



NEW WESTMINSTER

NUISANCE ACTIVITY

REDUCING / REPORTING / RESOURCES

Due in part to the ongoing pandemic, the community is grappling with increased homelessness and other concerns such as graffiti and unsightly vacant premises. We are committed to reducing the resulting impacts to businesses and residents of New Westminster.

What's Happening

Increased homelessness and nuisance activity, which New Westminster and other Metro Vancouver municipalities are experiencing, is due to the following factors:

- Reductions in shelter capacity due to physical distancing requirements
- Employment and income disruption
- Reluctance on behalf of family and friends to temporarily accommodate people due to fear of virus transmission

A Proactive Approach

Increased enforcement only shifts the issues elsewhere but does not lead to any real resolution. The City is working towards proactive solutions to address the identified concerns by partnering with a number of non-profit organizations. To learn about these policies, programs, and actions the City is taking, visit:

newwestcity.ca/nuisanceactivity

Keep in mind, all residents have the right to enjoy public spaces regardless of whether they are housed.



FOR HELP AND INFORMATION:

newwestcity.ca/nuisanceactivity • 604-521-3711 • info@newwestcity.ca

RESOURCES

YOU CAN HELP REDUCE NUISANCE ACTIVITY

Here are some best practices to reduce nuisance activity and the impacts on yourself and the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

Keep the property neat and clean so it doesn't appear neglected or lack monitoring. This means mowing boulevard grass, attending to graffiti, and not allowing garbage bins to overflow.



Ensure your outside area is well-lit with lights facing down, and not into neighbouring properties.



Keep vegetation trimmed to reduce privacy spots for illicit activity or toilet uses.



Lock dumpsters, including bins solely used for cardboard as those may be viewed as dry, flat areas to sleep.

DEALING WITH TRESPASSERS

Respectfully ask unwanted visitors/trespassers to leave the property if you feel safe to do so. An example of what to say is: *"This is private property and you are being asked to leave. If you need some help I can point you in the right direction, but you can't stay here."*



Have contact numbers for community resources available to offer if appropriate. The City has a comprehensive list of resources and contact numbers in our Helping Hands brochure at: newwestcity.ca/helpinghands

You can remove belongings that have been left on your property, but consider starting with kindness and leaving a note with a deadline first. When in doubt, call City of New Westminster Bylaws for help deciding what to do next. If the items are on public property and obstruct pedestrians or vehicles, use SeeClickFix to report it.



Call the police non-emergency number at 604-525-5411 if someone refuses leave after being asked. Call **9-1-1** if you or another person are being threatened.

NUISANCE ACTIVITY RESOURCES & CONTACTS

City of New Westminster Bylaw

Encampments (occupied or vacant), large amounts of belongings, unsightly premises, unsecured buildings, and graffiti.

Call: 604-527-4657

Email: bylawenforcement@newwestcity.ca

New Westminster Police Non-Emergency

Help with getting someone to leave your property and to report a crime that has already been committed, where the suspect is gone and there is no active threat to persons or property (i.e. vandalism, suspicious person).

Call: 604-525-5411

Report Online: nwpolice.org

Health Van

Needle and razor disposal, harm reduction supplies, connecting someone to resources.

Call: 604-351-1885

Project ALLIES

Needle and razor disposal, harm reduction supplies, connecting someone to resources.

Call: 604-690-7337

Lookout Society

Housing support for street-entrenched people who are setting up camps or sleeping rough.

Call: 604-529-9126 (ext. 106)

Email: ornewwest@lookoutsociety.ca

Purpose Society

Housing support and other outreach services and help. Purpose Society also operates the Health Contact Centre at 40 Begbie Street, a safe consumption site.

Call: 604-526-2522 (ext. 260)

SeeClickFix

For maintenance issues related to City property, report using the SeeClickFix app or website.

Visit: seeclickfix.com

WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

Any emergency where a person is threatening harm to themselves or another person, an overdose is in progress, or your safety is threatened.