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May 21, 2024

The Honorable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
Room 128 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

The Honorable Niki Sharma
Attorney General of British Columbia
Room 232 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Farnworth and Attorney General Sharma,

Re: Urgent Call for Review and Reform of Dangerous Sex Offender Policies to Protect Community and Business Interests

I am writing to you on behalf of the Surrey Board of Trade to express our profound concern and frustration regarding the recent release of yet another dangerous sex offender into our community. For the third time in approximately six weeks, the RCMP has issued a public warning about an individual who poses a serious and imminent risk to vulnerable women and intimate partners. The latest notification concerns Ezaz Razak, who has been identified as a significant threat.

It is unacceptable that our community must repeatedly face the potential danger posed by the release of high-risk offenders such as Mr. Razak. His presence in Surrey deeply troubling to our residents and businesses. We urge all members of our community to be vigilant and to report any sightings of this individual violating the terms of his release, particularly if he is out after 10 p.m. or is seen using drugs or alcohol, by calling 9-1-1 immediately.

From a business perspective, the repeated release of dangerous sex offenders into our community has far-reaching implications. The safety and well-being of our employees, customers, and the general public are paramount. The perceived and real threats posed by such individuals can lead to a decline in consumer confidence and foot traffic in local businesses, negatively impacting economic activity and the overall business climate. Moreover, businesses may incur additional costs for security measures to protect their premises and patrons, diverting resources that could be better used to grow and innovate.

The Surrey Board of Trade demands a comprehensive review of the current laws and protocols related to the sentencing, release, and monitoring of dangerous sex offenders who are at high risk of re-offending. It is imperative that we explore and implement more effective measures to ensure the safety and security of all communities in British Columbia.

We are calling on both federal and provincial authorities to take urgent action in this matter. Specifically, we request the following:



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1. **Strengthened Sentencing Laws:** Re-evaluate the sentencing guidelines for dangerous sex offenders to ensure that they reflect the severity of their crimes and the risk they pose to society.
2. **Enhanced Monitoring Systems:** Implement more robust monitoring and supervision mechanisms for high-risk offenders upon their release, including electronic monitoring and mandatory check-ins.
3. **Community Safety Assessments:** Prior to the release of any high-risk offender, conduct thorough risk assessments and engage with local communities to address potential safety concerns.
4. **Transparent Communication:** Ensure that there is clear and timely communication between law enforcement agencies and the public regarding the presence and conditions of release of high-risk individuals.

The safety of our community is paramount, and we must prioritize the protection of our residents from individuals who have demonstrated a propensity for violent and dangerous behavior. The current situation is untenable, and immediate action is required to restore public confidence and safeguard our neighborhoods.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue and look forward to your prompt response and action.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me at 604-634-0342 or e mail: anita@businessinsurrey.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Huberman', with a stylized, flowing script.

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