com.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Fitzroy Street Seating
Council Meeting on 17 July 2024

1. We refer to the above matter and to the Notice of Motion for Fitzroy Street Seating (Notice of Motion) contained in the City of Port Phillip's Agenda for the meeting on 17 July 2024.
2. We act for Charlotte Berger Frajman and Russell Frajman.
3. Our clients own the pharmacy located at 77 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. They have owned this business since 1990.
4. The purpose of this letter is to put the Council, Councillors and related parties on notice that:
 - (a) our clients oppose the Notice of Motion;
 - (b) the installation of public seats on Fitzroy Street will result in unnecessary risk to the public; and
 - (c) the installation of public seats will exacerbate the public drug use and violence on Fitzroy Street.
5. As mentioned above, our clients have been members of the St Kilda community for quite a long time. As of recently, our clients have observed the decline of Fitzroy Street primarily caused by drug use. Further, they have observed drug effected individuals congregating around the 'mushroom stools' and other seats (Hot Spots).
6. It is our clients' position that the Hot Spots are directly connected to public drug use and violence on Fitzroy Street, which is negatively impacting the residents, visitors and traders of Fitzroy Street. Our clients estimate that they have suffered losses of approximately \$2,000,000 because of the circumstances surrounding the Hot Spots.

7. Our clients' safety is at risk on Fitzroy Street and this risk will increase if the Notice of Motion is passed. Our clients have been assaulted in the past, resulting in the taking out of intervention orders against certain individuals. Despite the intervention orders, these individuals continue to trouble our clients.

8. It is our understanding that Victoria Police do not support the Notice of Motion as it will result in additional public order crime and amenity concerns.

9. We note that all Councillors of the City of Port Phillip took an oath to undertake their duties in the best interests of the municipal community and to abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct. Further, the Councillors and Council owe a duty of care to the public to act in the best interests of the community.

10. It is our understanding that the intent to place fresh seating in front of our clients' business was made after a public altercation involving our client and Council personnel on Monday 24 June 2024. Prior to this, for a period of some four months the documented intent was to remove seating from this known Hot Spot.

11. We note that our clients' personal confidentiality regarding their ownership of 41 Fitzroy Street was breached in 2023 by Cr Bond. We understand that this issue has already been brought to the attention of the Council and Cr Bond.

12. Furthermore, our clients are now aware that Cr Bond's Notice of Motion also proposes a brand-new location at the last minute, at 43 Fitzroy Street (being a Chemist Warehouse). Cr Bond, as per the breach of confidentiality point above, is well aware our clients also own the property located at 41 Fitzroy Street.

13. Moreover, it is difficult to understand why Council wishes to install seating outside drug stores when it is known that drug addicts engage with the chemist customers in attempts to trade drugs and bona fide prescriptions.

14. It is our view that if Council passes the Notice of Motion, such an act will be a breach of the Code of Conduct and their duty of care to the community. Further, our clients anticipate further financial losses in the event the Notice of Motion is passed. Given the existing known issues, prospect of further issues and the Police's own concerns, harm to our clients and / or the public places the Council and Councillors at high risk.

15. Given the above, our clients request that Council not pass the Notice of Motion.

16. If the Notice of Motion is passed, our clients will immediately consider their options moving forward including any action against the Council and / or Councillors.

17. All of our clients' rights are reserved.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Mansour
Principal
~~Mansour Lawyers~~

Mansour Lawyers
ABN 67 728 561 867
Ph: 03 9602 4290

Level 4, 91 William Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Fax: 03 9670 9208

reception@mansourlawyers.com.au
www.mansourlawyers.com.au

Subject CANCELLATION St Kilda community safety forum 5 August 2024
From City of Port Phillip <noreply@events.trybooking.net>
Sender <noreply@events.trybooking.net>
To <adrian[REDACTED]>
Reply-To City of Port Phillip <sandra.khazam@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Date 01/08/2024 17:44

Exhibit 17

Hello Adrian,

Our Council was advised today (1 August) by Victoria Police that they would no longer provide a representative for the St Kilda community safety forum on 5 August.

We have cancelled the event as it was an opportunity for police to hear from our community and to respond to their questions and concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour.

We are disappointed by their decision as we have successfully held similar forums attended by police over the past two years in locations across our City.

Any further questions should be directed to Victoria Police.

Regards

City of Port Phillip



Sunday 4 August
News | Council

Police snub community safety meeting

Police pulled out of the St Kilda Community Safety Forum they helped organise with Council.

