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October 4, 2023

**Hon. Mike Farnworth**  
**Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

**Re: Surrey Board of Trade Request for Clear Path Forward on Surrey's Public Safety**

Dear Minister Farnworth,

On behalf of the Surrey Board of Trade and its 6,000 business contacts which employ over 60,000 employees, we write to ask for a clear and decisive phase 2 for Surrey's public safety infrastructure, and enhanced investments in wrap-around services.

As the Minister of Public Safety, you stated that the City of Surrey has failed to demonstrate that moving back to the Surrey RCMP will be safe and not affect other communities throughout BC, thereby not meeting the requirements imposed on the process. This ruling implies that the City of Surrey must proceed with its plan to transition to the Surrey Police Service, despite the city's decision to keep the RCMP as the police of jurisdiction.

The RCMP has reiterated to the Province and the City on numerous occasions, and implemented many policies and procedures to further underscore their plan, that it can ensure the effective policing of Surrey. Moreover, Surrey residents and businesses need a solid policing strategy with adequate wrap-around support services. Further, there is no evidence that moving to a municipal police force won't impact the movement of police officers from other jurisdictions to ensure that Surrey has the appropriate number of police officers needed per capita.

A new police force will impact business taxation. It is always businesses that bear the brunt of increased taxation. This is a costly transition where a police force will be created with no support from the federal government or training jurisdictions. All infrastructure and ancillary support infrastructure will need to be created.

At the time of your decision, Jessica MacDonald was appointed as the liaison between the Provincial Government and the City of Surrey. No public comments or materials have been released highlighting the work done thus far. We are deeply concerned with the lack of transparency and communication.

Furthermore, the Surrey Police Board's webpage does not indicate a clearly defined plan for Phase 2 of implementation. The transition began in early 2019 and continued until 2022 when the new Council was appointed. However, it was noted by the Surrey Police Service that recruitment and training would continue despite Council's direction to retain the RCMP as the



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police of jurisdiction. It has been 4 years since the beginning of the transition, and phase 1 has not been completed, and there is no plan for phase 2.

We look forward to your response and to more details about phase 2 of the Surrey Police Transition. If you have any questions, please contact me at 604-634-0342 or at email: [anita@businessinsurrey.com](mailto:anita@businessinsurrey.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Huberman', written in a cursive style.

H. Captain (Navy) Anita Huberman  
President & CEO, Surrey Board of Trade