The St Kilda Community Safety meeting planned for Monday night (5 August) has been cancelled after the Police pulled out of the event.

The community meeting, promoted as a joint Council and VicPol event featuring St Kilda Police Inspector Brett Coloe and Mayor Heather Cunsolo, was announced on Monday but by Thursday the police had pulled out, forcing the Council to cancel the event.

In a statement on the Council website, Mayor Cunsolo said:

‘Our Council was advised today (1 August) by Victoria Police that they would no longer provide a representative for the St Kilda Community Safety Forum on 5 August.

‘We have cancelled the event as it was an opportunity for police to hear from our community and to respond to their questions and concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour.

‘We are disappointed by their decision as we have successfully held similar forums attended by police over the past two years in locations across our City.

‘Any further questions should be directed to Victoria Police.’

Ouch.

Police say they host enough forums

In a lengthy statement provided to TWiSK, a police spokesperson said they will host a series of 30 Neighbourhood Policing Forums across 46 Local Government Areas this year.

‘Local police also participate in initiatives such as Coffee with a Cop and other community engagement activities to ensure community have multiple avenues to engage with police and to

provide and seek information.

‘Given our ongoing commitment to hosting Neighbourhood Policing Forums across the state, Victoria Police does not intend to become involved in other forums of a similar nature.

‘Ultimately, the decision to cancel the forum was a decision made by council.’

Double ouch.

Informed sources say it was a top-down decision

Given the guarded tone of both explanations, TWiSK can only speculate why the police withdrew from the jointly organised event just days before it was scheduled.

An informed source told TWiSK that the change of heart by the police followed orders from the upper echelons of police command, possibly as high as assistant commissioner.

TWiSK suspects that it’s not a coincidence that police media were highlighting hundreds of drug crime related arrests in St Kilda the very same day as the police pulled out of the St Kilda event.

‘Port Phillip drug swoop nets hundreds of arrests’ was the catchy headline on the police media release on 1 August. In the police statement, Port Phillip Local Area Commander Inspector Brett Coloe said:

‘We understand the concerns of the Port Phillip community when it comes to drugs and flow-on crimes.

‘By arresting drug traffickers, seizing their drugs, and working with health agencies to support addicted persons, we are making Port Phillip safer for residents, retailers and visitors.

‘Local police have also taken advantage of intelligence provided by residents, allowing us to make significant arrests and keep drugs out of the community.

‘St Kilda is a really safe place to live and visit; and with around four million visitors to the suburb every year, your chances of being robbed are one in 160,000 and the chances of being randomly assaulted are almost one in 15,000.

‘Overall crime in St Kilda is the lowest it has been in the past ten years.’

Hold the phone! Did we read those crime stats correctly? How can it be good news that citizens are more likely to be randomly assaulted than robbed in St Kilda?

Local councillor disappointed, again

Ripped straight from the tabloids, the police media about successful, high impact drug seizures followed a double paid spread in the Herald Sun that reported on serious and sustained drug dealing going on with apparent impunity.

We asked local Cr Andrew Bond for a comment and this was his reply:

‘It’s very disappointing that the Police are now refusing to attend a community safety forum in St Kilda. The only time we seem to get a Police response these days is the now customary St Kilda negative crime article Police media blitz which we witnessed again this week.

‘Unfortunately history shows that once the TV cameras disappear, the Police patrols, and responses to calls for assistance drop off also, and the community is back to fending for themselves.’

For the record

Here is the VicPol response about the Community Safety Event in full:

‘Victoria Police is hosting a series of 30 Neighbourhood Policing Forums across 46 Local Government Areas this year.

‘As part of these forums, a panel of senior police update the community on local crime and road trauma trends and what police are doing to address these issues.

‘The forums also offer an opportunity for community members to pose questions to their local police, as well as raise awareness around community safety issues.

‘Any issues identified by the community may be entered in the Community Issues Register as part of Victoria Police’s Neighbourhood Policing framework.

‘A dedicated sergeant manages this register, allocating issues to local police officers who develop solutions in collaboration with local partners.’

‘In addition to Neighbourhood Policing Forums, police also facilitate an annual Community Sentiment Survey with the most recent survey receiving over 13,000 responses.

‘Local police also participate in initiatives such as Coffee with a Cop and other community engagement activities to ensure community have multiple avenues to engage with police and to provide and seek information.

‘Given our ongoing commitment to hosting Neighbourhood Policing Forums across the state, Victoria Police does not intend to become involved in other forums of a similar nature.

Ultimately, the decision to cancel the forum was a decision made by council.’

Subject CCTV not working on Fitzroy Street - URGENT
From <adrian [REDACTED]>
To <Heather.Cunsolo@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Date 02/08/2024 22:51

Exhibit 19

Dear Mayor,

You spoke today on 3AW about the wonderful CCTV.

I can confirm that in 2 separate phone calls, yesterday and today, Victoria police have confirmed that the two CCTV cameras on / around the corner of Fitzroy Street and Jackson Street - the war zone - the CCTV:

1 - Is not working,

2 - Has not been working for a while,

3 - There is an issue with obtaining spare parts so ancient / basic is the CCTV technology.

This CCTV insight came as a result of a barrage of 000 calls to the police over the last 24 hours. Utter anarchy on Fitzroy Street.

I have sent this email to 3AW. Residents want transparency. Done with spin.

We don't care about or for finger pointing between Council and police. Residents recognise it needs a joint approach. I said the same at the last Council meeting. We will hold the police accountable as well.

Accountability starts with the truth / facts. Hence this email.

This emphasis on the truth

[REDACTED]

Please fix the CCTV as a matter of urgency. Lives are at risk.

Regards

Adrian King, Resident

Subject CCTV failures of CoPP
From jason [REDACTED]
To [REDACTED] <adrian@[REDACTED]>
Date 18/09/2024 18:28

Hi Adrian,

Following an incident on Monday morning 16th September 2024 on Acland street where my five year old daughter was inappropriately touched by a creep drug affected male.

I reported the incident to Police immediately and police have been very supportive, both senior Constable Jessica George and SOCIT detective Travis Stevens.

The police have been to Acland street to obtain CCTV footage from traders as the police said the council CCTV in Acland Mall does not work and hasn't worked for some time. They also said the image quality of the CCTV isn't great. This is infuriating and completely unacceptable. A catastrophic failure by council to uphold their duty in community safety.

There's going to be more on this in the coming days after we have gone through the difficult process of policing interviewing our five year old daughter on the events that occurred.

One thing that has been confirmed is that the offender has history for similar offenses. This is a serious breakdown and failure by council that such an offender can recommit sexual offenses and the council cctv assets can not be relied upon. Shocking and shameful!

I will keep you updated tomorrow.

Thank you for reaching out today.

Kind regards

Jason [REDACTED]

Message navigation

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Subject: E-scooter accident

From [adrian \[REDACTED\]](#) 
To Heather.Cunsolo@portphillip.vic.gov.au 
Christina.Sirakoff@portphillip.vic.gov.au 
Cc Nina.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au 
Vicki.Mastihi@parliament.vic.gov.au 
Date 07/04/2024 09:12

Attachments

- [Photo 1.pdf\(~2.2 MB\)](#) [Options](#)

Message Body

Mayor Cunsolo, Cr Sirakoff

Below are two emails regarding e-scooters.

The second email and the attached photo speak for themselves.

I have copied this email to our local MP, Nina Taylor.

I simply do not understand the known negligence here by public authorities. To continue to allow willful widespread breaking of the law at the expense of fellow citizens.

I ask for a definitive written reply to this specific point, how is it that a trial could continue when the law is being routinely broken, puts residents at risk, places a drain on the health system at a time of tight finances and sends a signal to the youth that the law doesn't matter.

E-scooters send a profound and deep message to our youth - its okay and 'normal' to break the law and for others to suffer the risk and burden.

It is down to mature responsible adults to take the initiative. Otherwise what are we teaching our children and the message we are communicating to the wider community?

"We don't care"?

Regards

Adrian King
Resident

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Fwd: The Incident

Date: 05/04/2024 16:01

From: rebecca [REDACTED]

To: Adrian [REDACTED]

Hi Adrian,

I noticed in one of your last emails to council you make reference to the e-scooters menacing our local streets and council wanting to continue the trial.

As I work for a local Medical Practice I am privy to many incidences related to both the riding of and pedestrian related injuries. It also concerns me how many of the APC kids are riding these scooters to commute to and from school and to the various campuses on busy main roads without helmets or any other protective clothing. It's a death waiting to happen.

It became very personal to me when a close friend had a very upsetting encounter with an e-scooter on Fitzroy St St Kilda late last year. I have asked her if she would share her story. She is happy to share with you and the appropriate council officer so long as the conditions in her opening statement are adhered to.

Kind Regards,

Rebecca.

Sent from my iPhone